

Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion – Phase II

Input from EuroDIG (European Dialogue on Internet Governance), Brussels, 9-10 June 2016

This year's overarching theme was "Embracing the digital (r)evolution". As a result from the call for issues the topics of human rights and Internet economy emerged as the primary areas of interests and were addressed by talking about fragmentation, jurisdiction, Internet of Things, free flow of data, innovation and the evolution of the Digital Single Market.

There was no session particularly dedicated to "Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion" but it was an underlying topic in many workshops and plenaries. No doubt also in Europe there is a great potential of connecting more people. Whilst in some European countries Internet usage and connectivity is close to 100% there are regions, even in economically well developed countries, still lacking of a sufficient infrastructure.

There was agreement that the Internet will be only beneficial if it is free, open and secure. Trust is key in embracing the digital revolution. **The role of the industry and governments as key players** has been raised in many sessions and a better collaboration was demanded when discussing privacy and security.

Related messages on the role of the industry and governments as key players:

1. There is no trade-off between privacy & security. Security needs to be a collaborative effort. Openness requires shared responsibility: companies and governments may not solely and completely be held responsible for what people do online. (PL 1 Will users' trust impact on transnational data flows?)
2. Law is not enough to protect and is not the main factor. Regulation is important, but most important is an ethical approach from the design phase onwards and the development of technical tools to deal with complexity in protecting privacy. (PL 2 IoT - A sustainable way forward)
3. It's not private companies' job to solve public policy problems, especially the small start up that needs room to innovate. Hold big vs small companies to different standards? We expect responsible behaviour from companies. (PL 3 The rules of the digital world – economy versus human rights)
4. The cybersecurity definition should include and focus both on the end user as well as on the technical community and the justice department. Cybersecurity comes with protecting the end user and with secure systems, not against them. (PL 3a From cybersecurity to terrorism - are we all under surveillance?)
5. Intermediaries cannot be the cheap police of the Internet; they cannot substitute the primary responsibility to protect human rights of the State although they have to act responsibly. (PL 3b Intermediaries and human rights - between co-opted law enforcement and human rights protection)

6. We should work on models on how to extend trade to protect open Internet in line with connecting economic interests of nation states to an open Internet.
(PL 4 Internet fragmentation and digital sovereignty: implications for Europe)
7. Commercial and regulatory designs need to consider much more creatively the needs of all minorities in order to facilitate full access and enjoyment of the internet. Internet companies share this responsibility whilst governments have a duty to enable the full enjoyment of human rights online for all users.
(WS 2 Confronting the digital divide (1) - Internet access and/as human rights for minorities)

Another important aspect when connecting the next billion is **the enabled Internet user who takes the responsibility** for online activities. Participants discussed this matter in various facets.

Related messages on the enabled Internet user who takes the responsibility:

1. Content can now be produced and distributed by “everybody” and recycled without checking facts. Information inflated by recycling occupies space and pushes out other content. Media literacy training might help. But it should be made with an open mind. Even if we like free content, there’s a price to pay. (WS1 Content is the king revisited)
2. Access is not just about a physical connection or terms of use, but also about informed consent, related skills and education, and therefore about having the capacity to fully participate online. Libraries play an important role in enabling and sustaining public access. ... librarians can help provide people with the knowledge and skills to acquire capacity to fully participate online. (WS 2 Confronting the digital divide (1) - Internet access and/as human rights for minorities)
3. Education, particularly for the younger generation, is vital in ensuring human rights are understood and respected equally both online and offline. (WS 4 Your IG ecosystem may be out of date. Please check for updates)
4. Media literacy education should cover formal and non-formal learning settings (e.g. libraries) and address first of all critical thinking and critical evaluation of content. Education on human rights and democratic citizenship is strongly interrelated with media literacy education.
(WS 8 Empowerment through education)

Related quotes from the keynote speakers:

Andrus Ansip, Vice President of the European Commission

„Good governance is vital for keeping the Internet operating properly. Without it, the Digital Single Market cannot provide Europe's people and businesses with the full opportunities that they deserve from the digital age. It is essential for the continued development of the digital economy, especially as numbers of Internet users around the world continue to rise dramatically. The first billion was reached in 2005; the second billion in 2010; the third billion in 2014. And as discussed at the G7 Ministerial Meeting in May, our aim is to bring additional 1.5 billion people online by 2020.“

Günther Oettinger, EU Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society, European Commission:

„Trust is indeed key in embracing the digital revolution ...The data initiative along with new Data Protection rules, are examples of how the European Union can contribute to boosting trust so as to ensure that citizens and companies can fully benefit from the digital revolution.“

Marina Kaljurand, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

„Cyber security as such needs to become part of our daily life - on all levels. We need to go beyond the thinking that any major development in cyber security requires a major catastrophe or incident. Security cannot be a luxury item; it needs to be a commodity. Most importantly, we should not forget that cyber security and industry is for people – we need to learn to listen the consumer and citizen, to the point of view of an end-user.“

Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

“Different countries, including in Europe, employ different approaches, meaning that, currently, how free and open your internet is depends on where you live. And these imbalances are something the Council of Europe is trying to correct.”