

**Launching the IGF 2022 Youth Track  
EuroDIG, Trieste, Italy | 20 June 2022 at 14:45 CEST**

**Summary of Workshop I**

The [IGF 2022 youth track](#)<sup>1</sup> was officially launched at the 2022 annual meeting of the European Dialogues on Internet Governance (EuroDIG). The co-organizers<sup>2</sup> structured the first workshop to introduce the track, announce the next activities, explore the demand from youth and unpack digital transformation policy challenges and opportunities as the overarching theme of the track.

The moderators were the coordinators of the youth programme of EuroDIG (YOUthDIG) Ms. Nadia Tjahja and the coordinator of the German Youth IGF, Ms. Elisabeth Schauer mann. The rapporteur was Ms. Lily Edinam Botsyoe, coordinator of the Ghana Youth IGF. The workshop featured two speakers, Ms. Anja Gengo from IGF Secretariat and Mr. Daniel Akinmade Emejulu from Microsoft UN Affairs.

A vibrant interactive discussion engaged many young and senior stakeholders who exchanged views on the format of the track as well as on the policy aspects youth could discuss within the youth track in preparations for the final global youth summit at the 17<sup>th</sup> IGF in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The meaningful and vibrant exchanges of over 100 participants onsite and online underlined the need for creating synergies between youth and senior stakeholders throughout the track and at the 17<sup>th</sup> IGF. Many recognized the need for fostering cooperation among youth from all regions and backgrounds as a guarantee for more equipped future generations of experts and leaders and with that a more promising future.

Below is the overall summary of the exchanges.

**Key takeaways**

- *The Global Internet Community should foster inter-generational collaboration between youth and the older generation(s) by responding to issues of language, funding and addressing barriers to access by placing paramount attention on youth demands now and not as a secondary matter.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track>

<sup>2</sup> IGF 2022 Host Country – Government of Ethiopia, youth IGF coordinators, youth-focused international initiatives and IGF Secretariat as listed on the IGF website <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track>

- *Digital transformation should be pursued in sustainable ways with the participation of all stakeholders, especially from the private sector, by approaching digital transformation on sectorial lines which helps better understanding of needs, challenges and opportunities.*

- The session opened with understanding ways of possible engagement in Internet governance through a shared journey of the YOUthDIG coordinator. Several learning opportunities were shared, and participants were encouraged to tackle barriers of participation and access. Youth was invited to cooperate on building a repository of funding opportunities. There were examples cited from Belgium where PhD students receive conference support by applying twice a year, an opportunity from Switzerland (Movetia) for Clubs, associations, NGOs or public bodies and others from the European Union (Erasmus+).<sup>3</sup>
- Building on the value and opportunities for engaging in Internet governance, the IGF Secretariat explained that the youth track aims to create synergies between youth and senior stakeholders. The first workshop at EuroDIG will inform other subsequent workshops expected to be hosted at the Asia Pacific Youth regional IGF and Youth Latin Americana and the Caribbean IGF.
- The Chad IGF coordinator underlined the need for youth voices to advocate for issues of youth importance, as well as the need for north-south collaborations and for consideration in language for global audiences. He added the need for support for visa processes for attendance to international events.
- The session continued with unpacking digital transformation policy challenges through presentation from Microsoft which highlighted key trends, issues and opportunities from the private sector perspective sharing some of the Microsoft's Digital Futures initiative's examples as illustrations of the expressed arguments. The [presentation](#)<sup>4</sup> is available for further information.
- Acknowledging the transformative nature of digital technologies, it was underlined that their effects must be considered looked on sectorial lines to be able to understand the needs and challenges.
- Specifically referencing the sustainable development goal (SDG) 2 which focuses on Zero Hunger, several examples of the digital transformation footprint in agriculture were shared.

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<sup>3</sup> Further details available at [https://eurodigwiki.org/wiki/NRI\\_and\\_Youth\\_Assembly\\_Update\\_on\\_the\\_global\\_processes\\_and\\_how\\_to\\_participate%3F%E2%80%93Pre\\_04\\_2022](https://eurodigwiki.org/wiki/NRI_and_Youth_Assembly_Update_on_the_global_processes_and_how_to_participate%3F%E2%80%93Pre_04_2022)

<sup>4</sup> [https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/257/21909](https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/257/21909)

- Access and connectivity were highlighted by many as the prerequisite for rural and urban areas to tap into digital transformation, expressing concerns that many are not connected at all to the broadband Internet.
- Participants also exchanged views on the ways digital transformation helps education tapping into the SDG 4 focused on quality education.
- Matters of agriculture attracted interest and some noted that this area should be promoted in ways that make it attractive to young people and encouraged climate-friendly processes.

The workshop concluded by explaining that each youth track workshop will feature speaker(s) from different stakeholder groups to ensure the entire track provides a multistakeholder perspective on the topic. The next workshop has been under planning by the youth track co-organizers building on the key takeaways of this workshop.