IGF Austria position paper for discussion at the 10th IGF in João Pessoa, Brazil, (10–13 November 2015)

Preliminary remarks

1. The Internet Governance Forum Austria (IGF Austria) views itself as an open discussion platform for representatives of public agencies, the private sector and industry, civil society, and technical and academic communities. This platform addresses all questions related to public administration and the further development of the Internet and digitisation processes.

2. On 17 September 2015, IGF Austria held its annual conference. Wide-ranging discussions took place during the conference, whose general theme was "What happens to all of our data?" The following topics were the focus of particular attention:

Digital skills

3. The momentum of development and an increasingly complex world require new education models and education ideals. Of crucial importance here is the ability to *learn how to learn properly*, as this is the key to acquiring all other competencies and expertise.

4. The media competencies taught in schools should not be linked solely to economic requirements. Instead, education here should also focus on social issues such as *democracy and critical thinking* – regardless of what type of career a student might pursue later. Also e-skills and coding should be taught in education and training.

5. What is also required today is comprehensive *media competence training for the entire population* in both the school setting and in training centres, youth centres and youth organisations, as well as in institutes for adult education.

6. Indeed, facilities for adult and continuing education, as well as parental education organisations and kindergartens, need to provide training in *digital skills*. The established media (newspapers, TV, radio) can also do their part to disseminate digital knowledge and expertise.

7. Periodic *studies and/or self-evaluation tools on the digital skills and knowledge* possessed by teachers and students at the regional, national and global level provide important information that can be used to develop targeted education measures.

The right of access to information

8. Comprehensive and easily understandable access to data from public institutions is essential for a well-functioning democracy. The *right of access to information* from public institutions should only be denied if such denial is clearly in the public interest, or in the interest of third parties as reasonably stipulated by law.

Trust, transparency, data protection and rights of use

9. *Ensuring data protection* is very important in the digital environment. The private sector believes that everyone can benefit from the use of various types of data. Data protection is not a barrier here. Instead, its purpose is to establish *rules for the use of data*. However, these rules need to be clear and understandable, and the same laws and regulations must apply to everyone.

10. *Enforcing data protection laws* is the *job of the government*, which must ensure the availability of secure basic infrastructure in conformance with data protection laws (Internet connectivity, operating systems etc.), while at the same monitoring compliance with existing legislation and compelling such compliance if necessary. This is particularly important wherever users of digital services, etc., can choose from only a limited number of digital communication providers.

11. The right of every individual to decide whether or how their personal data is used – and the *protection of digital users* in general –must be strengthened. Governments should support users in a way that ensures they can independently make informed decisions in a logical and practical manner.

12. Every individual must be able to report to a *data protection agency* any incident that they believe amounts to a violation of data protection laws on the part of a commercial user of data. This agency should provide such individuals with advice on even the most minor suspected incidents, as well as affordable legal protection.

13. Consumer protection advocates are demanding *greater transparency* with regard to commercial data collection applications that utilise consumer profiles and algorithms. They want consumers to be able to decide for themselves whether data that is not necessarily needed to complete a transaction may be used by the transaction partner.

14. As a further control mechanism, it would also make sense to *favour products and services that comply with the principles of data protection* – for example, by giving them priority in public procurement processes.

Copyright law

15. The development of *holistic solution models* for copyright law is very important, whereby a great deal of attention must be paid here to the effects of digitisation.

16. In terms of civil society and consumers, the rights of users (including rights under warranties) must be strengthened. *Legal certainty* can be achieved here through clear definitions of terms and the adaptation of principles such as those related to the distinction between commercial and non-commercial use.

17. In order to eliminate grey areas in copyright law, the representatives of young users in particular stress that the distribution and modification of existing cultural property (e.g. the *right to re-mix*) need to be legal when carried out for non-commercial purposes, as such activities offer a benefit to society.

18. Copyright law must enable *access to a society's cultural heritage and to knowledge and information* in a simple and modern manner, and with legal certainty. This can be achieved, for example, through collective licensing agreements and compensative measures to eliminate barriers to culture and education. Repositories of public knowledge, such as archives, libraries, media libraries and museums, would like to see greater legal certainty with regard to modern methods for presenting cultural property, especially for so-called out-of-print and orphaned works.

