Report: German Youth IGF 2016

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1. About the Youth German IGF

The Youth German IGF (YIGF-D) was established in 2012 and has since then been acknowledged by the UN IGF secretariat. The YIGF-D is one of the few national youth initiatives in the Internet Governance space. It is not only focused on youth interests and views in Internet Governance, but also youth-led. At the annual YIGF-D, participants develop their own 'messages' and positions on the future of Internet Governance, which they share and present at the German IGF and the UN IGF.

Together with Martin Fischer, coordinator of the European Youth IGF Project, David Krystof, Isabel Skierka, Julia Schuetze, and Gero Nagel organise the event on an honorary basis. Lorena Jaume-Palasi, the IGF Germany's coordinator and founder of the YIGF-D, acts as an advisor to the organizing team. They set the process to define the yearly agenda, and work on long-term perspectives and strategies for youth representation in Internet Governance (IG). They are involved in all political, administrative and managerial issues of the German Youth IGF. David, Isabel, Julia and Gero as the four youth representatives of the Y-IGFD are also involved in the political structures of the German IGF.
While the YIGF-D is an independent initiative, it has synergies with the German IGF (IGF-D): The four youth representatives from the YIGF-D are members of the German IGF-D Steering Committee: David Krystof and Isabel Skierka since February 2016 and Julia Schuetze and Gero Nagel since July 2017.

2. Process and Agenda of the Youth German IGF 2016

The YIGF-D 2016 took place on 8 September 2016 as a one-day workshop on the day before the German IGF (IGF-D). On the following day, the organizing team and YIGF-D participants collectively participated in the German IGF-D event.

The YIGF-D 2016 engaged a group of 18 participants aged between 16 and 27 into discussions about the future of IG, served as a platform to develop common Youth positions on pressing IG issues, and thereby prepared them for the IGF-D event on the following day. A major outcome from the YIGF-D 2016 were the 'Youth messages from Berlin' (see below), which youth representative David Krystof presented in front of the audience at the IGF-D.

Recruitment process

Participation in the YIGF-D 2016 was free of charge. We awarded fellowships to successful candidates which covered travel and accommodation costs, as well as all IGF-related costs in Berlin (see budget below). The YIGF-D was fully funded through the Erasmus+ youth participation grant of the European Union, as part of the European Youth IGF project.

We published an open call for applications in August 2016 on the YIGF-D website and distributed the call via social media channels (mainly Twitter and Facebook), as well as diverse Email lists. We also advertised the event at internet politics related gatherings and youth events in Berlin.

The programme attracted young people from all walks of life, pupils, students and young entrepreneurs, with a diverse background in internet governance. Some of the participants worked on their MA thesis on an internet governance topics, others had not been familiar with the topic before.

Youth German IGF: concept and agenda

The YIGF-D took place as a one-day workshop at a co-working space in Berlin. In an introduction round, each of the participants pointed out one or two topics that they were most interested in, and which we returned to throughout the group discussions. Three external speakers introduced the participants to IG issues and processes, as well as to some topics discussed at the IGF-D, such as cyber security. All speaker sessions left ample time for interactive discussion and debate within the group and with the speakers.

Agenda:

Wednesday

19:30 Dinner for all participants in the restaurant 'Fuchs & Elster', Berlin

Thursday

8:30
Breakfast at the hotel

9:00
Transfer to St. Oberholz (Event location)

9:30
Welcome // Introduction round // Collecting issues of interest

10:15
Presentation by Jörn Pohl, staffer at German Bundestag, office of Konstantin von Notz, Bündnis ‘90 die Grünen: “Overview of the current net politics debate and insights into political agenda setting” (20 min). Stakeholder group: Government (parliament).

Discussion with participants (40 minutes)

11:15
Break

11:30
Presentation by Julia Pohle, Berlin Social Science Center and Co-Chair at GigaNet
Topic: Internet Governance - What is it and how does it work? (30 minutes). Stakeholder group: Academia.

Team debate: participants form two teams and argue for or against a stronger role of the United Nations in Internet Governance processes

13:15
Debriefing

13:30
Lunch

14:30
Presentation by Hauke Gierow, Journalist at online publication golem.de
Topic: Crypto Wars and Lawful hacking (mirroring the topic of one of the four panels at the IGF Germany) (30 minutes). Stakeholder group: Civil Society.

