

NL IGF Annual report 2014



About NL IGF, the Dutch initiative

In the Netherlands, we are convinced that ongoing exchange between the national internet debate and international developments is crucial. Both sides of the coin reinforce each other. New national issues that come up can progress to the international agenda, and international insights can inform the domestic debate. The Internet Governance Forum facilitates this exchange. The prominent Dutch position in the field of internet infrastructure and use invites and requires us to actively participate in this debate.

NL IGF was established five years ago (in 2010), as a cooperative venture consisting of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Dutch: Ministerie van EZ), SIDN (the Foundation for Internet Domain Registration in the Netherlands) and ECP | Platform for the Information Society. These parties are collaborating to bring the importance of the IGF to the attention of Dutch stakeholders. On the one hand, the aim is to realise a firm embedding of the international results into our national policy. On the other hand, efforts are made to make the Dutch voice heard internationally and to put important Dutch themes on the international agenda.

NL IGF emphasizes the relevance of the numerous IGF activities around the world, monitors developments and communicates results, through organizing various meetings and through this website, [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

NL IGF is meant for businesses, non-profit organizations, government (local & national), politicians and other parties who attach value to international cooperation and knowledge sharing around the internet debate and who share a commitment to the importance of the Internet Governance Forum.

EURODIG, June 12 & 13 2014, Berlin

NL IGF sees the EURODIG meeting as an important preparatory moment for the Internet Governance Forum and attaches great value to the EURODIG network as a platform where Europe can coordinate and establish common positions in the discussions surrounding internet governance. NL IGF was present at this year's EURODIG in Berlin and made statements in several workshops.

NL IGF event 2014

Since 2010, NL IGF organises an annual Dutch IGF event. This is a multi-stakeholder forum, where national parliamentarians, civil servants, scientists, non-profit organisations, the private sector, journalists and other interested parties meet. Aim is not only to share knowledge and experiences related to internet governance, but also to engage in those discussions surrounding internet governance that are thorny and tricky. Like the IGF itself, it is an open consultation, where participants

set the agenda of the event themselves. The outcomes of the NL IGF event serve as an important input for the preparations of the Dutch delegation attending the global IGF.

More than 100 visitors participated in the debates NL IGF organised in The Hague at the 2014 event. The event started with a video message from MEP Marietje Schaake, a strong advocate of a free and open internet, who emphasized the importance of international leadership and the multi-stakeholder model. This message was followed by a speech from Maarten Simon of SIDN, the registry for .nl domain names, who sketched the complexity of the internet governance landscape and explained how various entities are related to one another. Additionally, he spoke of how the Internet Governance Forum came



into existence and outlined who the main players are in the recently founded NETMundial network, a separate network organised, i.a., by Germany and Brazil.

Senator Hans Franken, in another plenary address, emphasized the importance of political involvement, including from the Dutch national level. He explained how he advocates Dutch involvement, both from the Dutch Senate, the 'First Chamber', as well as from the Council of Europe, where he chairs a working group. The Council of Europe aims to promote democracy and human rights across Europe, including freedom on the internet.

The plenary opening was followed by 6 debating sessions, conducted over 2 rounds:

1. 'Internet of Things: time for societal (inter-)action?'
2. 'Internet Governance, why should I care?'
3. 'Risks and increasing influence of external jurisdictions'
4. 'Privacy as innovation'
5. 'The Netherlands and the future of the internet'
6. 'Towards the Global Conference on Cyber Space 2015'

The afternoon concluded with a multi-stakeholder panel debate. Speakers were Monique Doppert (HIVOS), Astrid Oosenbrug (parliamentarian for the social democrat PvdA party), Robert van Hoesel (Young Creators), Arda Gerken (senator, Socialist Party) and Jochem de Groot (Microsoft). Prior to the discussion, a spoken column from investigative journalist Brenno de Winter, under the title 'net neutrality and governance in software', implored Dutch parliamentarians and other political actors to take internet governance more seriously. This call was echoed by the panel. Consensus was less strong on the question whether the internet has been essentially 'broken' since the Snowden affair, and on the question how trust is to be regained. One empowering conclusion was that it is important to remain autonomous in the handling of these matters.



