

NL IGF Annual report 2016



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, 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 and other parties that attach value to international cooperation and knowledge sharing around the Internet debate and that share a commitment to the importance of the Internet Governance Forum.

EURODIG, June 9 & 10 2016, Brussels

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 Brussels and made statements in several workshops. This year's theme was "Embracing the Digital (R)evolution."

The Dutch delegation consisted of among other people the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) member Arnold van Rhijn from the ministry of Economic Affairs, Euro parliamentarian Marietje Schaake, member of the international Board of directors of ICANN Lousewies van der

Laan, member of Young NL IGF and participant of the New Media Summer School Auke Pals and Maarten Botterman, chair of the dynamic coalition on Internet of Things and leader of the last plenary debate on the first day.

The Dutch delegation at EuroDIG also participated in a workshop on national and regional IGF's (NRI's). NL IGF was used as an example of a successful national IGF in one of the workshops.

NL IGF event 2016

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



On 13 October, over 100 professionals from government, the private sector and societal organisations, as well as teenagers, debated the future of the Internet during the annual NL IGF event. One of the things discussed was the question of the Dutch contribution to the international debate. In which parts of Internet governance is the Netherlands leading the way internationally? What questions should we raise and put on the international agenda? In addition, the event has a strong networking component, allowing companies, civil servants, NGOs and politicians to meet and exchange perspectives.

Following the successes of previous editions, the format of the event remained unchanged. The agenda of the NL IGF event was drafted by the participants themselves, resulting in a programme with six workshops:

- Internet freedom through Internet infrastructure?;
- How can we improve the operational interaction among Enforcers and Internet companies?;
- Decrypting sextortion;
- Let's break down silos in cybersecurity and cybercrime!;
- Democracy by Design;
- Building trust and confidence: implementing Internet standards.



We were honoured to welcome special envoy of the Dutch Government for international cyber policy, Uri Rosenthal. He stressed that the Internet has climbed from a rather exotic spot on the agenda to one of the top spots in the international political debate. Up to 2015, digital illiteracy was rather

common in the world of politics. However, when the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) was held in the Netherlands that year, people realised that the Internet was more than just a government affair and that it was of vital importance to have consensus on the application of international law in the field of cyberspace. “Internet Governance is a vigorous global fight”, Rosenthal said. On the one hand, you have countries like the Netherlands that say that the Internet belongs to all of us. On the other hand, you have countries that feel that the Internet belongs to the government. This is why Rosenthal thinks we should advocate a multi-stakeholder approach, of which the Internet Governance Forum is an example. Rosenthal is positive about the Dutch IT situation, but he stresses that we should keep an eye on the countries around us. IT is our third main port and the competition is looming. The Netherlands should make every effort to seize opportunities and keep our security and the reliability of our networks up to standard. In the field of IT diplomacy the Netherlands is also doing well, Rosenthal explained. We are respected for the broadness of our views, which are not limited to Western countries. We are working towards boosting standards in other countries as much as possible, for instance by

means of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) that the Netherlands launched in 2015. Countries, international organisations and businesses can use this platform to share knowledge and experiences on cyber capacity building. By initiating the Freedom Online Coalition in 2011, The Netherlands also proved itself a proponent of an open and free Internet.

“Many efforts are being made and those efforts are appreciated”, Rosenthal said. The efforts by multiple stakeholders to boost Internet Governance are especially crucial. “We must focus on the 3 Ds: Development, Diplomacy and Defence in the field of cyberspace”, Rosenthal noted. “And all this within the framework of a multi-stakeholder approach.”



The event concluded with a presentation by Su Sonia Herring, Internet Governance Youth Delegate Turkey and ISOC IGF 2016 Ambassador. She illustrated the requirements for successful youth projects in Internet Governance. She also touched upon the issue of freedom of speech and information. Using practical examples, she explained how collaborating in youth projects worldwide can contribute to making young people more aware of issues concerning Internet governance. She thinks this will encourage more and more people to participate in these discussions. Having a Turkish background, Sonia also wanted to share some thoughts on the freedom of information and access in Turkey. She said that in the current state of affairs, freedom of expression is curtailed and social media are being blocked.



According to Sonia, young people can play an important role in improving the situation and achieving progress. They should be well informed about the importance of free media and open Internet. “If you start at an early age, like in the Netherlands”, Sonia argued, “more and more people will participate in discussions on global Internet issues.”

NL Young IGF



As most young people grew up with the Internet, it is important to involve them in the debate. NL IGF, under the title 'Young NL IGF,' organised a debate about the future of the Internet. 'Digital natives,' teenagers, participated.

The importance of listening to the voice of younger generations remains undiminished, and the perspective of the generations that grew up with the internet is indispensable in the debates on the future of the medium.

During the Young NL IGF, around 20 teenagers debated the following themes:

1. Data protection: "You wouldn't give you money away"
2. Privacy: "Is privacy outdated?"
3. Backdoors: "Why won't tech companies create backdoors for devices and software if it will help catch bad guys?"
4. Cyberwar: "Cyberwar, do we want to create backdoors in other countries too?"



Chris van 't Hof, Internet sociologist, moderated the debate. The outcomes of the Young IGF event served as input for the Dutch delegation.

Preparatory meeting on Internet of Things

A meeting on Internet of Things was held during the annual congress of ECP | Platform for the Information Society, in collaboration with Maarten Botterman, chair of IGF's Dynamic Coalition on IoT. Patrick Falstrom represented the technical community as chair of ICANN's Security and Stability Committee (ICANN SSAC).

IGF 2016: the Dutch delegation

The Dutch delegation for IGF consisted of 25 participants. Since 2015, NL IGF also participates in an Erasmus + project that prepares European youth for the IGF. Auke Pals and Thijl Klerxks participated on behalf of the Netherlands. They subsequently represented the Dutch youth at the IGF for the second year in a row. Senator Arda Gerkens was also part of the Dutch delegation at IGF 2016.



Dutch workshops at the IGF 2016



The global IGF took place in Guadalajara, Mexico from 5 December till December 9 2016. The theme was "enabling inclusive and sustainable growth."

NL IGF organised three workshops during this year's IGF. These events are the main vehicle for realising a strong Dutch delegation and for The Netherlands to present and position itself.

These are the workshops organized by the Dutch delegation:

- "Honey, you are so not in control - Decrypting sextortion," read [the report](#);
- "Let's break down silos in Cyber Security and cybercrime," read [the report](#);
- "Building trust and confidence: implementing Internet standards," read [the report](#).

Furthermore, Auke Pals represented the Dutch youth during workshop 114 "Is children's data theirs, mine or there to be mined?," read more information [here](#).

Dutch Senator Arda Gerkens participated in multiple panels on Child Safety and the dynamic coalition on Internet of Things led by Dutch Maarten Botterman also made progress.



Dutch visibility at the IGF



In addition to the efforts described above, Dutch visibility was greatly enhanced by the handing out of 'tegeltjeswijsheden' on postcards again (Delftware tiles containing aphorisms on internet governance) throughout the forum.

The Dutch were also noticed through their youngsters. Giving the new generation a voice in the international internet debate is an important aspect for NL IGF.

There was also a NL IGF booth where information about the organisations of the different Dutch delegates could be found. Posters, completely consistent with the Delftware postcards, hang on the walls with information about the Dutch initiative and the workshops that were organised by the Dutch. The booth also proved to be a nice meeting place.

