1. Introduction

- In 2014\(^1\) the European Commission proposed the creation of a Global Internet Policy Observatory (GIPO) as a concrete way to enhance transparency on Internet Policy and Governance. Member States welcomed this initiative and encouraged the Commission to work on it\(^2\).

- GIPO is an online tool that helps monitor developments on Internet policy around the world. Its purpose is to help increase expertise and understanding among all actors, particularly more disadvantaged stakeholders - including those in some countries, NGOs and interest groups which may feel somewhat marginalised in Internet Governance debates and decisions.

- Internet policy and governance is attracting increasing interest and political attention but it is an extremely complex policy area. This is due to the expanding number of players involved and of issues discussed, ranging from security and trust to innovative and disruptive business models; from net neutrality, access and digital literacy to the Internet of things; from the shared and accountable management of critical Internet technical resources to blockchain technology; and the list continues to grow.

- Thanks to the use of advanced IT technologies (data mining, semantic analysis and data visualisation techniques), GIPO will provide a practical tool (a sort of "compass") to navigate through the maze of Internet governance and policy.

- GIPO is currently being developed under a contract from the European Commission. However, the Commission does not wish to be the final or sole "owner or operator" of GIPO. Discussions are ongoing with a number of partners on a possible transfer of GIPO to an organisation or a group of organisations, reflecting the global character of the tool.

- The project was initiated in January 2015. A beta version of the GIPO tool was publicly launched in February 2016. The GIPO tool should be fully operational at the end of 2016.

- Different stakeholders are involved in all stages of the development of the tool through periodic webinars and live events, to make sure that its design carefully reflects the needs of its future users.

The "GIPO website" [www.giponet.org](http://www.giponet.org) provides information on the advancement of the GIPO project, while the "GIPO tool" is the web-based software tool ([http://observatory.giponet.org/](http://observatory.giponet.org/) still under development) that can be embedded into any website.

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\(^1\) Communication on Internet Policy and Governance: Europe's role in shaping the future of Internet Governance (COM (2014) 72 final)

\(^2\) Council Conclusions of 27 November 2014
2. Rationale

- The EU is clearly in favour of an open, un-fragmented Internet and of a multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance.

- Given the transnational and multidimensional nature of the Internet, this approach (as opposed to a government-led approach) has allowed the Internet to flourish, triggering innovation and bringing about the benefits of the digital revolution as we know it today. However, the current multi-stakeholder model should be further strengthened and improved in order to address legitimacy, transparency, accountability and inclusiveness concerns.

- This requires a more inclusive dialogue with all players, including those with very different ideas from ours, and more capacity and confidence building to ensure everyone sees the benefits of a bottom-up, multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach to the governance of the Internet.

- However the complexity of the governance framework and of the huge range of policy areas impacted by the Internet makes it difficult for all to follow and contribute fully.

- GIPO is the European contribution to create a tool for on-going monitoring, analysis and information-sharing functions, as a resource for the global community.

- GIPO could play a triple function of (1) building “goodwill” among undecided actors; (2) raising the level of expertise and understanding among all actors, including those that have been marginal actors in Internet governance to date; (3) facilitating the identification and consolidation of a Federation of Internet governance Observatories.

- GIPO will not replace existing mechanisms and fora where global Internet governance is discussed, such as the Internet Governance Forum. To the contrary, its objective is to be a tool-box for stakeholders and an instrument to strengthen existing Internet policy-making processes, making full use of modern technology.
3. What is the "GIPO tool"

GIPO is not a website in the classical sense where information is posted and edited by owners of the website. It is an **automated** tool that compiles and analyses information on Internet policy developments, from online sources (including social media) and makes it available to the community for further use. [http://observatory.giponet.org/](http://observatory.giponet.org/)

The Tool is able to perform:

- **Content analysis**:
  1) Automated keyword extraction from text (semantic tagging).
  2) Automated classification (faceted).
  3) Filtering and weighting of content

Information can be reviewed and classified under predefined themes, including geographical, region, aspect, type of content etc.

- **Machine-readable content for re-use** (including an API):

GIPO content can be automatically consumed by other IT systems (web content managers, email marketing platforms, desktop & mobile apps, etc.).
4. GIPO Advisory Group

The project has an independent Advisory Group (AG) to provide guidance on all aspects of its evolution and promotion and to ensure that objective assessments are made of progress and needs and that the most up to date issues are addressed.

- The Advisory Group's main tasks are to:
  - Provide guidance on all aspects of the evolution of GIPO, including - but not limited to - new technological solutions for the tool.
  - Publicise GIPO through their own institutions and networks.
  - Ensure that GIPO remains abreast of topics and that the challenge of 'selectivity' or 'bias' in source selection is minimised.
  - Contribute to the steering of GIPO's development, for instance by highlighting content for the tool's homepage.

The mandate of the AG is flexible, and based upon the tasks described above. Each AG member will provide input based on their area of expertise.

In establishing the Advisory Group, consideration has been given to ensuring a good balance of Members in terms of diversity of gender, expertise and region.

List of Members of the Advisory Group as well as working documents can be found at: http://giponet.org/en/advisory-group

5. GIPO Target Groups

GIPO target groups can be divided into:

1) Other Internet policy observatories and initiatives

GIPO Tool can be used as an automatic information provider for further curation and use by other observatories/initiatives.

The overarching goal is to overcome the fragmentation and complexity of information, so we want to avoid creating “yet another” observatory in competition with existing ones. There are already many online spaces to find information and discuss Internet governance: GIPO does not aim to centralize all this information by replacing the existing spaces. Instead, it should be complementary and federate them.

