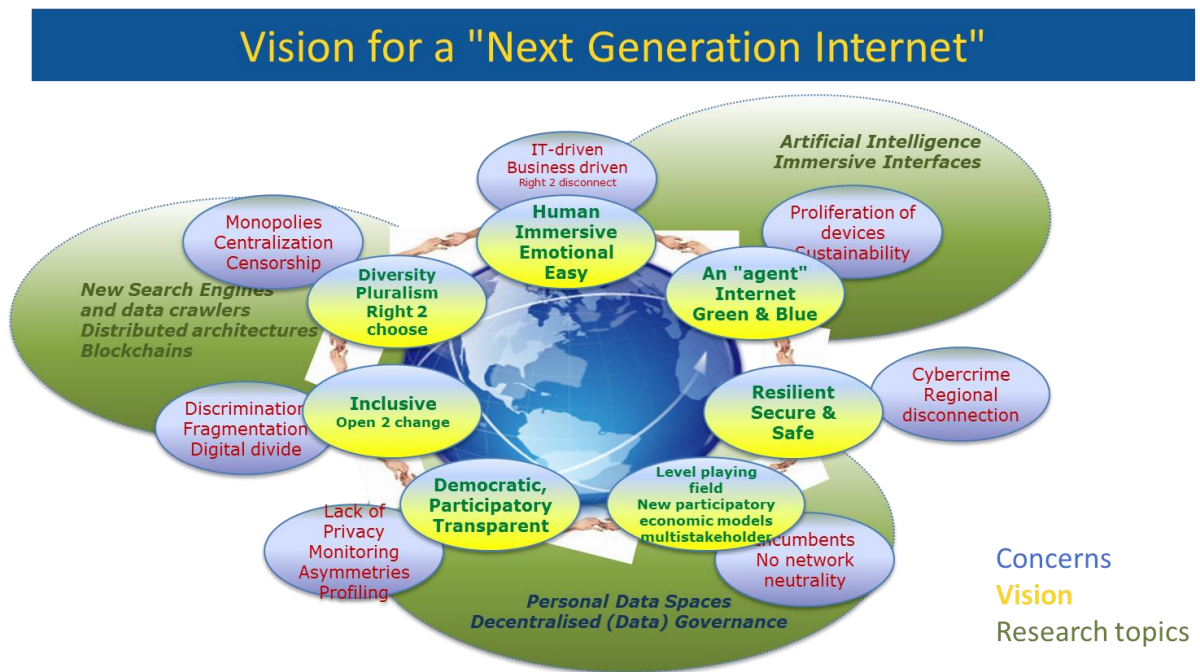


NGI workshop with National Research Networks

Held at the Above the Net event, Utrecht, 20-21 October 2016

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The discussion was started by a presentation of the initial NGI vision and "technology areas", as reported below:



#NGI Key Aspects

- #New:** No overlap with ongoing RTD & I activities
- #Think Big:** Start now, prototype in H2020, flagship in FP9?
- #Different process:** Fast & flexible, continuously agile, small projects, prizes
- #Different people:** Internet researchers & innovators who are not part of community RTD&I today (hackers, social innovators, civil society, etc.)
- #Multidisciplinary:** Beyond CS/telecoms: social sciences, economy, arts, etc.
- #Open:** Bottom-up, build true partnerships, national programmes & US

How to do?

- Bottom-up: the programme specifies the approach to define the actual work topics
- Openness to new actors and new ideas
- Multi-disciplinary is key – open your mind
- Test and pilot new ideas with real communities of citizens

What do you think of our questions?

- Technology area 1: New search engines
- Technology area 2: Immersive environments and new forms of interactions
- Technology area 3: Personal data spaces
- Technology area 4: Distributed architectures and decentralised data governance
- Technology area 5: Software defined technologies
- Technology area 6: Networking solutions beyond IP
- research approach

Appreciated:

- That its vision is based on **values** (the presentation from SWITCH quoted Dan Ariely "there are many examples to show that people will work more for a cause than for cash")
- That it includes the idea of quick experimentation of new concepts in small projects, in order either to validate or to discard options

Concerns:

- That it seems restricted in scope by the available H2020 tools: how to **extend its impact to regulation and policy?**
- That the **biggest challenges on Internet to achieve the EU values are not technological**, the biggest issue for NGI definition being to identify technologies which can have an impact on values (such as distributed architectures, to counteract monopolies and data concentration)

On the second day we had a long open discussion of the draft NGI questionnaire with the 50 participants to the workshop (mostly CEOs of National Research Networks), during which we received the following feedback:

General comment: it's really appreciated that we make this effort to understand needs and priorities.

