



Final report

The Italian IGF in 2012 was organised over two days, preceded by an open afternoon which included meetings and discussions involving sectors of civil society.

The main aim of the Forum was to define the agenda of the Italian participation at the Global IGF to be held in Baku (Azerbaijan), from 6 to 9 November 2012. This follows the open and multistakeholder approach adopted by the IGF. The Italian meeting identified and discussed aspects that are becoming ever more important within the context of Internet governance in Italy. This involves those directly interested, starting from civil society and Internet users, but also representatives of the private sector and central and local public administration.

The IGF Italy 2012 was organised by the Top-IX Consortium, CSP – Innovation in ICT and by Nexa Center for Internet and Society of the Politecnico di Torino (Department of Control and Computer Engineering) in the role of scientific coordinator. This was with the financial support of Regione Piemonte, Turin District Council, Chamber of Commerce of Turin and Politecnico di Torino, with the sponsorship of Expo 2015 and in collaboration with the Torino Wireless Foundation, the Institute of Informatics and Telematics of the CNR (Italian National Research Council) and ISOC Italy, and with the support of Google (Main sponsor) and Vodafone (Sponsor).

Thursday 18 October

During the afternoon preceding the Forum two “unconference” sessions were held, open to discussion for all participants.

The first session, entitled “The reaction of the Internet community to the proposals to revise the international treaty on telecommunications (ITR/ITU)”, was organised by the Internet Society (Isoc) Italy. In preparation for the re-elaboration of the international treaty on telecommunications (ITR/ITU), recently ETNO (Europe’s telecommunications network operators), the Association that includes all the European actors in telecommunications, led by Luigi Gambardella of Telecom Italy, proposed new economic models to update those that have previously underpinned the neutrality of Internet. This is based on the fact that current models do not guarantee to transport and access operators a necessary return on investments regarding Web content delivery by the big players (the so-called Over The Top Content - OTT).

The debate revolved around the nature of the economic dynamics involved and to what extent a regulatory mechanism of the market could impact on the capacity of proposing innovation on the Internet. It analysed how we can have the best conditions for Internet transport which ensures the widest market freedom while maintaining the most competitive prices for users.

Participants at the “unconference” were: Valentina Amenta, CNR IIT, Dino Bortolotto, Infotech, President of Assoprovider; Daniele Roffinella, Telecom Italy Strategy Department ETNO; Marco d’Itri, Systems Head of Seeweb. Debate chairman was Stefano Trumpy, President of ISOC Italy.

The session was very lively and involved contrasts between the positions expressed by ETNO on the rewriting of the international treaties, supported by Daniele Roffinella, and the position of the Italian Internet Society, which retains that the introduction of differentiation in the access and routing of Internet traffic represents a serious violation in the principle of neutrality of the net.

According to ISOC Italy, in fact, Internet encapsulates in its neutrality and non-

discriminatory access an essential presupposition for its free development, and for the guarantee of basic rights (among which there is the very same access and routing of traffic) of its users. Telecom, on behalf of the TELCO members of ETNO, on the other hand, put forward a proposal to identify an economic model for the sustainable development of the Internet, particularly regarding the infrastructural aspects of Internet, together with the prioritizing of some content delivery with respect to others.

The unconference "Platforms for democratic policy and participation" and the "Workshop on public consultation proposed by the Italian Ministry of Education on Internet Governance" were joined together, modifying the original programme (which foresaw a common conclusive session).

Speakers in the discussion on e-participation platforms were: Puria Nafisi (Pirate Party) and Marco Ciurcina (Pirate Party and Centro Nexa); Fiorella De Cindio, University of Milan; Giambattista Gallus, lawyer; Vittorio Bertola, the Italian political movement Movimento 5Stelle ("5 stars"). Debate chairman was Giulio de Petra of the Ahref Foundation and guarantor of Centro Nexa.

The discussion started with a seminar on Liquid Feedback, e-participation platform, used by the German Pirate Party. There was a description of potential, uses and differences with other similar platforms. There was also discussion of the platform developed for the Milan Municipality, PartecipaMI, in which citizens and local administrators can participate in discussion on the government of the city. Also in this case, specific details and critical points were highlighted, together with differences and similarities with other e-participation platforms.

