Report from 2017 Central European Internet Governance Forum

Warsaw, January 2018

Forum Organisation

The Central European Internet Governance Forum was the most important annual event organised as part of the IGF Poland – Digital Development Forum initiative.[1] This is the second edition of the conference[2] which brings together representatives of business, government, academia, non-governmental and technical organisations willing to actively participate in the discussion about the future of the Internet.

The Forum was organised by a coalition of organisations and institutions representing government, academia, business, as well as non-governmental and technical organisations. The Polish Internet Governance Forum (IGF Poland) was directly responsible for its organisation. The work was coordinated by the IGF Poland Steering Committee, comprising leaders representing five stakeholder groups:

- Prof. Dariusz Jemielnik, Koźmiński University (academia)

[1]This initiative, launched in 2016, aims to facilitate cooperation between different circles interested in shaping and developing Internet-related public policies. It wants to achieve this goal by creating a space for sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices, as well as discussing the most pressing issues related to the Internet on equal footing, in a free and open manner. More information about IGF Poland can be found on the initiative's website.

[2]The first Polish Internet Governance Forum took place on the 18th of October 2017 at the University Library in Warsaw. It was a follow-up to the annual workshops organised since 2014, using the slogan "Find out who is in charge of the Internet".

- Roman Malinowski, NASK (technical organisations)
- Igor Ostrowski, Dentons (business)
- Krzysztof Szubert, Ministry of Digital Affairs (government)
- Alek Tarkowski, Centrum Cyfrowe [Digital Centre] (NGOs).

The conference programme was created as a grass-roots initiative, by all stakeholders – a record number of 12 organisations were invited to co-organise the Forum. The vast majority of the agenda – the entire block of parallel sessions – comprised their own proposals for debates on topics that are currently relevant to Internet users. The organisations that participated in the creation of the programme were selected in a contest organised by the Steering Committee. Out of the thirteen proposed panels and workshops, ten passed the qualification process and were featured in the conference agenda.

For the first time, the Forum also had a regional dimension, as it was organised in cooperation with partners from Central European countries:

- CZ.NIC – .cz domain registry operator
- HTE – Hírközlési és Informatikai Tudományos Egyesület (Scientific Association for Infocommunications Hungary)
- Hungarian Ministry of the Development
- Hungarian National Authority for the Media and Infocommunication
- SK-NIC – .sk domain registry operator
- Telecommunications Regulatory Office of the Czech Republic
- The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Investments and Computerisation, and
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN: www.icann.org)

The course of the Forum

The Forum was organised on the 21st of November 2017 at the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw. It comprised a plenary panel discussion and twelve parallel sessions. The conference was held in Polish, but due to the presence of speakers representing regional partners, simultaneous interpretation (into English and Polish) was also available.

The Forum's formula has enabled a multilateral and open debate on the main challenges and opportunities presented by the development and popularisation of the Internet. During the meeting, with the active participation of the audience, the invited participants were looking for new proposals and solutions, enabling a wise and responsible policy regarding the development and popularisation of the Internet, responding to the emerging needs. Among more than two hundred participants present at the Copernicus Science Centre there were representatives of public administration, entrepreneurs, non-governmental and technical organisations, as well as academia.

The Forum was broadcast live on-line. The recorded broadcasts are available at the IGF Poland website.

The debates held during the Forum concerned the challenges and opportunities offered to Polish entrepreneurs by free movement of data, legal solutions aimed at blocking websites, ideas for new principles of liability of Internet service providers for published content, digital competencies needed by Poles in order to become involved in the digital economy, the use of open data by NGOs and entrepreneurs and the future of collective management of copyright in the era of platforms and blockchains.

The Forum was opened on behalf of the IGF Poland Steering Committee by Krzysztof Szubert, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Digital Affairs and Government Plenipotentiary for the Digital Single Market. In his speech, he stressed the advantages of multilateral discussion among equal partners. He pointed out that the aim of the Forum is to discuss technologies and modern trends, not politics. On the other hand, Minister Anna Streżyńska encouraged the participants to discuss values and principles, which should be observed on the Internet. “Promoting a multistakeholder model of Internet governance makes us all responsible for its functioning,” the minister noted. “Are we ready to respect this commitment? In view of the multitude of threats, will we manage to reconcile the contradictory rationales and values, and find a balance between them?” she asked.

The Forum partners’ speeches also focused on the multilateral nature of Internet governance. Jean Jacques Sahel, Vice-President of ICANN for Europe, emphasised that events such as the Internet Governance Forum provide opportunities for all those who wish to participate in deciding the principles of the Internet’s operation. He also encouraged everybody to get involved and join forces, appealing above all to ordinary Internet users. Jaromir Novak and Ervin Kajzinger, representatives of telecommunications regulatory authorities from Czechia and Hungary, stressed the advantages of exchanging experiences between stakeholders from different countries in the region, who have different experiences and views on the same issues. The diversity of views and experiences is characteristic for the multistakeholder governance of the Internet and determines its advantages.

Ondrej Maly, the Czech coordinator for digital agenda, also took the floor during the plenary session, highlighting the great development opportunity offered by the Internet today.

The course of the individual Forum sessions is discussed below.

Panel Discussion – How do we use the Internet?

Moderator:
*Edwin Bendyk, Polityka w*eekly

Panellists:

Karolina Marzantowicz, IBM
Aleksandra Przegalińska-Skierkowska, PhD, Kozminski University
Ondrej Maly, Digital Agenda Coordinator, Czech Republic
Igor Ostrowski, Dentons
Wojciech Kamieniecki, NASK

Summary:

During the plenary session, participants continued discussing ethical themes mentioned in the opening speeches. It was noted that we will be able to deal with technological challenges, but those arising from the weaknesses of human nature (such as cybercrime) will be more difficult to overcome. This makes all stakeholders responsible for shaping and maintaining high standards in their operations.

The panellists pointed out a number of threats resulting from the development of the Internet, such as the fact that it is becoming more and more closed. As the users of the Internet, we deal with open resources less and less often, as they are increasingly taken over by commercial space. What is more, the differences between these two areas are slowly disappearing. This means greater challenges for protecting the privacy of users who are often unaware of what resources they use and under what conditions.

Another challenge for privacy will be the growing volume of collected data, including an ever-increasing amount of sensitive data (including affective and health data collected by telemedicine devices). Additionally, the phenomenon of paying in data may become more popular. One of the panellists pointed out that in the future, this phenomenon may contribute to a stratification of society, the richer part of which will pay for access to services and content with money, while the poorest will pay with their personal data.

The problem of the filter bubble and the related issue of algorithm neutrality was also discussed. The fact that the content provided to us is filtered according to criteria that are not fully known and disclosed can be perceived as a threat to the public sphere, which may prevent a fair debate and even threaten democracy. There are a number of possible solutions to this problem, starting with self-regulation of content providers, legal regulations, socialisation of algorithms or the introduction of the principle of responsibility of algorithm developers for their effects. The issue of algorithm neutrality certainly requires a broader multilateral debate.

