

Name of the session: **Progress of GIPO tool - Open debate on usability and inclusivity of the platform**

Time: **14:30 – 15:30**

Date: **13th November**

Meeting room: **Workshop Room 2**

Estimated number of participants: **35**

Moderator: **Kasia Jakimowicz**, Open Evidence

Rapporteur: **Cristina Monti**, European Commission

Agenda:

1. Introduction to GIPO by Cristina Monti, European Commission
2. Presentation of beta version of GIPO tool by Luis Meijueiro, Fundacion CTIC
3. GIPO as an information "engine" for other initiatives by Stefaan Verhulst, The GovLab
4. Towards a "Federation roadmap" for online Observatories by Kasia Jakimowicz, Open Evidence
5. Q&A / Open Discussion

List of Speakers:

- Kasia Jakimowicz, European Affairs Manager, Open Evidence

Responsible for Strategic Stakeholder's Outreach for GIPO (Global Internet Policy Observatory).

At Open Evidence she focuses on horizontal policy analysis and strategic outreach in the field of information and knowledge society. As a European Affairs Manager she also manages Brussels office and represents Open Evidence in external contacts.

- Cristina Monti, European Commission, International Relations Officer

Cristina Monti is International Relations Officer in the Directorate General for Communications networks, Content and Technologies (DG CONNECT) of the European Commission since January 2014. She is a member of the Internet Governance Taskforce responsible for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the Global Internet Policy Observatory (GIPO). Cristina is also the official alternate representative of the European Commission to the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICANN.

- Luis Meijueiro, Senior Consultant in Knowledge Management and Open Data, Foundation CTIC

Functional analyst of GIPO technical platform.

He is responsible for the functional definition, analysis and platform documentation. His research interests include e-Government, Open Government, Open Data, and Semantic Web. Meijueiro received an MSc in computer science at the University of Deusto, Bilbao.

- Stefaan Verhulst, Co-Founder of the Governance Laboratory (GovLab)

Leader of Netmundial Solutions Map

Stefaan G. Verhulst has been exploring the intersection of technology, science and policy for over two decades. He is currently the Co-Founder and Chief Research and Development Officer of the Governance Laboratory (GovLab) at New York University where he is responsible for building a research foundation on how to transform governance using advances in science and technology. His latest research and writing considers how advances in technology and science can be harnessed to create effective and collaborative forms of governance.

Summary of the discussion:

The objective of the Global Internet Policy Observatory (GIPO) is to provide technical tools that will make information on Internet policy and governance widely accessible for interested communities (in particular for countries, NGOs and interest groups, which so far may have been marginalised in Internet debates and decisions). GIPO is an automated tool that compiles and analyses the information on Internet governance related topics, from a variety of online sources, and makes it available for further usage.

The Observatory Tool (will) provide to users:

- User interface enabling to search, view, comment, share items.
- Visualisation dashboard of the data gathered (eg. Treemap).
- System to add and curate content.
- System to evaluate and rate content.
- System to retrieve content for reuse by others (incl. API).

During this forum the GIPO team invited Internet Governance stakeholders and technological experts involved in the development of similar platforms to open debate about:

1. A collaborative approach to GIPO where the community can help in translating and shaping any cultural or even technical issue (accessibility)
2. A design / configuration of the user dashboard - user case scenarios (usability)
3. An interoperability of the platform with other initiatives

Cristina Monti explained the purpose and objectives that the Global Internet Policy Observatory intends to fulfill. She also briefly explained the role of Advisory Group and invited the community to take part in the open nomination process.

Then, Luis Meijueiro explained how the GIPO tool can be useful for the Internet Governance community and what is unique about it. He presented the demo of the beta version of the GIPO tool focusing on 5 areas:

- General interface
- Content classification
- Content filtering and automatic scoring
- Content evaluation and sharing
- Interoperability with other systems

He stressed that the Observatory Tool is NOT an RSS reader. It ANALYSES and CLASSIFIES the information for a maximum RELEVANCY and gives it back for FURTHER RE-USE.

Stefaan Verhulst focused on how the GIPO tool can be used by other initiatives as an information engine, using the NetMundial Solution Map as a practical example. He stressed that using GIPO as an information provider would allow other initiatives to enrich collected content and to focus on value-added content curation, without having to invest in the technology.

Finally, Kasia Jakimowicz presented first results of the survey Towards Federation Roadmap, in which 16 initiatives (out of 33 contacted) expressed interest in collaboration with GIPO.

The GIPO federation roadmap is aimed at analysing the possible scenarios of collaboration between GIPO and other initiatives. The results of the analysis will be published by the end of 2015.

The survey allowed to draw interesting conclusions on the general picture of Internet governance observatories/ mapping landscape and main characteristics of IG stakeholders:

- Stakeholders representing broad range of organisations (NGOs, academia / universities, industry, national and international authorities)
- Various types of initiatives (observatories, repositories, mapping efforts, networks of centres and scholars, research reports)
- Broad geographical and thematic coverage
- The majority of initiatives expressed interest in partial integration of services/ collaboration, with 4 of them considering full integration with the GIPO engine
- Initiatives were interested in following collaboration: Re-syndication of content (12), Common events/ trainings and courses (3), Common conceptual cooperation (3), Cross-communication /common promotional activities (6)
- Most of the initiatives are recent (launched after 2012) and small (< 5 people) – 75%, very often with people working on a voluntary basis or assigned part-time to the project from home institution. As a result: financial sustainability of initiatives and lack of resources are the biggest concerns.
- Main lessons learnt from other initiatives: RESOURCES are a challenge, RELEVANCE of information is a challenge, there is NEED for MULTILINGUALISM, TAXONOMY/ SEMANTICS is a challenge:

Main questions / conclusions and next steps:

The Beta version of the GIPO tool was welcomed with interest and was acknowledged as a development in the right direction. Nevertheless the final user interface is still to be developed.

The main questions raised concerned the procedure to recruit new sources to the tool - how can initiatives join the collaboration, as well as become the source itself, and how to safeguard safe and transparent process of adding sources, safeguarding high quality of unbiased information without influencing the neutrality of the platform. Participants also discussed about the filtering of the content and on possible governance mechanisms for the tool.