The debate continued, in plenary session, with an illustration of online participative methods used by the political movement 5Stelle. This was followed by two collaborators of Italian Minister of Education Francesco Profumo, Damien Lanfrey and Donatella Solda-Kutzmann, who described the strategy of e-participation adopted by the Ministry. This involves the setting up of various online consultations, including the already concluded Italian Digital Diary and three projects in progress, such as the consultation on innovation and research Horizon 2020 Italia, relative to the European programme of the same name. The Ministry speakers also presented the Italian Research web portal, which is aimed at illustrating the work of bodies, institutions, companies and all players involved in Italian research (both in Italy and abroad), but which also takes in the contribution of citizens, who are the main end-users. Finally, they spoke about the public consultation on the Fundamental Principles of the Internet, set up in advance of both the Italian IGF and the international IGF. For further details on the public consultation of the Italian Ministry of Education visit: <http://www.facebook.com/MIURsocial>.

Friday 19 October

On 19 October, the fifth Internet Governance Forum, Italia 2012, officially opened.

The morning opened with the session coordinated by Juan Carlos de Martin, Co-Director of the Nexa Center for Internet and Society, and included greetings and opening remarks.

The opening of the Forum was led by Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stefano Trumpy, President of the Italian Internet Society and Italian representative in the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICAAN, Constance Bommelaer, Director of Public Policy, Internet Society. The Minister, in videoconference, illustrated the great potential of the Internet, defending the freedom of expression of Internet and announcing that the next *Maecom* – the planning document relative to the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to be available in the next few days – will include measures regarding significant innovation, which aim to exploit the opportunities offered by Internet.

Stefano Trumpy spoke about the importance of Internet Governance, at both national and international levels, presenting the work carried out within the GAC of ICANN, substantially changing the very configuration of ICANN with respect to the beginning of the Internet Governance process. Constance Bommelaer presented on the important role that the association Internet Society has played in the past and continues to play within the context of the management of the Internet and its policies.

There followed three keynote speeches made by Stefano Rodotà, emeritus professor in Civil law, La Sapienza University of Rome, Vinton Cerf, Chief Internet Evangelist of Google and Alberto Oddenino, Lecturer in International Law, University of Turin.

Stefano Rodotà illustrated the various aspects of Internet Governance concerning the concrete actions carried out by Italian politics, with particular reference to legislation. Internet, he underlined, is increasingly becoming the location where political power is defined and redistributed, and therefore maximum attention must be paid to the Internet in all its aspects. Prof. Rodotà emphasized how one of the most urgent issues to be dealt with is that of the construction and protection of the digital identity: each of us is in fact not what we often consider ourselves to be, but what Google search results show us. The matter of "user centric identity", i.e. the possibility for each user to manage and maintain under management and under one's own control each piece of one's identity spread throughout the Internet, has become a central and urgent issue. The topic of privacy therefore remains one of the great delicate points still to be dealt with regarding Internet. Equally important is the question of the freedom of Internet, not only from the point of view of net neutrality, but also as regards the rights of its users. For this reason, Prof. Rodotà hoped that the bill regarding the introduction of Article 21b, on right of access, would soon reach enactment in the Italian parliament.

Vint Cerf went over the history and significance of Internet Governance, underlining the importance of a model of open and multistakeholder-based discussion just like that at the basis of the IGF meetings. He also touched on the importance of the modifications to the international treaties of the ITU, emphasizing the necessity for close attention and constant work regarding the balances between the various bodies that manage the Internet.

Alberto Oddenino illustrated the various regulatory approaches that have historically been applied to Internet Governance and which have developed over time. The IGFs are a new experiment not only within the context of Internet governance, but also regarding the sector of international regulation. He underlined that besides the importance of the method with which the Internet is managed, a central point is occupied by the heart of the matter: the neutrality of the Internet. Without parity between the subjects accessing Internet there can never be equal and free development of the Internet itself.