There were also some positive voices pointing out the positive phenomena related to the development and future of the Internet. It is important to keep in mind the growing level of mobile access, which has surpassed access using desktop devices in just a few years. It is also important to promote the principle of net neutrality, which should be recognised as a fundamental rule of the Internet, enabling the network to act as a platform for supporting innovation.

Combating digital exclusion among the poorest is also paramount. Economic factors should not hinder citizens' access to the internet in Central Europe; hence why such mechanisms as price monitoring and stimulating competition among suppliers are really important.

Session 1 – Free Flow of Data. The new path to growth for Polish entrepreneurs

EU legislation does not regulate the flow of data between EU Member States, with the exception of personal data. Therefore, as of now, each country defines legal and administrative barriers independently, which very often force companies to process and store data in the countries where they operate. The rules concerning location cover, among others, accounting documents, tax returns or telecommunication data. Seeing that, in September 2017, the European Commission proposed to regulate these issues by presenting a draft Regulation on the free movement of data in the EU. Regardless of the above, a discussion about the restrictions on the freedom to analyse data which may result from copyright is taking place in Europe. The requirements for location within the single market and additional unclear copyright laws hinder development of innovative areas of the European economy, as well as create an unnecessary and costly barrier for businesses. Because of them, companies that operate across borders need to establish data centres in individual countries, bear the cost of buying the right service or conclude licensing agreements.

The opinion that the best solution would be to introduce a general rule according to which it is not important where data is stored but whether the way it is collected, stored and processed meets certain security standards can be heard in Brussels. In addition, it has been suggested that a principle according to which data mining is not subject to the copyright regime should be introduced. Raw data (except for databases protected by the sui generis right) does not constitute a "work" within the meaning of copyright and its processing is not a form of exploitation.

The purpose of the session was to discuss how this initiative would affect Polish entrepreneurs. Open data flow means not only a larger market but also stronger competition. Therefore, during the session, we tried to show good practices related to the ways in which Polish Internet business would be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Poland was the organiser of the session.

Moderator:

Sylwia Czubkowska, Dziennik Gazeta Prawna daily

Panellists:

Jolanta Jaworska, IBM
Maciej Sadowski, National Development Council
Piotr Marczuk, Microsoft Poland
Krzysztof Izdebski, ePaństwo Foundation
Grzegorz Koloch, PhD, Warsaw School of Economics
Iga Bałos, PhD, Andrzej F. Modrzewski Kraków Academy

Summary:

The most important issues discussed during the session were as follows.

- Legal barriers to cross-border data flow – more than 70% of entrepreneurs consider them a serious obstacle to innovation;
- Free flow of data as a stimulus to the development of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things;
- "Data ownership" and responsibility for data – users often do not know who uses their data, for what purposes and in what way, as well as who bears responsibility for the data. This gives rise to a movement of giving the users the ownership of their data in a belief that their control over data processing could be improved in this way. It was also pointed out that we should talk more about data ownership, because at the moment the discussion is overly dominated by the issues concerning free flow of data.
- The issue of trust – lack of information for the user regarding how their data is used results in a lack of trust, which translates into a lack of business success of the entrepreneur.
- Lack of free flow of data, which means higher costs resulting from the need to maintain redundant data centres, as well as the inability of feeding algorithms with data, which results in their low efficiency. Both these factors prevent development of less developed (or less wealthy) economies (including Polish). Another element which disturbs not only free flow of data but also economic development as a consequence, is lack of knowledge regarding who is holding which data.
- High cost of data acquisition and digitisation – in the case of Poland, lack of data on patients in our country was brought up as an example, as it makes the creation of the "Polish Watson" nigh impossible.
- There are no definitions of "reasons of public security" in the EU's draft Regulation on Free Flow of Data and no explicit reference to the free flow of data as the fifth EU freedom. There is a need for more comprehensive regulation of this phenomenon, including the issues of using data, which the EU draft regulation does not concern. It was pointed out that the lack of certain definitions may result from the rapid emergence of completely new phenomena.
- Data flows and codes of good practice – they are helpful for new phenomena that go beyond the legal systems (state authorities are not as flexible as entrepreneurs). Codes

developed by the market will also be more acceptable. Their main issue is the lack of legal validity, as these are merely "image" commitments. Concerns were also voiced that the state may seek to take advantage of entrepreneurs by urging them to draw up codes, rather than legislate the respective areas.

In the summary of the discussion, it was said that the free flow of data should be regulated at the EU or UN level. The regulations must address the issues of collecting and disclosing data. At the same time, data of the current legal structure concerning ownership should not be mimicked, as the institution of "data ownership" does not correspond to the specificity of the phenomenon. Access to data in Poland should be easier. The role of codes of good practices was recognised, but the panellists postulated their verification by external entities (similar to the new data protection regulations).

Session 2 – Blocking websites: lessons learnt and recommendations based on Polish experience

The Counter-Terrorism Act and the Gambling Act introduced mechanisms which allow blocking websites on the Internet. The District Court in Warsaw may, at the request of the Head of the Internal Security Agency, order the blocking of "IT data relating to a terrorist event." In turn, the Minister of Finance arbitrarily decides on entering websites which offer gambling contrary to the rules. Entry into the register obliges Internet providers to prevent access to their content. The decision of the Ministry of Finance can be appealed against to the court.

After several months of implementation of these solutions, we can now look back and evaluate their effectiveness and the risks involved. Such discussions may help gather evidence and arguments supporting the improvement of existing or the creation of better legal solutions in the future.

At this point, it seems particularly urgent and necessary because of further regulatory proposals that block websites or applications: the Polish Financial Supervision Authority wants to block websites of entities included in public warnings, and the Ministry of Infrastructure – block "computer programmes, telephone numbers, mobile applications, ICT platforms or other means of communication" used to order transport by entities not licensed to carry passengers (e.g. Uber).

The Panoptykon Foundation was the organiser of the session.

Moderator:

Katarzyna Szymielewicz, Panoptykon Foundation

Panellists:

Andrzej Karpiński, Orange Poland
Piotr Januszewicz, Ministry of Digital Affairs
Zdeněk Kučera, Kinstellar
Zuzanna Burska, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Wojciech Klicki, Panoptykon Foundation

Summary:

At first, Wojciech Klicki from the Panoptykon Foundation presented the current regulations in Polish law which enable blocking of websites (Counter-Terrorism Act and the Gambling Act), as well as draft legislation providing for such mechanisms, which are currently proceeded – the Financial Market Supervision Act and the Road Transport Acts.

Next, Andrzej Karpiński from Orange Poland presented the perspective of telecommunication operators. For a large operator like Orange, the implementation of provisions resulting from the Gamblict Act was not burdensome, as the company already had the technology allowing for blocking domains, it only needed to create an interface that would retrieve information from the ministry's register. Andrzej Karpiński emphasised that Internet users – using tools such as VPN – are able to easily reach the blocked pages, but at the same time reported that 98% of users do not try to circumvent the blockade. He pointed out how important precise language in individual regulation is from the point of view of entities performing their duties under the law, because a single misused term or even a punctuation mark may be relevant to the technical enforceability of statutory obligations.