The question what the main Dutch contribution to the upcoming global IGF in Istanbul should be was met with the following observations:

- * A broad, multi-stakeholder delegation;
- * Freedom of choice;
- * The Netherlands should take a leading role in promoting net

neutrality, and consider it as an export product;

* The Netherlands is a Utopia in the field of human rights and internet freedom, an achievement we should cherish and maintain;

* It is highly important that the Dutch delegation includes politicians, as in a time of globalisation, an interest from national politicians in the international internet debate is crucial.

IGF 2014: Dutch delegation

The Dutch delegation this year consisted of some 30 individuals, including a number of important new members such as journalist Brenno de Winter and Socialist parliamentarian Sharon Gesthuizen. It was the largest Dutch delegation since the forum's inception, and included participants from a range of professional disciplines, including newcomers to the internet governance field. NL IGF values a strong Dutch contribution to the forum very highly. NL IGF identifies Dutch participants to the IGF and informs them about both content and logistics of the forum.

Dutch workshops at the IGF 2014

The programme of the Internet Governance Forum 2014 included two workshops of Dutch origin:

Workshop #17: Privacy as Innovation II

This workshop was organised by NL IGF in cooperation with the Danish Media Council and the University of Copenhagen, and formed the sequel to a workshop with the same name that was held at the 2013 conference in Bali. The workshop saw lively debate covering topics of popularity, education, products, regulation and legislation, and technology. The interdisciplinary panel consisted of experts from different countries. Dutch participants included Bart Schermer (lecturer at the University of Leiden and partner at consultancy firm Considerati, who also acted as co-moderator), Arda Gerkens (senator for the Socialist Party) and our very own Pim & Nathan, representing Dutch teenagers.

A report by co-moderator Gry Hasselbach (Mediamocracy) can be found [here](#).

A summary with the most salient elements of the debate, compiled by co-moderator Bart Schermer, can be found [here](#).

A video recording of the workshop is available [here](#).

Workshop #49: 'The impact of (non-)adoption of Internet standards on cyber security'

This workshop unfolded as a lively discussion among both government representatives and private sector firms.

The adoption of (internet) standards and emulation of best practices is important in the fight against cybercrime and for the improvement of cyber security. However, standards and best practices can only be effective if they are not just developed, but also adopted. Unfortunately, large-scale adoption has not yet been achieved. Wout de Natris led the debate on behalf of NL IGF.

No unequivocal recommendations emerged concerning the pressing issue of the adoption of internet standards for cyber security. Nonetheless, there was a strong consensus that a continued debate on this topic is necessary. One aspect that was raised emphasised that financial costs of the implementation of standards should not be borne exclusively by Internet Service Providers, although they are often the parties that implement measures. Another topic identified for continued debate was how to remove barriers blocking a swift implementation of standards, as well as the possibility of economic pressure to ensure that a more rapid implementation process takes place.

The full workshop report can be downloaded [here](#).

A video recording of the workshop is available [here](#).

Young IGF

During the NL IGF event in June, two tickets to the global IGF were awarded to Dutch teenagers. Giving the new generation a voice in the international internet debate is an important aspect for NL IGF, and therefore, two tickets are made available to the best young debaters at the NL IGF event each year. Nathan Bierman and Pim ten Thije were selected to represent Dutch teenagers in Istanbul.

They reflected on their experiences and ideas about the forum in this [video](#).

Dutch visibility at the IGF

In addition to the efforts described above, ECP organised and manned a Dutch stand at the congress centre where the IGF took place, both as a focal point for the Dutch perspective and as a meeting point for the delegation and guests. Dutch visibility was greatly enhanced by the handing out of 'tegeltjeswijsheden' (Delftware tiles containing aphorisms on internet governance) throughout the forum.