The issue of net neutrality was also at the centre of an appeal made by Juan Carlos De Martin, Alberto Oddenino and Stefano Rodotà – publishing it on the online version of the Italian newspaper *La Stampa* - addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, and to the Minister of Economic Development, Corrado Passera, asking them and the entire Italian Government, "to line Italy up alongside the Internet, supporting innovation and freedom, as already recommended by the European Commission". The appeal received a prompt reply from the Ministers: on 20 October, final day of the 2012IGF, in the newspaper *La Stampa*, they affirmed that they recognised the "essential role in the democratic growth of nations and in the freedom of expression of citizens around the world" that Internet plays and they declared to be in favour of an unconditioned freedom of expression. In relation to Internet governance, the Ministers stated, also the position of the EU Commission is in favour of maintaining the current system and not entrusting its management to the ITU.

Thematic sessions

On the afternoon of 19 October there were four topic-based sessions.

The first, "the country of digital divides", was aimed at identifying the determining factors and features of the Italian "digital divides"; the debate was chaired by Sergio Duretti, CSP – Innovation in ICT, and included participation by Stefano Quintarelli, computer scientist and entrepreneur, trustee of the Nexa Center for Internet and Society; Laura Sartori, University of Bologna; Carlo Gulminelli, *Fondazione Avviamento e Sviluppo di Progetti per ridurre l'Handicap mediante l'Informatica* (Foundation for the Start up and Development of Projects for the Disabled using Information Technology). The session highlighted how there were still many divides in Italy and, above all, together with an infrastructural and technological, there is also a significant digital skills gap, a theme still often ignored, little analysed and

taken into little consideration. In terms of divides e can also speak refer to disabled persons, who can benefit only partially from the opportunities offered by digital technologies and the Internet. The session concluded with a provocative question put by the chairman: is it better to speak of *digital divide* or *digital apartheid*?

In the second session "Which infrastructures for future Internet?" Kurtis Lindqvist of Euro-IX, Roberto Borri, CSP – Innovation in ICT, Davide Vega, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and Marco Sommani, Institute of Informatics and Telematics of the CNR, Italy, chaired by Angelo Raffaele Meo, Politecnico di Torino, discussed the various technological options that could make up the infrastructures of the Internet of the near future. The session emphasized above all the need for the various experimentations in progress to be interconnected and coordinated at a European scale. The theme of passage to IPv6 was discussed: Italy, in 41st position in the world classification in terms of extent of adoption of the new standard, is still very much lagging behind.

One of the reasons why Italy is proceeding at such a slow pace, despite the country being technically ready, is that there is not enough awareness of the need to move to the new protocol. More promotion at a governmental level is needed, but also greater attention paid by users, who should take advantage of the commercial offers that use IPv6. Furthermore, the solution of Open Spectrum would go a long way to solving the problems of wireless connectivity in Italy.

In the third session, "Internet and entrepreneurship", an attempt was made to identify the main qualifying factors regarding entrepreneurship on the Internet. Participants were Luca De Biase, President of the Ahref Foundation and trustee of the Nexa Center for Internet and Society, chairman Massimiliano Ceaglio, Treatabit, Incubator of Innovative Enterprises of the Politecnico di Torino, Andrea Di Benedetto, CNA Young Entrepreneurs, Leonardo Camiciotti, TOP-IX. In the session it emerged how the inclusion of company start-ups and the issue of their regulation in the Italian decree "Growth 2.0" (which included the procedures regarding the Digital Diary), together with the theme of Open Data, represents a significant novelty in Italy. Open data, in particular, is an important source for new enterprises, even if the data remain in a raw state. It is therefore important to encourage their diffusion by public administration bodies. In Italy there is also a great need for enterprise incubators, which can work in synergy with the universities.

