

crisis, a great desire to 'get it right'. [Jonathan Cave](#) [5] of RAND Europe stressed the economic importance of the Future Internet for Europe, although he admitted that it was all but impossible to predict exactly what that impact might be. *"The Internet is complex and it is evolving,"* he remarked. *"It has emergent behaviour that we cannot predict nor are we able to monetise its impact."* But Cave did have some clear messages. For example, he believed that the involvement of SMEs in the Future Internet could be a source of Europe's economic recovery.

From economics to people, [Professor Bolesław Szymański](#) [6] described some of the dynamics of social networks, both on and offline. He argued that technological networks can change the way human interact and also their opinions. His research has shown how a minority of people highly committed to a particular opinion can rapidly sway the opinions of a large majority 'sitting on the fence'. The Internet has given a large, global platform to such influencers.

Proving some of Professor Szymański's theories on social networks, the FIA delegates spent two days mixing with 'people like them' in a number of parallel sessions where they have heard about recent progress made by projects funded through FP7 including the Future Internet Public Private Partnership.

But even after three years of debate, one question remains unanswered: **what will be the architecture of the Future Internet?** The researchers all agree that the current iterative approach of 'bolt-on' solutions to specific problems cannot continue. There is also wide consensus on the main requirements and design principles for the Future Internet.

But the cry goes out: we want to see implementation and deployment! *"We must not lose momentum,"* concluded [Theodore Zahariadis](#) [7] in the final session of the event. *"FIA has made good progress, but we must not be having these same discussions about requirements in two years time."*

It is now time for the Future Internet to show its face, to try out different guises, and demonstrate just what it can do.

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[6] <http://www.cs.rpi.edu/~szymansk/index.php>

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