Zdeněk Kučera presented the perspective of Czechia and other countries where blocking mechanisms are in place. He emphasized that Czechia also operates a register of domains offering illegal gambling services, but – unlike the Polish register, which comprises over 1000 records – only 3 domains were entered in the Czech register. The Czech constitutional court confirmed the constitutionality of the website blocking mechanism. Zdeněk Kučera also stressed that the first regulation was also recently introduced at the EU level, which allows state authorities to block individual websites, pointing out the regulation on consumer protection cooperation. According to Zdeněk Kučera, the introduction of this mechanism is tantamount to opening of a Pandora's box and it will be difficult for the legislators to take a step back.

Zuzanna Burska presented her experiences from China, where the Internet is highly regulated by the state. She pointed out that blocking popular websites and services such as Facebook and Whatsapp has led to the creation of their Chinese counterparts (WeChat and others), which due to the large population of China enjoy large popularity.

Piotr Januszewicz started his speech by drawing attention to the fact that the law also applies on the Internet. He stressed that it is crucial for everybody – including the legislative branch – to understand the technical issues related to Internet blocking. He pointed out that the existing website blocking mechanism at DNS level is a better solution than other available technologies, but at the same time he admitted that he still sees the risks of blocking at DNS level as well – from his point of view, errors and mistakes are an inseparable element of law enforcement.

In response to a question from the audience related to the current draft road transport act, which allows, among other things, blocking of mobile applications, the speakers said that there is no technology that would enable blocking mobile applications.

One of the listeners pointed out that one of the unintended effects of the Gambling Act was the disappearance of Internet plagiarism forums, which earned money thanks to advertising illegal

bookmakers. The panellists agreed with the statement that the most effective method of combating illegal phenomena is to seek solutions pertaining to cash flows – by cutting off their sources of financing, not in blocking.

The panellists agreed that individuals tasked with drafting new regulations should have a thorough understanding of the functioning of the technologies that enable blocking content on the Internet, as well as their advantages and disadvantages. They should also pay attention to the precise formulation of regulations, as well as conducting technical feasibility assessment of all obligations imposed on telecommunication operators.

With regard to the blocking mechanisms provided for in the draft road transport act, the speakers emphasised that they were not designed correctly and in their current wording their technical feasibility is non-existent.

Some panellists expressed concerns regarding the ever-increasing blocking of content on the Internet, covering subsequent areas regulated by the state, and highlighted the risks to the rights of users and service providers associated with the use of blocking.

All the panellists also agreed that the most effective method of fighting with infringements and crimes is cutting off the sources of funding, not blocking.

3–5G Networks Session

During the session, issues related to the implementation of the 5G network in Poland and other Central European countries were discussed, including obstacles preventing its implementation, security issues, the use and importance of 5G for service recipients, frequency allocation or regional European cooperation for the implementation of 5G networks.

The session was organised by the Institute of Communications [Instytut Łączności].

Moderator:

Jerzy Żurek, National Institute of Telecommunications

Panellists:

Jaromír Novák, Czech Telecommunication Office
Ervin Kajzinger, National Media and Infocommunications Authority, Hungary
Michał Połzun, Ministry of Digital Affairs
Martin Mellor, Ericsson Poland
Tomasz Mrozowski, P4

Summary:

The panellists agreed at the beginning that the development of 5G network will be an evolutionary process, not a revolutionary change. It will ensure a great evolution of standards, combining all the existing networks and will bring high performance parameters. However, it will probably not be the “ultimate network”, as described by one of the panellists, but merely the next stage of development.

Its implementation in Central European countries is seen as a priority. Both in Poland and Hungary, multilateral coalitions were formed to facilitate the introduction of 5G networks. One of their tasks is to identify legal barriers that hamper the efficient and cost-effective development of the new network. A representative of the Hungarian operator also stated that one of the most important tasks of the governments is supporting R&D and innovation activities that would follow the introduction of 5G networks,
as well as stimulating them and ensuring favourable conditions, so that they can test new solutions. Also in Czechia, removing obstacles that may slow down the implementation of 5G (including those pertaining to spectrum sharing) is a fundamental challenge for the regulatory authorities and the government.

The existence of investment obstacles was confirmed by Tomasz Mrozowski. He pointed to the long investment process, excessively stringent environmental standards concerning electromagnetic radiation and the lack of possibility to build a micro or pico-scale network as the biggest obstacles hindering the development of 5G networks in Poland.

Erwin Kajzinger called for a more realistic approach to 5G, warning against excessive enthusiasm. He reiterated that the process of building these networks will be long and demanding. He stressed that European telecommunications operators have recently invested heavily in the development of 4G networks and are now expecting returns on their investments. Knowing the realities of the investment cycle, their expenditure on 5G networks may not be

large, at least initially. It is also important to take into account customer preferences and expectations as well as their readiness to incur higher expenses for access to the new network.

Ericsson's representative pointed out that industry may be the decisive sector regarding 5G networks. According to him, 5G network standards are created with the needs of industry in mind, while standards for previous generations were determined by analysing consumer needs. He added that competition from OTT providers could encourage telecommunications operators to invest in new networks.

The final part of the discussion was dedicated to future functionalities and implementations that will be available on the 5G network. The participants noted that if the expected parameters are achieved, only imagination would limit the entities implementing new services or offering new implementations. The most probable and potentially first implementations include both entertainment (sport events in combination with virtual reality) and industrial projects, including driverless cars and modern agriculture. It seems certain that industrial implementations will dominate in Europe. In this context, the speakers drew attention to two issues: the necessity of offering services across borders to the industry using the so-called *federation of networks* and varied access depending on individual requirements, for example bandwidth, latency or security level.

The next issues discussed in this part of the session were security and net neutrality. Attention was drawn to the growing threat to privacy resulting from the development of 5G networks posed by the increasing amount of data collected by IoT sensors. They also stated that even while respecting the principle of net neutrality, it will be necessary to solve the problem of services or implementations on the 5G network, for which providing high access parameters is critical to security – autonomous cars were given as an example.

Session 4 – The principles of liability of on-line intermediaries

The rules governing the liability of on-line intermediaries have been one of the cornerstones of the internet economy for almost 20 years. They constitute a compromise solution which, on the one hand, has made it possible to develop innovative services as a basis for Web 2.0 and, on the other hand, has provided persons whose rights (such as intellectual property or personal property) are infringed on-line with an efficient tool to combat these infringements.

Since its inception, this mechanism has been criticised. As a compromise, it was not satisfactory for no-one in general, but two groups of stakeholders in particular raised concerns, having completely opposite assumptions and demands.