In the last session of the day, entitled "Net neutrality", the factors and implications regarding Net neutrality were analysed, together with strategies for measuring this characteristic. The debate, chaired by Stefano Quintarelli, computer scientist and entrepreneur, trustee of the Nexa Center for Internet and Society, involved Simone Basso, Nexa Center for Internet and Society; Giovanni Battista Amendola, Telecom Italy; Marco Fiorentino, Association of Italian Internet Providers; Carlo Alberto Carnevale Maffè, University of Bocconi, Milan. In the session it emerged how the neutrality of the Internet can be considered one of the necessary and qualifying conditions for the development of Internet and for the affirmation of the rights of its users. It also constitutes a precondition for the defeat of digital illiteracy. In summary, there are two different ways of interpreting net neutrality: on the one hand we have the vision that can be defined "internet-based", which proposes not to manage the infrastructural scarcity generating the Internet, but to make this resource abundant. On the other hand, we have an opposing view, generally supported by the TELCOs, which means managing the scarcity and gaining profit from the infrastructural management, introducing discriminations in access to Internet and creating preferential routes for some kinds of content, such as, for example, value added services.

Saturday 20 October

On the last day of the Forum, in the morning, there were another four topic-based sessions focussed on three important themes relating to the role of Internet in society: the models and tools of e-Government and e-Democracy, from Open Data to examples of "bottom-to-top" participation, also regarding international experiences; the contents of Digital Agenda promoted at an international, European, national and local level, underlining common elements and those features typical of every administrative level; the tools for overcoming digital divides.

In the first session, "e-Government: models and tools" the focus was on the main models of eGov at an Italian and international level, illustrating success stories and potential critical areas. Participants were David Osimo, Tech4i2 (teleconference), Elena Pavan, University of Trento, Giulio De Petra, Ahref Foundation and trustee of the Nexa Center for Internet and Society, Ben Wagner, European University Institute and Antonella Napolitano, TechPresident. The session was chaired by Fabio Chiusi, freelance journalist. The first fact to emerge from the debate is certainly the complexity of e-democracy practices. Shifting the dynamics of democratic participation on Internet is, in fact, difficult in relation to various factors, among which there are the ways and times of involvement, the technological platforms used and integration with analogical forms of participation. Emphasis was put particularly on the need to overcome the partial approach that is generally used for e-participation, which in the vast majority of cases involves the citizens only in some stages of political life. There is therefore a need to adopt measures that enable e-participation in a constant way, for example not only before definition and adoption of political decisions, but also in the phase of putting into action and assessment of the effects of the measures chosen. Some most recent kinds of participation, such as those associated with the dynamics of crowdsourcing, represent only the tip of the iceberg of actions that can be carried out by means of the Internet. In relation to e-government undertaken by public administration, it has been noted how in Italy there are strong dishomogeneities, with few cases of excellence and with most local municipalities lagging a long way behind. The discussion also stressed how the substantial affirmation of e-government and open government does not depend merely on the digitalization of processes – which is however a necessary precondition – but involves also the redefinition of work practices. In relation to international best practice, the case of Open Ministry was brought up, an online platform for open crowdsourced lawmaking adopted by the Finnish parliament and incorporated in the country's constitution.

In the session "Digital agenda" Roberto Moriondo, Piemonte Regional Council, coordinated the debate between Stefano Trumpy, ISOC Italy, Franck Boissiere, European Commission, Mario Calderini, Ministry of Education, University and Research; Rita Forsi, Ministry of Economic Development; Paolo Mora, Lombardy Region and Michele D'Alena, Bologna Municipality. Aim of the session: to analyse points of contact and complementary aspects in the definition of Digital Agenda at different administrative levels. From the debate it emerged how great steps have been made in recent years as regards the theme of the Digital Diary. The formulation of the Digital Agenda by the European Commission and the subsequent work done by member states has prompted an irreversible process of reflection on themes related to e-government and innovation, participation and growth which play on digital processes. In Italy the procedures of digitalization of public administration, the overcoming of digital divides and the affirmation of e-government practices is still very dishomogeneous: throughout Italy, in fact, there are cases of excellence which exist side by side with situations of abject backwardness. It emerged how there is a lack of both actions of coordination in progress, and also successive monitoring checks. A problem of coordination is evident also between European and national levels. Also in relation to the setting up of digital agenda, the relevance of Open Data as a qualifying element was underlined. Also this session emphasized how, in relation to the release and use of Open Data, there is a need for consolidation and extension of good practice, so as to overcome the pioneering stage. Public data – which must have the characteristics of openness and range and must be updated in real time – are an essential driving force also for the birth of start-ups and of public services created by citizens.

