

# NL IGF Annual report 2017



## 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 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 in 2010, as a cooperative venture consisting of the Ministry of Economic Affairs & Climate Policy (Dutch: Ministerie van Economische Zaken en Klimaat), 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. It monitors developments and communicates results, through organizing various meetings and through its [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

NL IGF is meant for businesses, non-profit organizations, government (local & national), politicians, youth 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.

Furthermore, NL IGF gives young people the opportunity to make their voices heard and to get involved into internet governance. Every year the NL IGF organizes a Youth NL IGF. This input is also taken to the global IGF.

## YouthDIG & EURODIG, June 3 & 6 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia,

The 11th European Dialogue on Internet Governance took place on 5 and 6 June in Tbilisi, Georgia. EuroDIG is a two-day event where the future of the internet is discussed at European level. Everyone is free to participate in this dialogue, both offline and online. This year's theme was "Innovative strategies for our digital future", a new approach in which local start-ups were also involved in the discussions. 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.

## YouthDIG

In order to properly prepare the young people for their participation in the dialogue between European stakeholders, the two-day youth program (for young people between 18 and 30 years) YOUthDIG was organized for the third time in a row prior to EuroDIG. During the program, young people were introduced to internet governance and discussed this with an emphasis on the EuroDIG agenda. Topics such as human rights and start-ups played a central role. Furthermore, the YouthDIG people were guided around the tech park, supervised by Miriam Lashkhi (Head of International Relations Department), so that everyone got an impression of how Georgia is promoting and supporting its own (technological) prosperity. An inspiring place where innovative start-up companies have found their place. The tech park is financially supported by the government in Georgia. In addition, there was time in the evening program to share experiences and knowledge in an informal setting. From the Netherlands, a large number of young people had registered, so that even five of the 30 young people were present during YOUthDIG. At the end of the event, the young people jointly wrote a youth message that was presented during the conference, see [here](#). They want to convey this message to continue the dialogue and put it at the heart of the next European dialogue on internet governance.

## EuroDIG

NL IGF was present at this year's EURODIG in Tbilisi with a special mission. At the end of the first day of the conference the flag for 2019 was transferred to the Dutch Ambassador and with it to the Netherlands itself. This happened at the gala in club Underwheel, a beautiful location at the top of the mountain in Mtatsminda Park. The Netherlands has received the flag with pride and is looking forward to welcoming everyone to the Netherlands next year to continue the discussions around internet governance.

## NL IGF event 2017, October 10 2017, The Hague

Every year, the NL IGF organises an Dutch IGF event, where all mutli-stakholder parties meet to discuss about internet-related issues. The aim of the event 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. The outcomes of the NL IGF event serve as an important input for the preparations of the Dutch delegation attending the global IGF.



On 10 October, above 100 professionals from government, civil servants, non-profit organizations, journalists, youth and other interested parties came together to share knowledge and experiences related to internet governance. Like the IGF, the theme of the conference was “Shape Your Digital Future!”.

Marjolijn Bonthuis, project coordinator NL IGF and deputy director ECP, led the afternoon after human rights ambassador Kees van Baar gave a keynote about internet freedom and network shutdowns. Van Baar said that the Netherlands is the 'lawyer' for the freedom and security on the internet. According to Van Baar is that not the case everywhere. He gave examples from among others Bangladesh and Pakistan where internet and social media are used to track people who criticize the local situation. It is therefore vitally important that human rights defenders are helped to become aware of this threat, so that they can give governments a check. Van Baar believes that human rights defenders must be well prepared and well secured.

The closing keynote was given by Lousewies van de Laan, member of the ICANN board. She emphasized the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach. This approach is also followed within ICANN. ICANN is open and democratic, everyone can join it.

Lousewies warns, that ‘multistakeholderism’ only works if everyone participates. The cooperation that we have in the Netherlands is utopian. In many countries there is no private sector because it is too much intertwined with the government, she says. Moreover, talking is not in the culture of many countries. The multi-stakeholder model in the internet sector is the only model that works worldwide.

In addition, a number of workshops took place:

- How does the sectoral implementation of digital care duties stand for in the Netherlands?
- Security in the public space, also online.
- Fake News and possible solutions to access information

- Critical infrastructure and the internet: where is the boundary of the 'public core'?

### Youth NL IGF

For the first time, the Youth NL IGF has entered into a partnership with the University of Amsterdam for the annual event. The theme of the event was "Privacy is overrated; all data should be publicly accessible". Approximately 80 students watched a theatre in which a future was sketched without privacy through the use of smart technology. After the theatre, the students debated further on this subject.

### IGF 2017: the Dutch delegation

This year the Dutch delegation consisted of 50 individuals, including new participants such as the municipality of the Hague and the police. In addition, the Dutch delegation was guided by the youth members Wilma Westenberg and Vanessa Berning. This year the Dutch delegation had a strong input in the global IGF. In addition, a Dutch delegation dinner took place to exchange knowledge, network and exchange views on internet governance.

### Dutch workshop at the IGF 2017

The following workshops were organized by the Dutch delegation:

- Young NL IGF representatives Vanessa Berning and Wilma Westenberg organized the session '[Fake news and possible solutions to access information](#)',
- Wout de Natris (The Natris Consult) organized a session on '[strengthening cooperation in the context of the IGF: celebrating successes](#)',
- The Ministry of Justice & Safety in cooperation with Cyber Security Council organized an open forum on 'the new Corporate Digital Responsibility;
- 'The Freedom Online Coalition' and the 'Global Forum on Cyber Expertise' (GFCE) arranged an open forum about 'A Global Agenda on Cyber Capacity Building: GCCS2017'.

In addition to the organized sessions, many Dutch delegation members spoke in panels. View [here](#) the overview of all sessions and workshops with Dutch input.

At the meeting, it was also widely announced that the Dutch government has extended its sponsorship of this global forum for an open, free and secure internet with 5 years!

### Dutch visibility at the IGF

NL IGF and the GFCE were represented with a stand on the exhibition floor. Dressed with Delft blue tiles and statements from NL IGF meetings it was a nice crowd puller. Visitors could take Digiducks and postcards with quotes.