The circles and organisations promoting citizens' rights, such as access to knowledge and information, freedom of expression and the right to education argue that the current system leads to automation of deletion of on-line content, as service providers have no incentive to resist the demands of right-holders.

Quite the opposite arguments are put forward by those who take commercial advantage of intellectual property rights. They claim that the current system, which requires them to point specific infringing content to the service provider is inefficient given the scale of the infringements and response speed of

service providers. They call for a change in the notice and takedown system so that service providers are obliged to actively monitor emerging content and block subsequent copies of the same material.

The panellists expressed their views on the current state of affairs and attempted to answer the question whether the proposed changes were in fact necessary and, if so, what they should look like and whether they would have the desired social and economic impact. Perhaps there may be completely alternative ideas, such as for example taking advantage of the blockchain technology?

The session was organised by Google Poland.

Moderator:

Marcin Olender, Google Poland

Panellists:

Robert Kroplewski, Ministry of Digital Affairs
Anna Słoboda, TVN
Anna Mazgal, Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation
Katarzyna Szymielewicz, Panoptykon Foundation

Summary:

During the panel, the discussion focused on two issues: freedom of expression and whether content on the Internet should be moderated to some extent, and if so by whom. The second issue was the removal of illegal content due to copyright infringement.

At the beginning of the panel, the moderator, Marcin Olender presented the current legal status and outlined the main areas of the dispute.

Anna Mazgal stated that there are two existing content monitoring systems: automatic filtering (with drawbacks, because it is not able to distinguish things such as satire or quotation) and the community that monitors a given website. The implementation of automatic filtering may reduce the amount of available content, for example a holiday film may be blocked due to a fragment of legally protected music appearing in it for a brief moment.

According to Katarzyna Szymielewicz, the mission of platforms is not to become censors and moderators of discussion, but earning money. It is up to the state to create regulations that are clear enough, so that platforms will be able to implement them. The business model that is based on the number of clicks is responsible for the wave of the so-called *fake news*, as they are generated to a large extent by click-bait titles instead of valuable content. Censorship is not a solution to this problem, as a complete overhaul of content financing models is required.

Anna Słoboda claimed that the existing procedures for removing illegal content are unreliable, as evidenced by the large scale of piracy and copyright infringements. She put the blame on this by the incomplete transposition of the e-commerce directive into Polish law. What can be a remedy to this problem is the creation of a list of pages which consistently violate the law and their systematic blocking, similar to the solution resulting from the Gambling Act.

Robert Kroplewski presented the Polish government's goal, which is to adapt the law established in the age of e-commerce to the realities of a modern information society. According

to him, platforms have started to play an important role in society as a source of knowledge and part of the freedom of expression mechanism. Any regulation of the liability of intermediaries should therefore be aimed at preserving the right to accessing information. Legal content should not be removed, and the issue of hate speech should be regulated by self-regulation and using the notice & takedown mechanism. Disputes should be dealt with by courts in 24-hour proceedings.

In the summary of the panel discussion, a number of key questions were identified, the answers to which will determine the shape of future regulations for Internet intermediaries:

- Is automatic filtering of content always effective? According to the majority of panellists it is not, because computer systems cannot distinguish satire or quotation from true infringement. What is the alternative? Can a social verification be the solution? What are the limitations of such a method?
- How to reconcile monitoring with freedom of speech? Will rigid enforcement of intellectual property rights increase or restrict access to content? Who should be responsible for removing such content: platform or state?
- The issue of the so-called value gaps: can we solve it by increasing network monitoring and removal of illegal content using automatic filters? Will it be solved by the growing willingness of consumers to pay for on-line content? Which business models and content are more likely to be duplicated and purchased and which are less? How to find a model that will be attractive for consumers?
- Are one-size-fits all, horizontal rules regarding infringements for all platforms effective? Should solutions be more detailed if there are countless different platforms and services? How will such regulation affect innovation (development of new services and platforms) and accessibility of new content?

Session 5 – From technology user to its creator – what skills Poles need today to succeed in a digital economy

The goal of the workshop was to answer the question of which competencies Poles need in order to become active participants of a digital economy. We offered three levels of reflection – the ability to use digital tools, the ability to create them, and the ability to use them for work or business development.

Poland is ranked 22nd out of 28 EU Member States in the European Commission's Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI). The results achieved by Poland are below the EU average and are improving at a slower rate than the EU average. Despite modest progress in some areas, such as Internet use or development of mobile broadband services, some of the indicators, such as the level of digital competence, still do not improve. According to the DESI, only 40% of Poles have basic digital skills.

The Digital Poland Project Centre estimates that around 12 million people in Poland do not use new technologies at all. With regards to the integration of digital technology by enterprises (especially SMEs that are the pillar of the Polish economy), despite modest progress, Poland's results are below the EU average, and the process of digitisation of Polish enterprises is delayed.

According to the McKinsey's report, on average, Polish companies are digitised 34% less than Western European companies. Moreover, in spite of the growing start-up scene and huge engineering potential (among others, Poland's leading position in the world rankings of programmers' quality, 5th place in the EU

in terms of the size of the developer community), Poles still prefer to carry out outsourced work rather than create their own products and companies.

The Startup Poland Foundation was the organiser of the session.

Moderator:

Julia Krysztofiak-Szopa, Startup Poland Foundation

Panellists:

Robert Król, Ministry of Digital Affairs
Agnieszka Skala, PhD, Warsaw University of Technology
Eliza Kruczkowska, Polish Development Fund
Marcin Nowacki, Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers

Summary:

The starting point for the discussion was the DESI (Digital Economy and Society) Index developed by the European Commission, in which Poland was ranked 22nd among 28 EU Member States, thus pointing to the worryingly low level of digital skills of Poles. 40% of Poles have basic digital skills.

Going into the details of the DESI Ranking, it turns out that the greatest differences in the level of digital competencies between Poles and the average for the European Union are found in the 35-44 age group.

Robert Król, Director of Digital Competence Department of the Ministry of Digital Affairs put forward an interesting thesis, pointing out that one of the possible reasons of this phenomenon may be the lack of demand for digital skills on the labour market in this age group. Increasing the level of digital competencies would require raising the awareness about the benefits of business digitisation among entrepreneurs.

Continuing this theme, Dr Agnieszka Skala from the Warsaw University of Technology, emphasised the complexity of the definition of digital competencies, which includes elements such as connectivity, passive and active use of the Internet, as well as digital public services. What could significantly increase the result achieved by Poles the integration of digital technology – the emergence of a broadly understood on-line business and e-commerce. Although Poland has a professional infrastructure and access to said infrastructure increases from year to year, the digitisation of businesses still leaves a lot to be desired. Eliza Kruczkowska, Director for Development of Innovation from the Polish Development Fund, referred to other studies which show that 1 in 10 people do not use on-line tools despite having access to infrastructure. In this case, one has to wonder whether this can be described as Poles' reluctance to using digital tools, or should we look for the reason elsewhere?