Many people also made clear that an online questionnaire of this kind automatically excludes everybody who mostly uses mobile devices to access the Internet, i.e. the young generations. They encouraged us to develop a mobile version of the questionnaire, or better to invest in the development of an easy app to do this. (post-workshop idea: perhaps the app could also autonomously track the Internet usage of the respondent and provide himself with a feedback on his

own usage of the Internet (how much time on searches, on wikipedia, on facebook, etc.), which he can then decide whether to share with us or not?)

There was a long discussion on the questions meant to identify the respondent. Beyond some specific phrasing, a general concern is that the respondent needs to feel as properly belonging to at least one of the proposed categories, because otherwise, they would not be fully motivated to invest time in answering the questionnaire.

Specific points in this regard:

Category of the respondent: for instance, NREs could not recognize themselves in any of these categories. They would suggest adding the category "Internet Service Providers"

Others suggested we ask these questions at different levels:

- a) Which type of organisation: Industry/academia/public administration/civil society
- b) Which size: more or less than 250 people
- c) Which area: ICT/ISP/other
- d) Is it for profit or not
- e) In which period are you: student/early career/established career (instead of age)

As for gender: add a third category, e.g. LGBT (yes, this comment came even from a 95% male audience!)

No particular interest was shown for the category "start-up" (seen just as "beginners": why to trust them any more than more established companies? Just because they are young and inexperienced?)

On the content part:

Several questions were raised about what we mean by "**Internet**". Many thought that a reflection on this would be necessary in order to set the mind of the respondent on the correct wavelength.

The simplest solutions would be to add an open question: "What is Internet for you", to be answered in maximum 140 characters (like a tweet). This would have a double advantage: on one side, it's relatively easy for us to understand their perspective; on the other side, it gives us a lot of possible sentences from which we can pick a few ones to publish and use it as "NGI marketing". (post-workshop thought: in such a case, we need to add a disclaimer authorising us to publish any text submitted, even if anonymous).

On the first question: everybody agreed that the points mentioned there are relevant and clear, the only missing one being a statement on the "trustworthiness of online content: is there a need to better guarantee its quality".

However there were doubts about asking people about their "importance", as this could be understood in different manners, and is not very useful for us. Some suggested to rather ask "what should be the driving force for the ngi?". They also suggested rephrasing the statements in a more

neutral manner, avoiding the usage of "should" (a proposal is reported below). Finally, they also suggested not to ask for a rating, but rather to pick the three most important ones, and the three least important ones.

As for the technology areas, they appreciated them, pointing out that some are broader than others. To avoid misunderstandings, they suggested to add some text (a couple of paragraphs perhaps) explaining the context of each one of the technology areas.

Some specific comments: instead of "search engines", the correct terminology seems to be "discovery and identification", applying not only to content but also to devices and sensors. There were also some suggestions to add a point on security.

Finally, we noted the suggestion to add a possibility for participants to give us their email if they want (so that we can come back to them with questions, or just to include them in our mailing list)

Annex: possible revision for the first question:

In your opinion, what should be the driving force for the NGI? (pick the three most important ones and the three least important ones)

A human Internet -social, easy, immersive, emotional!
Avoiding the concentration of data in a few proprietary platforms.
Ensuring diversity, pluralism and a right to choose for Internet citizens.
Ensuring citizens' sovereignty over their own data and protect privacy.
An inclusive, participatory and transparent Internet.
Creating a level playing field for new Internet entrants and new economic models.
A more resilient, secure and safe Internet.
Internet as a real agent of change towards sustainability.
Ensuring trustworthiness of online content, guaranteeing its quality