

Governance in a mobile social web: Finding the markers

IGF Istanbul, 1 September 2014

Chaired by Nina Devani and Grace Kelly (Insafe Youth Ambassadors*)

Finding the markers towards a better internet drew a crowd of over 50 attendees including representatives from the UK, Ireland, USA, Hong Kong, Denmark, India, Uganda, Germany, Cyprus and of course our host country Turkey. At a quick glance, it was obvious to anyone entering the room that approximately one quarter of the room was youth participants.

Preparing the ingredients - objectives

Long discussions can often lead to a blur of ideas of what can happen. We aimed to find five or six key points that would leave us with a focussed vision on what to do in building a better internet. This session was not about control, it was not about restrictions, it was not even about youth. Our session was aimed at providing a platform for all participants to both discuss and prioritise issues of the virtual world.

Bake me a cake, mix, whip and stand – discussions and ideas

Melina Violari (Facebook), Ahmet Gubukcu (Turkish Online Hotline), Bianca Ho (DotKids Asia), Russell Chadwick (INHOPE), Lillian Nalwoga (ISOC Uganda Chapter), Nina and Grace all took a five-minute slot to choose and explain a marker in creating a better internet. Empowerment, positivity, trust and duty, guidelines, legislation, education and hotlines were among the topics discussed.

In order to ensure the session became interactive, we set up a digital voting system for all participants to rank the discussed markers in order of importance as they saw them. Trust and Duty topped the first round of voting. To create active discussion, we grouped everyone in the room and asked them to discuss and debate their chosen topic in preparation for presenting their ideas to the room. It was clear from the second round of voting that the discussions and presentations had an impact on the opinions of our participants as this time Positive Content and Empowerment were the most cared for issues. The team who gave the winning presentation were even presented with Belgian chocolates.

At this point, we returned to the panel to answer questions from the floor. Professor Sonia Livingstone (EU Kids Online) gave the final address, summarising and contributing her own thoughts to the discussion. She emphasised that before we go creating a fancy internet, we need the basics to be right in the land of code.

Nina and Grace ended the session by thanking everyone and inviting people to further discuss the markers towards a better internet.

The icing on the cake – conclusions

Positive content and empowering youth online were clearly the key markers identified in this session. Therefore, they should be our main focus in the coming year of work at Insafe. The workshop provided us with an insight into what people, both young and not so young, believe are the most important topics and issues to consider when planning projects in the hope of a better and safer Internet for all.

** The presence of Nina and Grace was made possible by Safer Internet Day (SID) sponsorship from LGI and Google, and the support of the Insafe network by the European Commission.*