Marcin Nowacki, Vice President and Public Relations Director of the Polish Entrepreneurs' Association tried to answer this question, mentioning the example of mobile payment technologies developed in Poland. Although they are considered to be among the best and most developed, the SME sector is reluctant to use these solutions. The market environment and customers do not require this from them, so the entrepreneurs have no incentive to improve

their digital skills, particularly when they reach the point where they have already established their position on the local market and derive satisfactory income from it.

The diversity of the market influences the extent of skill development required from an entrepreneur. During the discussion, three levels of digital competencies were identified, particularly:

- ability to use the tools of the digital world;
- ability to create digital tools e. g. application programming, data processing;
- ability to create business using digital skills.

According to Eliza Kruczkowska from PDF, while the first two levels are a little more common in society, the hardest thing for Poles is to turn these skills into real businesses. Marcin Nowacki from the Polish Entrepreneurs' Association agreed with this conclusion, stressing that we often create some value for someone else, for another business, thus becoming service providers. An example of such phenomenon are IT specialists, whose industry is developing at an astounding pace. The risk connected with running their own business encourages them to take it. IT specialists and their solutions are therefore bought out by large corporations; they are not entrepreneurs who create individual customer relationships for their own businesses. In addition, large enterprises have easier access to global clients, because they have human capital, financing, marketing, etc.

Dr Agnieszka Skala pointed out another important aspect of the process of improving digital competencies. We need mentors, teachers who will develop an entrepreneurial attitude in Poles, motivate them to set ambitious business goals and at the same time combat myths related to entrepreneurship. Not every business idea is always a good one, but one can always try to improve it, as Dr Skala noted.

The audience of the panel also raised the issue of individual search for a form of conducting business while adapting to local needs, including the expected level of company digitisation.

The assumption that time will improve people's ability to use digital tools, as well as the exclusive role of internal motivation to self-development in this area was contested. A systemic approach to this phenomenon was one of the proposals made during the discussion.
In order to observe any changes, every available ecosystem element should be used. The start-up reality based on the model of mentoring and community building was given as a good example. First successful start-up founders in their industry become mentors, investors for a new generation of entrepreneurs. All kinds of accelerating programs and incubators are an example of another possible development path.

In their concluding remarks, the speakers focused on the role of children's education from the early stages of development to taking measures aimed at creating an entrepreneurial mindset. Thanks to the mentors, teaching critical view on the world of technology, it is possible to broaden the awareness of the benefits of raising digital competencies, suitably adjusted to the needs of the market in which we are going to operate.

One of the key proposals which emerged as a result of the session was to adjust the level of digital competence expectations to the characteristics of the market in which the company operates. It does not seem entirely appropriate to impose a single business activity pattern for all entrepreneurs, especially those operating locally. The business model should satisfy the needs of the customers in a given area. If we want to encourage small entrepreneurs to improve their digital competencies, their business goals should also be taken into account. It is important to build awareness of the benefits of company digitisation point out its practical application.

Digital maturity is an indispensable part of the entire process of improving digital competencies. The right competencies and the chaotic use of digital tools are two different attitudes. People should be encouraged to seek new and interesting content for the benefit of their development and intellectual challenges. In this case, the role of the mentor is crucial. The mentor, who acts as a guide, is supposed to help people find themselves in the world of new technologies and to show them their benefits.

Entrepreneurial mentoring is a way to reverse the effects of 'mass' education, in which the individual's potential and skills disappear. Such a specific "master-apprentice" relationship is conducive to creating an entrepreneurial mindset and improving specific skills, including digital competencies and the ability to use them to create one's own business.

The current lack of staff turns out to be a problem in that regard. Poland still experiences a shortage of people who could take on the role of a mentor. Time is needed to fill this gap. In a few years' time, current entrepreneurs who gain experience in the markets will be able to

become mentors and guides for others. This way, a community is built, which is the key to success. The community educates, but also motivates and invests its resources, including money.

It is also very important to put the problem in a broader context. We should not only take into account the motivation of the individual to improve their digital competencies, but also to find out how the development of digital competencies in Poles at all stages of their development can be supported by institutions. Schools should teach balancing and taking risks, as well as taking responsibility for one's decisions, as well as dispelling myths regarding entrepreneurs.

Session 6 – Digital transformation of services in the decentralised Internet. A case of financial services and new technologies

Nowadays, more and more financial institutions and companies on the one hand, and financial services consumers on the other hand, are starting to use the Internet as a platform to develop their businesses. So far, they have been using Internet-based tools, especially decentralised structures, on an ad hoc and dispersed basis, which posed the risk of disturbing the balance between the interests of companies and consumers as they were shaped primarily by developers and large business players. Discussion on this topic is greatly needed not only to raise awareness of the importance of FinTech tools or to highlight their potential shortcomings. It is also necessary to discuss the different potential ways of shaping state policies with respect to FinTech and involve different stakeholder groups in them.

This panel discussion was to highlight the challenges that digitisation and new technologies present to traditional sectors, such as finance and financial services, in particular in Central and Eastern Europe. The following issues were addressed during the session:

- the status of development of FinTech (including platforms for p2p lending, blockchain, virtual currencies, such as Bitcoin or Ethereum);
- the importance of FinTech for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe;
- current problems related to FinTech, including safety issues and the need for regulation;
- ways to increase knowledge of online financial technologies among consumers and, in general, Internet users in order to minimise irrational spending and overall investment risk;
- promotion of cooperation between Central European governments or stakeholders from industry to facilitate safe development of these new technologies.

The session was organised by the Scientific Association for Infocommunications, Hungary (HTE).

Moderator:

Máté Mester, HTE

Panellists:

Albana Karapanco, Central European University, Hungary
Kristóf Gyódi, University of Warsaw, Poland
Lorena Butusină, Reff & Associates SCA – member of Deloitte Legal, Romania
Magdalena Borowik, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland
Michał Świerczyński, Metis Finance, Poland

Summary

The session started with presentations by the panellist.

Magdalena Borowik spoke of decentralisation. She pointed out the main advantage of systems – the fact that they are less prone to attacks because the data is dispersed. She also described the way blockchain systems are built on subsystems. The whole system is therefore decentralised to the extent of its sub-systems' decentralisation. Determining the degree of decentralisation of the block system is therefore not easy and clear.

Kristof Gyodi gave a presentation on the consumer perspective. According to him, consumers quickly started taking advantage of new technologies (on-line platforms, banking) and statistics show that the gap between Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe is not significant. The figures also show that consumers are not very interested in cyber-security. Even if they are concerned about the level of cybercrime, they do not invest too much in protecting their data. The reason for this phenomenon may be their lack of awareness.

Michał Świerczyński spoke about priorities and challenges faced by companies. He stressed the fact that in a data-based economy, access to data is crucial for companies. Accessing as much data as possible can be difficult. Blockchain is another challenge faced by contemporary companies. He believes that it may change financial services, but will also help to democratise the financial sector. However, his experience shows that banks are not very open to innovative solutions emerging on the market.