19. *Right holders and producers* underline that copyright helps to ensure the maintenance and development of creativity in the interests of authors, performers, producers, consumers, culture, industry and the public at large. If authors or performers are to continue their creative and artistic work, they have to receive an appropriate reward for the use of their work, as must producers in order to be able to finance this work. Adequate *legal protection of intellectual property rights* is necessary in order to guarantee the availability of such a reward.

Net neutrality

20. The goal of safeguarding the *open Internet* in Europe over the long term is not a subject of dispute, as open access to the Internet is in the public interest. However, there is disagreement regarding how open the Internet should be.

21. Telecommunication companies do not see any need for new net neutrality regulations, pointing out that *competition* in Europe is sufficiently strong and that such a level of competition must be maintained. Special services would help diversify the market and are not a threat to the open Internet.

22. Representatives of civil society have clearly come out in favour of strict net neutrality regulations. They believe the *Best Effort Internet* (best effort delivery of services) will guarantee continued innovation.

23. Net neutrality regulations that are too restrictive inhibit innovation at Internet service providers. These companies do not question the need for *special services*, but they do believe a discussion is necessary with regard to the scope and definition of such services.

24. Also not disputed is the notion that *competition drives innovation* and that competition must therefore be ensured at all levels of the value chain.

Austria IGF 2015

1. A report of past activities indicating the members of the initiative

The initiative IGF Austria started with so called kick-off event in 2014. Stakeholders were brought together to commit themselves to participate and actively involve themselves in the further process.

2. A list of main organizers comprising representatives of at least three different stakeholder groups

The main organizers are currently:

> *Bundeskanzleramt / Federal Chancellery*
> *Ballhausplatz 2*
> *1010 Wien*
> *Webseite: http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at*
>
> *ISPA – Internet Service Providers Austria*
> *Verband der österreichischen Internet-Anbieter*
> *Währingerstraße 3/18, 1090 Wien*
> *Webseite: http://www.ispa.at*
>
> *nic.at GmbH*
> *Jakob-Haringer-Straße 8/V*
> *5020 Salzburg*
> *Webseite: http://www.nic.at*

A list of the involved stakeholders at the process 2015 can be found here:
https://www.igf-austria.at/igf/

3. A dedicated webpage or website, with a contact person and a working email address

https://www.igf-austria.at/; kontakt@igf-austria.at

Contact person: Mag. Andreas ULRICH; Federal Chancellery,
andreas.ulrich@bka.gv.at, telephone: +43 1 53115 202200

You can contact the organization directly via the dedicated website: https://www.igf-austria.at/impressum/

Description of the organizing process

The Internet Governance Forum Austria (IGF Austria) is an open discussion platform for representatives of public authorities, business and industry, civil society and the technical and academic communities on all relevant issues related to "Internet Governance". The IGF Austria is - as the global IGF United Nations and its European counterpart, the EuroDIG – committed to the principles of openness, dialogue and transparency.

The topics of the work of the IGF Austria are based on the content of the global IGF and the diverse interests of the stakeholder groups in Austria. Starting from the question and issues addressed in the global Internet Governance Forum, a permanent national forum for dialogue should be established with the following objectives in Austria:

- o *Bring together interested stakeholders in Austria for dialogue on key issues of Internet Governance*
- o *Open forum for discussion on global developments and trends in the digital economy establish, taking particular account of specific interest situations of the Austrian Internet community*
- o *Preparing stronger presence and visibility of Austrian actors and interests at the international level (WSIS, IGF, ICANN, ITU, etc.)*

The IGF Austria is financed by voluntary contributions of various stakeholder groups. After the IGF Austria 2015 a transparency report will be published with an overview of the funds and sponsors.

Description of how the multistakeholder model is maintained

As mentioned above the main organizers along with the mentioned stakeholder groups (https://www.igf-austria.at/igf/) are organizing together the event for 2015 and the further ongoing process.

On the website you can also find a contact site where everybody can indicate there willingness to participate and contribute to the process.

The attendance at the event IGF Austria 2015 is free and open for everybody.

The published agenda

The agenda for 17th September can be found here: https://www.igf-austria.at/teilnahme2015/ (in german).

The main focus is on topics like copyright, net neutrality and data (data protection). There are also side-events planned for the 16th September focusing on copyright and freedom of speech and the youthIGF.

The total number of attendees and a break down of attendance for each stakeholder group at the IGF initiatives meetings

Since the first meeting has not taken place yet the exact numbers are not available yet. At least 150 to 200 attendees are expected.