

Responses to questions about national IGF structures: Italy

1. Effectiveness of national IGF structures.

What is your experience with the effectiveness of your national IGFs discussions? How do you make sure that your national IGF discussions do have an impact on the policy discussion and on national legislation process? How do you make sure that the relevant stakeholders get together and have a constructive exchange? How do you make sure that your national IGF helps people to better understand the challenges related to Internet Governance?

We organized the first IGF Italy in October 2008, and we are going to have the second one in next October (www.igf-italia.it). Before these two meetings, we organized other national meetings about Internet Governance, since 2006, without using the IGF label.

The main goals we try to reach are:

- an impact on the public policy discussions and on national legislation and regulatory process.
Until now we reached a tangible sensitization of all stakeholders involved in IGF process, including government representatives. There is certainly space for further improvements, but the results just reached are appreciable compared with the previous period.

- a stronger relationship and exchange among our national relevant stakeholders.
In the events we just organized we involved different stakeholders in a debate/confrontation. The results is a remarkable development of Internet Governance national debate.

For the next meetings we'll try to improve these results, in order to achieve a greater consciousness of the importance of Internet Governance and to improve the role of Italy at international level.

2. European Approach on Internet Governance.

What is "European" about the Internet Governance Discussion in Europe? What can Europe contribute to the global Internet Governance Discussion? What are European perspectives, best practices and how should they feed into the global IGF?

European discussion on Internet Governance can certainly generate a value added, as the regional debates do. It's relevant that not only each member state but also European Union be present in international debate as supranational organization. Especially about some issues - like e.g. relationship with international organization about the management of the Net and also like the policy issues for the development of Knowledge Society and the reaching of Lisbon goals - it is to be hoped to build a harmonized European position. So, there are two different levels, national and European, and both should be continued and enforced. Both should feed into the global IGF submitting the results of national and European debates at international confrontations, in order to try to share the experience and to reach shared positions.

3. European IGF: mandate and objectives.

Is there a need/desire for a European IGF? If yes, what should be its mandate and objectives? Which stakeholders should participate?

As previously mentioned, a European IGF can help to build, at first, a harmonized position among the member States, especially about common themes. It can also be useful to have, as European Union, a stronger position at international level than a plurality of positions from single States. Added to that, a European IGF can be helpful to enforce the IGF process in the States where the debate is still weak.

The effectiveness of a European IGF depends on a stronger involvement of the main European actors, both public and private, starting from the institutions of European Union.

Another relevant factor is the forthcoming decision of UN about the prosecution, in the actual way, of the

international IGF process, after the meeting in Vilnius, in 2010.

4. European IGF: structure and working methods.

How should such a regional forum work? How should it be organized and how should it be funded? How should it link to national, global and other regional Internet governance initiatives? How could it help to improved e-participation in internet governance in Europe?

Almost all national IGFs have a light structure and at the moment there is no need for a strongly structured European IGF, also in order to permit a smart adaptation to conditions that should change in the next future. Probably it should be funded both by public and private resources, in order to assure the continuity of the process.

Concerning the relations with national and regional IGFs with the global one, the link should remain informative and not strictly formal. We are talking about forums that, by definition, don't need strong structure, otherwise they could loose their nature.

In addition to answering these questions, you are also invited to send in a fact sheet about your national IGF (max. 2 pages) on its structure, activities, website and working methods. We will also make this available on the website and link to your national initiative.

Second Internet Governance Forum Italy (IGF Italy).

The coming October 5,6,7 will take place in Pisa, organized by CNR (our national Research Council) in cooperation with ISOC Italy and W3C Italy, the second IGF Italy. All the documentation is available (in Italian) at www.igfitaly.it

Following last year's event in Cagliari, Sardinia, the Forum will focus on the Future of the Internet Governance and stands in continuity with the strategies of the National Research Council (CNR) ICT Department.

The main aims of the Forum are:

- to establish a permanent process that involves all the Italian stakeholders in a permanent dialogue and analysis of the themes of local Internet Governance; - to discuss and define a common position on the issues (access, openness, diversity, security, critical resources, emerging issues etc) to be dealt at the next international IGF, which will be hosted by the Egyptian Government, in Sharm El Sheikh in November 2009.

In the three days event the working sessions will focus on the following topics:

- * Security and freedom of expression: how to keep the balance?
- * Social networks: what is public, what is private?
- * Copyright: between protection and dissemination of knowledge.
- * Identity Networking: anonymity or recognition?
- * Internet Rights and principles: between globalization and new violations.

* Exchange of experiences and best practices in:

- Network management: towards what future?
- Internet and future technologies.
- Internet and new forms of enterprise.
- Internet, politics and public administration.
- Internet, art and culture.

The Italian organization of IGF is light and not formal. A small group works on the national initiative. They

started, from the World Summit on Information Society, to work on Internet Governance and Information Society themes. The effort has been to build a multistakeholder participation at the IGF process.

The first IGF Italy was organized, in 2008, by Italian Minister of Public Administration and Innovation Mr. Renato Brunetta, together with the President of Sardinia Region, Mr. Renato Soru.

The second one is organized, as mentioned above, by our National Research Council in cooperation with ISOC Italy and W3C Italy. All institutions, organizations and experts on the themes of Internet Governance are invited to participate.

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