

# Should I Click for Internet Governance? Where?

Messages of Media Education Center

## European Dialog on Internet Governance

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- To be active participant in Internet Governance means having capabilities to participate in political processes governing our lives.
- People should become active participants in digital society since participation can improve their lives, enlarge their choices and freedoms.
- What makes participation in the digital society meaningful is the ICTs potential to help people reach their development goals.
- Participation of various stakeholder groups in Internet Governance decision making increases the likelihood of success of elaborated policies.
- What skills & capabilities do people need to better #participate in their societies & gain from new opportunities opened by ICTs?
- In order Internet access empowers individuals or communities; their use should occur within capabilities development context.
- Technologies used in the context of capabilities development are likely to have positive impacts on problems existing in societies.
- Participation has the potential to improve the lives of people, enlarge people's freedoms and choices.

- Is access enough to empower stakeholders? What about digital literacy, capacity building, awareness, public policies?
- Does the presence of a free ICT sector automatically strengthen the civil society & democracy in different states?
- Is there difference between East and West, developed and developing countries?
- Do macroeconomic development and the growth of economy automatically improve the level of democracy?
- Is access enough by itself to empower stakeholders? Shouldn't be more emphasis placed on the human capital for accomplishing a country's innovative potential?
- What skills & capabilities do people need to better participate in their societies & gain from new opportunities opened by ICTs (such as, e-health, e-governance, e-finances, e-learning)?
- Recent researches show, people engaged in digital media literacy programs have higher civic engagement skills than average.
- Access is not always enough to empower people. Thus, zero-rated access to social networks may create new divides between haves and have-nots.
- Access issues need to be re-assessed in terms of skills & capabilities which people need to better participate in their societies.
- Access issues need to be extended to include literacies: people should be empowered to create their own content in their local languages.

- Researches show that only access to a plurality of sources of information on diverse media platforms can empower users by helping to develop their content creation skills.
- How to ensure the Internet and ICTs drive democratic movements, and not only empower powerful elites? What strategies are required?
- Top-down approaches proved to be unsuccessful in considering diverse groups' interests and needs (marginalized, vulnerable, etc) and particular circumstances in various countries.
- Top-down approaches usually serve interests of powerful elites. To avoid this people should be engaged in developing strategies.
- New technologies can replace older technologies & older ways of doing things without making any change in the society.
- ICTs can be used to curtail freedoms, increase control over societies, fuel hatred, violence. ICTs can be turned into instruments of surveillance and oppression.
- The spread of ICTs could result in new forms of inequalities, since only powerful elites can benefit from them.
- Participation should be at the heart of the process of development of national strategies.
- ICTs used in the context of empowerment & participation of all stakeholders can promote change in the societies helping to solve existing problems.