

EURODIG

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SETTING THE SCENE - WHAT IS INTERNET GOVERNANCE FOR EUROPE?

An Internet Governance initiative in Spain

Experts Group on Internet Governance

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THE SPANISH INITIATIVE

Experts Group on Internet Governance



Context

- The future of Internet and its Governance is present in the agenda of key policy makers and all stakeholders, both public and private.
- This is an issue of great importance globally which requires great efforts from all actors; as noted during the World Summit on the Information Society and the successive IGF meetings, the interests of different nations and groups are different and uneven.
- It seems therefore that the debate will continue over the coming years to reach a large degree of consensus that allows address and resolve the many questions raised.
- *Fundacion Telefonica* wants to actively participate in the debate, which led to the promotion of the **Spanish initiative on Internet Governance** in collaboration with the *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid*.





Articulation of the Initiative

- Creation of a **multidisciplinary** group of experts in governance and a team that is responsible for the coordination of activities.
- The Group counts with professionals coming from different areas of work, but in all cases they develop their professional activity in the sector of telecommunications, Internet or the Information Society, as well as public and social policy. Thus, it is possible to come up with a result that includes different views and allows to create a holistic understanding of the issues at stake.
- The group focuses on two different activities:
 - Analytic, especially directed at relevant issues in the short term in the framework of the Internet Governance.
 - Prospective, aiming to identify trends and provide insight in order to decide on positions of interest regarding future issues in the framework of Internet Governance.





Objectives

- To identify the role of the *Information and Communication Technologies* sector and the Spanish government, the R & D organizations and civil society in the development of the Internet and its government.
- To highlight the importance of this issue for Spain and the need to address it through **dialogue between all sectors and stakeholders**.
- Milestones: preliminary study of the phenomenon of Internet governance and the publication of a final report on the results: Book "**Internet Governance: Contribution to the Debate over Control and Management of the Net**".





Scope of Work

- Aim to develop insight on the functioning of Internet Governance in Spain and its evolution
- Identify priority topics for the different groups and actors in order to address them throughout the project
 - Working under the premise that the initial models of Internet governance based on multilateralism and open participation are valid for responding to complex issues that affect to a greater or lesser extent in all groups without exception.



ISSUES IN SPAIN

How do Spanish stakeholders approach the main issues in Internet Governance?



Present Day State

- As of today, this Group is clearly leading both research on Internet Governance issues and the project to promote further the issue and bring together interests in the Spanish context.
- Given the importance of the Internet in Spain from a cultural point of view and the positioning of Spanish companies and their influence on the international scene, there are definitely interests on Internet Governance issues from the Spanish perspective.





Suggestions

- It seems logical to deepen the debate. However, this has not been the case so far, having instead been observed the low Spanish participation in international forums where they discussed issues related to governance, the absence of discussion forums and the general ignorance of the problem.
 - This significant absence of Spain **is not consistent** with the use of the Internet or with the growing number of applications and services offered over the Internet in our country.
- The importance of the future of the Internet in economic, political and social development should be reflected in a **proactive attitude** on the big issues of Internet governance.





Suggestions

- It would be desirable to articulate a methodology and work procedure that encourage participation and enhance the presence of Spanish stakeholders involved, noting that the role of public and private institutions may be fundamental in promoting the participation the Spanish social and professional organizations and have representatives in the appropriate forums.
- Indeed, one of the initiatives referred to as the basis of the process driver of Spain in Internet governance would be the **creation of a permanent forum on Internet governance**, so that relevant issues could be discussed in regular gatherings, including the views of the different sectors involved and aiming to promote activities and defend the strategies that are desirable from the Spanish perspective.