Albana Karapanco spoke mostly about the Romanian agricultural sector and SMEs, as well as the different methods of obtaining financing that the digital revolution has brought about. Technology can help shift agriculture to a higher level where big data is used in order to save time, reduce costs and make decisions in a more effective way. In this context, access to credit is crucial for advanced agriculture and SMEs.
In this case, big data helps the institutions assess clients' creditworthiness, which makes it easier to obtain funding. Lack of knowledge, skills and infrastructure is a challenge for farmers and small businesses.

Lorena Butusina presented a report written jointly by Deloitte and the World Bank, who tried to understand the destructive potential of FinTech. According to the report, modern financial services have raised our expectations, but have not yet led to a transformation of the financial sector. FinTech services will not disappear, but the real cooperation between the financial sector and IT companies is still a matter of the future. She presented the example of Romania, where the number of on-line loans granted not only by banks but also by non-bank financial institutions is growing. She also highlighted the increase in the number of on-line payments. She believes that the market offers a lot of room for FinTech services, because young consumers are very open to new technologies. Finally, she stressed that there are many regulatory obstacles in Romania, such as licences, as well as the lack of clear regulations concerning advanced electronic signatures or overly stringent consumer protection rules.

The discussion, which followed the presentations comprised the evaluation of decentralisation, new authentication procedures introduced into EU law (two-stage authentication), as well as social and cultural aspects of FinTech.

Session 7 – Open data? Challenges for the non-governmental sector and business

The organisers wanted to devote the panel to discussion on the open data market and its barriers to NGOs and business. The conversation covered issues arising from the fact that the data opening system is being built on an island basis rather than in a centralised way. The Panellists also exchanged observations on the resistance of some public institutions to preparing and sharing data in appropriate formats.
The session focused on the practical aspects of open data (also in the context of big data and the Single Digital Market) in the work of NGOs and business, with particular consideration for the problems related to making the data anonymous.

The session was organised by the ePaństwo Foundation.

Moderator:

Krzysztof Izdebski, ePaństwo Foundation

Panellists:

Magdalena Siwanowicz, ePaństwo Foundation
Arek Hajduk, Transpatent Data sp. z o.o
Anna Gos, Ministry of Digital Affairs

Summary:

The discussion was dominated by the issues of obstacles in the opening of public data, their development and influence on the development of the business and non-governmental sectors.

The greatest obstacles to the opening and wider use of public data are lack of awareness, ignorance and fear. The opening of data is an interdisciplinary and complex process that requires the cooperation of people with different approaches. Businesses and citizens often do not perceive public data as attractive. Moreover, the data most often shared by authorities is what they want to share, not what people want. The legal framework itself is not sufficient, although the situation has been significantly improved by the government's public data opening programme. However, training and other awareness-raising activities are still needed.

The panellists pointed out the fears of the government, which has to prepare the data before making it available. Paradoxically, overcoming the aesthetic obstacle may also be necessary, as the data does not have to be nice – it just has to be useful. The panellists emphasised that the use of public data is accessible only for selected few people, who have the knowledge and competencies to carry out projects based on such data.

At the end of the session, the most important findings of the discussion were reiterated.

- It is important to be able to observe the data opening process from up close. Only such experience gives the right perspective.
- It is a good practice to introduce the policy of openness in the form of a regulation in local governments.
- First and foremost, data interesting to the people should be disclosed first. To this end, information on citizens' expectations should be gathered. Arbitrary decision of the official regarding the availability of certain resources is not always appropriate.
- The market and citizens themselves will verify the usefulness of the data, but a system of training for officials needs to be developed, covering both technical skills and learning how to evaluate the usefulness of specific data for citizens, business and the authorities themselves.

Session 8 – Creators and users among on-line platforms and blockchains – the future of collective governance

The workshop was devoted to changes occurring in the relationships between creators and individual users, caused by the economic and technological processes taking place on the Internet. It discussed the role played here by Internet platforms and collective governance societies, going beyond the dominant narrative that focuses on financial flows. It tried to determine whether a positive scenario which allowed taking into account interests of the creators, without introducing private censorship and tracking of users, was possible

What should be the shape of copyright as a regulation that has a fundamental impact on who controls the digital circulation of culture and what new business models can develop. Is blockchain a panacea to the problems existing so far? Is a change of law the only way to meet all the challenges? How can collective governance organisations fulfil their tasks in the Internet business models?

During the workshop, the various points of view on copyright on the Internet were presented. The panellists tried to identify the existing regulatory challenges, in the context of efforts to ensure respect for the rights of creators while preserving the openness of the Internet.

The session was organised by the Modern Poland Foundation.

Moderator:

Natalia Mileszyk, Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation

Panellists:

Krzysztof Siewicz, Modern Poland Foundation
Anna Misiewicz, Polish Society of Authors ZAiKS
Wojciech Hardy, Faculty of Economic Sciences of the University of Warsaw
Marek Kościkiewicz, musician
Agnieszka Samitowska, Kayak

Summary:

During the discussion, a number of controversial issues concerning access to on-line content and copyright were raised.

- Have the users and content creators been empowered thanks to the Internet? The panellists expressed the view that this is not exactly the case. Initially, the Internet was indeed perceived as an environment of direct and free communication. However, communication was quickly monopolised quite intermediaries, who have a dominant position in the market – the major intermediaries do not change. The situation is therefore similar to the publishing market at the beginning of the century.
- The development of technologies such as blockchain may be a hope for change in the existing system, however, entities with technological knowledge will still have a dominant position, which is why education is crucial for change.
- The position of collective management organisations will change as a result of legal and technological changes, but many artists (for example those who are digitally excluded) will continue to benefit from this system when their interests are represented collectively.

Dr Siewicz pointed out that the growing phenomenon of monopolisation of information channels is empowered by the current system of copyright law, which provides for a safe haven for intermediaries. Ordinary users and creators cannot benefit from such legal protections. Thus, the current legal system favours intermediated communication over direct peer-to-peer communication, which could empower creators and users. Dr Siewicz said that the solution could be to legalise non-commercial sharing of files within a system compatible with the current international and EU framework. This system should introduce an explicit provision for non-commercial sharing and fair use, as well as licenses from the collective management organisations easily obtainable to end users. This would provide legal security for users, and the accompanying fee would allow the authors' economic interests to be satisfied, while fully preserving their individual copyrights. Other panellists pointed out that this system should guarantee authors the possibility of opting out of collective management of their content.

The discussion was summed up with a conclusion that finding a balance between various stakeholders of copyright is not easy and that action should be taken to empower both creators and users.

Session 9 – How to use technology to develop digital society?