(more details under point 6, "GIPO as a hub for collaboration")

2) Internet governance actors /main events & processes (i.e. national and global Internet Governance Forums)

GIPO can be used as a content classification and management tool for documents and communication created pre-, during and post-events/conferences.
3) Policy-makers, organizations, general public interested in Internet Governance

GIPO as an easy-to-use system for obtaining up-to-date information that can be further shaped and ranked in terms of relevance by its users.

Universities with Internet governance programmes/curricula are a specific sub-group which might be particularly interested in the tool.

6. GIPO as a hub for collaboration - Federation Roadmap

- The collaboration with other similar or related initiatives looks promising as the GIPO Tool is the only platform, at least in the current landscape of Internet Governance, that considers other observatories as one of its main target groups.

- This derives from the core concept that GIPO should be an automated service tool for both final users and other observatories/repositories, most of which are new, small and in fast evolution. They face specific obstacles that GIPO could help address.

- By relying on GIPO, these platforms will be able to use their often limited financial and human resources more efficiently, shifting focus from investment in technology and content search to content curation and analysis.

- Over 35 such initiatives have been identified and contacted. (more Info)

7. Future Governance and GIPO Transfer

- The Commission launched GIPO to get it off and running but was never intended to be the final or sole "owner or operator" once it became operational. The intention was to provide a useful tool for the global Internet community.

- Discussions are ongoing with organisations interested in collaborating with GIPO and seeing it through to the next phases.

- This year will be crucial to start considering the possibilities for a transfer of GIPO to other organisations. Contacts will be made with the Internet Governance Forum and possibly other similar or appropriate organisations.
8. Timeline for the technical development of the GIPO tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2015</td>
<td>(closed) beta version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2016</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; public release (limited functionalities and social media sources)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2016</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; public release (incl. dashboard with map &amp; timeline)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td>Final release</td>
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</tbody>
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One year after final release is estimated to be needed for testing the functioning of the tool and to introduce necessary improvements.

9. Outreach and Dissemination

A series of webinars and workshops has been organised since the start of the project to update and engage the community in the development of the tool. External speakers and experts are regularly invited according to the topic. Videos and presentations of each session are available on [www.giponet.org](http://www.giponet.org).

List of past and currently planned events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30.04.2015</td>
<td>Introduction to Global Internet Policy Observatory online platform</td>
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<tr>
<td>04.06.2015</td>
<td>Co-designing the GIPO platform - 1st live workshop on Global Internet Policy Observatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.07.2015</td>
<td>Open discussion on Key findings from working sessions of Codesigning Global Internet Policy Observatory platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.09.2015</td>
<td>GIPO and taxonomies of the internet governance – open collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.10.2015</td>
<td>Interactive visualisations for making Internet Governance topics more engaging and explorable</td>
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10. Background material

On the Digital Agenda website:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.11.2015</td>
<td><strong>Roundtable on Building Internet Observatories during IGF2015</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.11.2015</td>
<td><strong>GIPO Open Forum during IGF</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.01.2016</td>
<td><strong>Towards a federation roadmap of the Internet Governance repositories</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.02.2016</td>
<td><strong>A guided tour through our GIPO tool!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.04.2016</td>
<td><strong>GIPO approach to text analytics and multilingualism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08.06.2016</td>
<td><strong>Workshop during EuroDIG meeting in Brussels</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tbc</td>
<td><strong>Workshop during African IGF</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Line up of GIPO webinars and physical events: [http://giponet.org/en/content/line-gipo-events](http://giponet.org/en/content/line-gipo-events)

Video of Principal Advisor, Megan Richards, head of the Internet Governance Task Force: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jMmvIDAjIA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jMmvIDAjIA)

[For additional details or to get the available materials in different format, please contact the responsible official:
C. Monti (IGTF) 69467 – cristina.monti@ec.europa.eu]
FAQs

**What is the difference between GIPO and a search engine?**
The Observatory Tool automatically discards undesired non-relevant content and collects only the interesting ones.
It assigns scores to the allowed content in order to prioritize and list it as ordered in the Analysis interface.
It enriches the content metadata by automatically assigning appropriate tags to every item of content.

**Is GIPO basically an RSS-feeder?**
No, GIPO is much more than a simple RSS-feeder. It automatically collects, analyse and process information coming from webpages and social media platforms, including documents, spreadsheets, videos, tweets.
It ANALYSES and CLASSIFIES the information for a maximum RELEVANCY and gives it back for FURTHER REUSE.

**How does GIPO filter the large amount of results?**
We expect that filtering will be based on user-driven requirements, i.e. GIPO should be tailored to the needs of each particular user.

**Who is responsible for the content included in GIPO?**
GIPO is meant to rely as much as feasible on automated collection and processing of data and information from other sources.
Therefore, the "raw information" will be the responsibility of the party which has produced it.
The team working on GIPO is also assessing the legal implications of hosting information on GIPO and, as necessary, the best procedures to ensure correction and/or removal of wrong / illegal information.
Collaboration with other platforms might be useful to exchange best practices in this complex area.

**What is GIPO approach to multilingualism?**
Multilingualism is certainly an important aspect of the project.
GIPO interface (texts in menus, buttons, messages) is multilingual, meaning that it provides the capability to be extended to any desired language.
The taxonomy terms used by the GIPO tool (tags/keywords) will be translated into at least all the official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish). To do this GIPO Tool performs language substitution of “Wikidata labels” (using the MediaWiki API).
The contents gathered from sources remain in their original language. As the Tool links to the original content at their source, any user can use online translation tools to translate to their preferred language.