In the session "Open Data" Federico Morando, Nexa Center, chaired a debate aimed at discussing the role of the availability and reuse of public data given the opportunities offered by the digital revolution. The discussion touched on the value of public data as both enablers of the data economy, of private investment and growth, and also their potential as an element of transparency and accountability. From the discussion between Roberto Moriondo, Piemonte Region, Aline Pennisi, OpenPolis, Fabio Dellutri, Voglioilruolo.it and Michele Barbera, SpazioDati it emerged how the current favourable context for the opening of data (both in terms of visibility and legislative recognition) represents also a moment of

risk for the Open Data “movement”. In fact, the pioneering phase in which the availability of any kind of data represented a praiseworthy step, there now follow a multitude of challenges. Firstly, the availability of data is inadequate, also because rarely do different public administration bodies “open” the same data and with the same format, so it is difficult for companies and citizens to find sufficiently wide markets or make relevant comparisons. A similar challenge is that of the opening of more “dynamic” data, updated in real time. Furthermore, although the culture of open data is well established in some contexts, it is far from common both within Public Administration bodies and between companies and citizens. In addition, despite interesting developments in terms of enforcement (e.g. links between opening of data and result-related remuneration for managers) there is still a lack of shared and credible indicators to assess correct behaviour in terms of opening and reuse of public data.

Finally, the session benefited from various additional presentations, among which that of Anna Cavallo, CSI Piemonte, who proposed three key steps to support the principles of open data: spread the culture, federate the portals and develop *open data services*. Paolo Mistrangelo’s speech focussed on the theme of availability and reuse of land register data, which, together with those on companies, meteorology and cartography, make up most of the reusable public data today, all generally fee-based. In conclusion, Chiara Pasquinelli, IIT CNR, underlined some juridical profiles relevant in the reuse of commercial data, whilst Prof. Pizzetti focussed on the risks of a potential opening of data without the necessary awareness.

The last session, “Tools for bridging the digital divide”, had the aim of illustrating, by means of practical examples, the tools available to face the digital divide in Italy. Participants were Simone Arcagni, Nòva24 and University of Palermo, Chairman Damien Lanfrey, Ministry of Education, University and Research, Salvatore Giuliano, ITIS Majorana, Brindisi, Andrea Bondi, Imola Municipality, Vittorio Vallero, CSI Piemonte and Daniele Trincherò, Politecnico di Torino. From the discussion it emerged how the digital divide on the whole, regarding both infrastructures and lack of digital skills, is a crucial issue for democracy. Without the possibility of Internet access, also access to knowledge and to practices of democratic participation is strongly penalised. Many of the questions relating to the digital divide could be solved, within the metropolitan context, also without major economic investments. Some projects, such as that carried out by the Itis Technical High School of Brindisi (Southern Italy) - which involved putting the text books of 70 secondary schools online - show how important results can be obtained at a limited cost.

Conclusions

The Forum, after institutional goodbyes by the host Region, concluded with speeches by Janis Karklins, Assistant of the General Director for Communication and Information of UNESCO, and the Minister of Education, Francesco Profumo. Karklins analysed the multitude of institutions and bodies that deal with Internet Governance, also explaining their historical reason and their current role. The Minister went over the stages that Italy has passed through in terms of digital and Internet Governance. In fact, for several years, and above all with the commitment of the present government, the themes of the digital diary have been a part of the formulation of national policies. This is shown by initiatives such as the parliamentary decree Growth 2.0, but also by the activity that the Ministry of Education is carrying out as regards public consultation. The Minister also affirmed the need for an increasingly better and greater coordination of the relevant international bodies, such as, for example, UNESCO.

At the end of concluding remarks, the Italian Democratic Party senator Vincenzo Vita put forward a proposal to Minister Profumo, formulated together with Laura Abba, Institute of Informatics and Telematics of the CNR, and to Juan Carlos De Martin: why not host in Italy, in 2015, the global Internet Governance Forum? The Minister replied that this could be possible and there was general approval from the audience. On the other hand, as far as the next Italy IGF is concerned, it was hoped that it could be held in Southern Italy, for example in the regions of Campania or Calabria.