The workshop was dedicated to digital competencies as the key determinant of the use of digital technologies, thus impacting the economy and innovation, social engagement and individual development opportunities. The discussions covered competencies required for understanding the role of algorithms, combating fake news and developing the Internet of Things.
The workshop considered competencies from a broad perspective, without focusing solely on the issue of e-inclusion of people not using the Internet or developing basic qualifications. The question was asked: how to develop the most advanced competencies in Polish society, enabling creative and innovative use of digital technologies?
Is it possible to provide systematic support for the development of digital competencies? What role should the education system play in that process? Will the key competencies be acquired individually, outside the education system?
What should be the recommendations regarding digital competence development strategies as a factor that plays a role not only in levelling out inequalities in the use of technology, but also supporting development and innovation?

The session was organised by the Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation.

The workshop focused on the issue of digital competence as a key factor conditioning the use of digital technologies – and consequently, having influence on the economy and innovation, social engagement and individual development opportunities. The competencies needed to understand the role of algorithms, to fight fake news, or to build the internet of things were discussed.

During the workshop, the participants looked at competence from a cross-cutting and broad perspective, without focusing solely on e-inclusion of non-Internet users or improvement of basic competence.

Is it possible to systematically support development of digital competence and what role should the educational system play? Or should we assume that the key competencies will be acquired individually, outside of the education system?

The Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation was the organiser of the session.

Moderator:

Alek Tarkowski, Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation

Panellists:

Agata Łuczyńska, School with Class (Szkoła z klasą)
Jarosław Lipszyc, Modern Poland Foundation
Grzegorz Zajączkowski, Digital Champion

Summary:

In his introduction before the discussion, Grzegorz Zajączkowski presented traffic statistics for governmental and public websites, which show that the broadly understood e-administration reaches only about 7 million unique users. It is widely used by residents of the largest cities and Poles living abroad. Geolocation data show that in several regions of the country, access to the Internet is still difficult due to poor infrastructure – including Eastern Poland, Pomerania and Lubuskie Voivodeship. This clearly shows that we are not reaching many citizens digitally and

that this situation makes the development of digital competencies in a systemic rather than incidental way difficult.

Grzegorz Zajączkowski also briefly presented EU priorities in the area of digital competencies, which cover the following issues:

- media skills, especially in the context of combating fake news, which the EC sees as the greatest contemporary threat to the information society;
- development of the information society on a local scale – in small communities, which are close to the user;
- digital competencies of girls and women;
- the use of digital technologies in education and culture;

Agata Łuczyńska pointed school as a place where digital competencies of children from different backgrounds – small and large cities, educated and uneducated families – should be brought to the same level. Teachers play an important role in this task, but school autonomy and decentralisation of the education system are equally important – she recalled the example of Finland, where schools have a lot of autonomy in organising their curricula).

Jarosław Lipszyc spoke about the necessity of introducing digital competencies teaching to schools in a systemic way. It is necessary to move from separate activities of individual teachers and institutions to a comprehensive system covering all schools and levels of education. He pointed to the recently introduced computer science competitions for children as an example of such activities, which has the potential to initiate systemic changes by generating the need for change in students and teachers.

During the following discussion, all the speakers agreed that media education must be introduced into every subject and at every level of the education system. A coherent policy of digitisation must be pursued in education, which should include not only the student-teacher relationship, but also the relationship between school and the local authorities. Digital competencies should be systemically developed, with autonomous schools being an important element of the system.

Session 10 – Accessible, friendly and secure digital education – challenges and opportunities

Research conducted by the Research and Academic Computer Network (NASK) brings important observations to the ongoing public discussion on educational and sociological challenges. Therefore, we want to initiate a broader public debate that will help to develop relevant recommendations for educational and information activities in this area. The NASK research shows that today's teenagers, for whom the Internet has "always" been there, treat it as a basic communication tool. For teenagers, Internet applications, such as instant messaging and social networking, replace phone calls, while also expanding and changing the forms of interaction they use.

The Internet has also become a convenient tool, commonly used by teenagers in the learning process. 79.7% of respondents use the network constantly (every day or several times a week) to do homework, 64.8% to expand the knowledge useful at school, 45.7% to prepare for tests. Unfortunately, young people do not

always know where to look for reliable knowledge and valuable materials that complement school education.
Such a diagnosis, which also includes cyber threats to the youngest users, was the starting point for the exchange of views between experts and the audience on the challenges of building a friendly and secure Internet and development of digital education.

The session was organised by NASK.

Moderator:

Marcin Bochenek, NASK
Introduction to the discussion and opinion poll was conducted by *Agnieszka Wrońska, PhD, NASK.*

Panellists:

Prof. Marek Konopczyński, University of Bialystok
Dr Rafał Lange, NASK
Esmeralda Moscatelli, IFLA
Piotr Chojnacki, No. 2 Technical High School at the Electrical Engineering School Complex in Zduńska Wola

Summary:

The following issues were addressed during the session:

- current challenges related to the system of universal education in Poland, insufficient emphasis on social competencies and development of team-working skills in schools;
- schools' responsibility for preparing young people to use modern communication tools in the education process and in everyday life;
- the opportunity to enrich the education process in view of the increasing number of Internet-based educational tools and materials;
- the role of students' own work in developing active learning skills;
- the role of non-school entities (such as libraries) in complementing the education process regarding innovative technologies and the use of IT tools.

The panellists focused on the deficit of teamwork and other mechanisms, which serve to develop social competencies of students.

The panellists pointed out the lack of group work and other mechanisms for developing students' social competencies. They also stressed the need to verify the curriculum in a way that would not try to anticipate the need of graduates for specific knowledge, but rather give them the tools to independently acquire the information and skills they will need later in life.

Piotr Chojnacki, teacher of vocational subjects in Technical High School No. 2 at the Electronic School Complex in Zduńska Wola, emphasised that modern educational tools and content allow (and at the same time require) the teacher to cooperate with students also outside the classroom, guiding the youth and advising them on how to develop their own skills and interests. He also pointed out that in order for education to be more effective, it is necessary to let students carry out as many activities as possible, instead of providing them with solutions to problems. The panellists agreed that, unfortunately, this method is too rarely used at school.

The recommendations formulated at the end of the discussion are as follows:

- schools should participate in the process of students' socialisation by organising group work, including with the use of electronic communication and social media;
- schools should have an appropriate network infrastructure, while teachers should develop competencies and tools required for working with students in the environment of multimedia and other on-line educational resources;
- students should also learn about safe, creative and responsible use of the network for learning and leisure time activities (the role of schools in socialising students should include developing their attitudes towards peers in on-line communication, especially in social media);
- alternative forms of education should be recognised and supported, such as the activities of libraries, youth clubs, home schooling; these forms of education complement the education provided by the school system and can contribute to its improvement;
- Teachers should support their students' on-line activity, help them develop their own competencies, teach them how to search for sources of information, appreciate their initiative and creative use of the available tools;
- more important than specific knowledge, which can quickly become obsolete, is the ability to acquire information and using the available tools, as well as social competencies, which enable cooperation with others.

Session 11 – Does combating cybercrime have to lead to the loss of privacy?