Discussion with participants (45 minutes)

16:15
Break

16:45
Debriefing, Drafting the ‘Youth messages from Berlin’

Preparation for the IGF-D

19:30
Wrapping up, Transfer to Dinner restaurant

Friday
10:00
Participation in the German IGF

16:00
Departure

Group picture

Social media contributions

The YIGF-D has an own Twitter Account: https://twitter.com/jugend_igf_d and Facebook page https://de-de.facebook.com/jugend.igf.d/.

The Twitter profile has been visited 406 times, and the profile has had 4.219 Tweet Impressions related to the YIGF-D 2016.

Below are four of the most notable Tweets about the YIGF-D 2016 event:

- https://twitter.com/jugend_igf_d/status/773797177575505920
- https://twitter.com/JoernPL/status/773851818325635072
- https://twitter.com/zweifeln/status/773985429573992449
- https://twitter.com/i_skierka/status/774284243627376640

3. Youth Messages

Export controls for surveillance technologies
As a major exporter of surveillance technologies, Germany should commit to strengthening export controls for such technologies. Germany's adoption of additional national controls for surveillance technologies in 2015 demonstrates a step into the right direction. This initiative should be complemented by comparable measures at the EU-level in the Wassennaar Agreement. In particular, the German federal government should support the reformulation of the EU regulation on dual use goods.

Net neutrality
The free and equal access to the internet needs to be preserved as one of the fundamental principles of the Internet. Governments and telecom providers should support the free and open access to WLAN networks, specifically by strengthening the legal status of and abandoning liability requirements for WLAN providers. In order to preserve free and equal Internet access, mechanisms that favor privileged access to the internet, such as zero rating, as well as traffic caps, should be prohibited.

Free Crypto
Governments should resolve their conflicts of interest between surveillance and secure cryptography: the funding and support of free end-to-end encryption software can help create a neutral and secure information infrastructure that can be used universally and by all, including for e-government purposes. The promotion of free end-to-end cryptography should be supported by independent public authorities. The trade with software vulnerabilities and zero-day exploits will mostly benefit criminal actors and not serve the public interest.

Free and long-term access to culture and information:
Freely accessible content online is a key part of an inclusive society. That's why both the public and private sectors should better support Open Data initiatives, Open Educational Resources and free cultural goods. Closed platforms and formats bear the risk that knowledge and culture get lost.

How does hate speech work and how can we prevent it?
Hate speech is a common phenomenon 'offline', but is a major issue and became amplified online. For a better understanding of how hate works and how it can be fought effectively,

we demand more research and projects in this field. The easy access to hate comments is an opportunity to research hate speech against groups and individuals.

Research on digital education
We see the need for more research on the question how digital-only education can be used successfully compared to classical ways of teaching with physically present teachers. Which methods can be used and how could digital education be shaped to reduce existing barriers in today's education system?

Digital Literacy
We demand digital literacy through education in the digital field. Particular important are issues such as encryption, a general understanding of computers, and data protection rights. They should only be conveyed by new educational concepts and a strengthened standing in curricula in schools as well as in companies.

4. Involvement of Youth representatives in IGF-D

As mentioned above, the IGF-D Steering Committee comprises four youth representatives (since 2017, from February 2016 to July 2017, the Steering Committee had two youth members) who are responsible for the organization of the YIGF-D. At the IGF-D 2016, the youth representatives at the time, Isabel Skierka and David Krystof, introduced their stakeholder group at the opening of the IGF-D and presented the youth messages of Berlin at the IGF-D closing panel. The YIGF-D participants participated in the IGF-D conference as audience members. In the future, we aim to strengthen their role at the IGF-D conference, for example with speed-dating sessions during the breaks between sessions.

Moreover, Steering Committee members Isabel Skierka and David Krystof hosted a panel at the IGF-D on encryption policy and lawful hacking. The panel discussed possibilities for law enforcement authorities to access encrypted content, as well as related legal, ethical and political questions and dilemmas. The panel was composed of four experts (two male, two female, representing all stakeholder groups) and a moderator. Isabel Skierka introduced the panel with a ten minute speech about encryption policy in Germany. The German digital policy publication heise.de covered the panel in the following article: https://www.heise.de/newsticker/meldung/Crypto-Wars-Planungen-fuer-Entschluesselungsbehoerde-unter-Beschuss-3317785.html.

5. Budget

Income	
Erasmus + Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership in the field of Youth	2873.57
Expenditure	
Accommodation	853.75
Travel support for participants	1082.91
Venue	250
Food	686.91
Total	2873.57
Balance	0