The panellists were asked whether it was possible to reconcile the demands of privacy and openness on the Internet with the elusiveness of Internet events and subsequent need for analysing them in order to address Internet threats – cybercrime, cyberterrorism, cyberbullying or paedophilia. The organisers wanted to work together with experts specialising in various aspects of the functioning of the Internet to think how to contribute to the balance of the Internet, based on openness, freedom and security and how to reconcile the responsibilities of law enforcement with the respect for privacy. They also considered the various dimensions of the conflicts between privacy and modern on-line marketing based – similarity to cyber threat protection – on gathering information about network users' activity.

The session was organised by NASK.

Moderator:

Joanna Sosnowska
Introduction to the discussion was done by Martyna Różycka Dyżurnet.pl, NASK

Panellists:

Pavel Bašta, CZ.NIC
Milan Zubicek, Google Poland
Tomasz Pawlicki, National Police Headquarters
Janusz A. Urbanowicz, National Cybersecurity Centre, NASK

Summary:

The discussion focused on three issues:

- protecting privacy and user tracking by service providers;
- various kinds of cyber threats;
- ethical aspects of cybercrime prosecution.

The panellists pointed to the fact that most users do not care about protecting their privacy. They highlighted the various reasons for such disregard – lack of knowledge in the case of older people, lack of awareness of risks and unwillingness to take care in the case of young users. Everybody agreed that people generally pay for access to services with the loss of their privacy. Even if people protect their data, passwords are weak – 80% of them can be cracked relatively easily. Humans are always the weakest link in the security systems.

All panellists agreed that from an ethical point of view, each action concerning the prosecution of cybercrime should be considered separately. In the discussion regarding combating cybercrime, they also stressed the importance of close cooperation between service or content providers, law enforcement and police.

Session 12 – The value of on-line privacy: implications of the General Data Protection Regulation from the economic point of view

The subject of the workshop were the changes introduced in the protection of personal data by the General Data Protection Regulation and their economic consequences. The introduction to the legal dimension of the discussion was made by I. Stupariu, attorney and researcher of personal data protection and privacy protection, representing ExplicoTech, a consulting organisation based in Budapest.

During the workshop, an attempt was made to present the reform mainly from the point of view of business and consumers. The results of the pilot study conducted by M. Sobolewski and M. Paliński, economists from the DELab UW team, was the basis for discussion. J. Mazur, who cooperated on the above project, provided support from the legal perspective of the described study. A shortened version of the survey used as a tool during the study was presented to the workshop participants. This allowed a nuanced look on (theoretically) conflicting interests of business and consumers, and provided a starting point for a broader discussion on the Regulation coming into effect on 25 May 2018 and its consequences.

The session was organised by the DELab, University of Warsaw.

Moderator:

Joanna Mazur, DELab, University of Warsaw

Panellists:

Michał Paliński, DELab University of Warsaw
Ioana Stupariu, ExplicoTech

Summary:

Iona Stupariu's presentation was a summary of the main legal changes introduced by the GDPR and the challenges arising from the harmonisation of national laws on the protection of personal data.

Michał Paliński's presentation focused on both users' preferences towards particular mechanisms and tools introduced by the GDPR, as well as an *ex ante* impact assessment of the regulation by estimating the change in economic surplus as a result of the introduction of the GDPR. The speaker presented the results of an experimental study conducted on the University of Warsaw students.

The discussion focused on the potential of the GDPR to change the "distribution of power" in the digital economy.

The issue of excessive interference of the Internet platforms in the informational autonomy of users through, for example, the requirement to authorise accounts using identity documents, perceived by some of the panellists, was also raised.

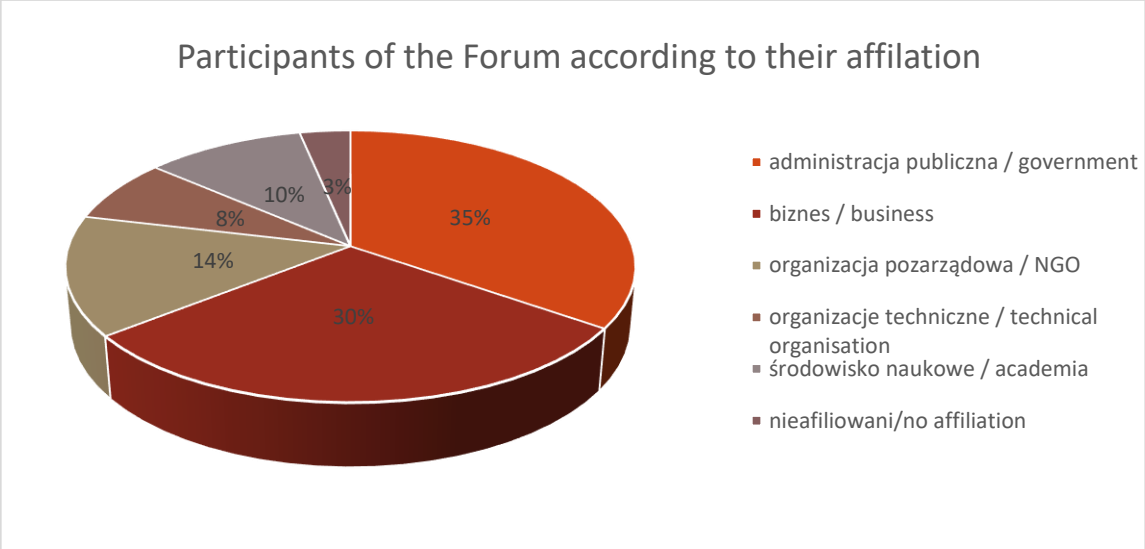
The issue of ownership of personal data was also pointed out; the potential of the GDPR for increasing the control over personal data on the Internet was discussed.

The panellists postulated:

- the creation of cloud services for academic purposes, for example communication between researchers, data storage, computational services, constituting an alternative to the largest cloud platforms and services providers, ensuring the users' privacy;
- promoting digital tools for the protection and controlling their privacy on the Internet among users and state support for the development of such tools, in order to restore users' sense of control over their digital footprint;
- supporting the effectiveness of the GDPR to increase the control of users over their data by accelerating the development of eID at the EU level.

Statistics

The Forum was attended by 211 participants representing all stakeholder groups. The largest number of participants was represented by business and government (63 and 73 participants, which accounts for 30% and 35% of the participants, respectively.) The representatives of technical organisations were the least numerous – only 5% of participants, as well as people who did not state their affiliation – 3%. One in ten attendees represented academia, while NGOs accounted for 11% of participants.



With 55% of all attendees, men were prevalent at the Forum. The most gender-equalised stakeholder group was non-governmental organisations, with 50% women and 50% men. The biggest disproportion was recorded among technical organisations, where women constituted only 38% of the group.

Questions regarding the Polish Internet Governance Forum and IGF Poland can be sent to joanna.malczewska@mc.gov.pl, phone: +48 22 245 55 66.