

# NETMundial@Moldova

In the context of the NETMundial event in Sao-Paulo, April 23-24, 2014

NETMundial@Moldova has taken place on April 17th, 2014 and it has served as a local pre-event to the NETMundial in Brazil. This document presents the key take away from the Moldovan NETMundial. Report prepared by Veronica Cretu, head of Open Government Institute (NGO) Moldova.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This is to thank representatives of the Ministry of ICT of the Republic of Moldova for their openness to collaborate & partner on the NETMundial@Moldova and to co-organize a pre-NETMundial event in Moldova. Many thanks to Deputy Minister of ICT Mr. Vitalie Tarlev and Sergiu Voitovschi, Deputy Head of Directorate for International Cooperation and European Integration (Ministry of ICT).

Many thanks to ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbering) for the financial support provided for the purpose of the Moldova NETMundial hub, as well as to the NETMundial organizing committee for constant support.

## 1. General Information about the NETMundial@Moldova

<b>Date/Place</b>	April 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 Chisinau (in the premises of the office of the Ministry of ICT of Moldova)
<b>Main organizers</b>	Open Government Institute in close partnership with Ministry of ICT of the Republic of Moldova, with support from ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbering).
<b>Moderator/s</b>	Veronica Cretu – President of the Open Government Institute, member of the MAG&IGF & Vitalie Tarlev; Deputy Minister of ICT (member of GAC&ICANN)
<b>Contributors</b>	Olga Batir – National Youth Council, Coordinator of the “No Hate Speech” campaign, and Viorel Rodideal – Founder, Media Point & Alerte.md
<b>Main Purpose of the event</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To raise awareness amongst participants on the most emerging issues/aspects/questions related to Internet Governance globally and ways these issues are affecting the national policies in the field;</li><li>- To contribute to the global NETMundial event from Brasil (Aprilie 23-24, 2014);</li></ul>
<b>Participants</b>	24 participants, representing the public, private and civil society sector

## 2. Main issues raised during the NETMundial@Moldova

NETMundial@Moldova event was organized on April 17<sup>th</sup>, in the eve of the NETMundial in Brazil and aimed at bringing together representatives of the public, private and civil society sectors to address the issues related to Internet Governance principles and also tackle the road map for the further evolution of the Internet Governance ecosystem. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to look at these two aspects from the perspective of the challenges faced nationally, when implementing Internet related or Internet based initiatives (e.g. No Hate Speech Campaign, etc).

While there are various forums internationally where the issues pertaining to Internet Governance are being discussed/addressed, such a platform misses at the national level. That is why NETMundial@Moldova has been a timely and valuable event for Moldovan stakeholders interested in the subject matter.

The event focused on a number of aspects shared and discussed with participants among which:

- What is NETMundial and why it is important to talk about Internet Governance today;
- Who are the key stakeholders engaged in the Internet Governance debate;
- What is the position of key stakeholders in Moldova on the current draft of the Internet Governance principles to be discussed in Sao-Paulo;



The event was moderated by Veronica Cretu, head of Open Government Institute and co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of ICT, Mr. Vitalie Tarlev.

**KEY TAKE AWAY: Below is a list of key ideas shared & discussed by participants:**



It is without any doubt that Internet and World Wide Web have brought significant benefits for the social and economic development both worldwide and nationally. As an example, Republic of Moldova can boast with having a very well developed communications infrastructure and having internet penetration rate reaching 64 % . Moldova ranks seventh among 186 countries of the world after loading Internet speed and the 16th after the speed of downloading, according to NetIndex data.



As per “Digital Moldova 2020” Strategy, every rural community/village in the country will have to at least one optical fiber point of presence. This document looks at increasing both the number and quality of electronic services. The strategy focuses on three pillars: infrastructure and access, digital content and electronic services, capabilities and use. Horizontally, it is the cyber security which applies to all three pillars and which could be only achieved by creating a safe and secure digital environment.



In addition to the above, the country has an ambitious Strategic Program for Governance Technological Modernization that was approved in 2010, which services as a basis for intelligent investing in ICTs. As reiterated by representatives of the e-Government Center, this program is used on a large scale in the public sector so as to:

- modernize the public sector for the citizens’ benefit and for developing a dynamic and competitive private sector by digitalizing public services by 2020;
- increase transparency and efficiency of the governance process by integrating the intelligent information technologies used by the central public administration institutions and opening the public government data;
- reduce the costs of information technologies used in the public sector.

However, much more still needs to be done especially when it comes to addressing the above initiatives in the broader Internet Governance ecosystem and understanding the peculiarities behind each Internet Governance component: infrastructure, standardization, legal, social, economic, etc. Another important element relates to how Moldova positions itself in the Internet Governance debate given the regional geopolitical challenges and its future pro-EU aspirations.

As having been specified by the Deputy Minister of ICT, Republic of Moldova, alongside with other 55 states, mostly western ones, hasn't signed the new Regulation on International Telecommunications in Dubai (December 2012), and opts for a model of development of the telecommunication infrastructure and Internet governance which shall ensure the free Internet access of the population, without interferences and constraints from the state or telecommunications operators.

Discussions related to Internet Governance being held in Moldova are timely and valuable. Currently, a unique position at the global level on this subject matter hasn't been defined yet, and the Brazilian NETMundial will outline the key-principles regarding the Internet development for future in order to reach a consensus at the international level.

Participants agreed that it is clear that there is a need to continually strengthen and evolve Internet Governance mechanisms, in truly substantial and constructive ways, so that all stakeholders are able to address the emerging issues related to the Internet both nationally and internationally. The concept of Internet Governance is an ambiguous one, which is why there has been so much discussion and debate about the governance models per se.

**In addition to the above, NETMundial@Moldova participants shared about a number of other critical aspects, among which:**

- the importance of globally coherent Internet operations, and stated clearly that they are for one single, interoperable, accessible Internet for All;
- concerns related to possible Internet fragmentation;
- expressed the need for ongoing effort to address Internet Governance challenges both nationally and internationally, and agreed to catalyze efforts here, in Moldova, in order to promote and contribute to the evolution of global multistakeholder Internet cooperation;
- the need to have Governments engage more actively in the Internet Governance debate, their participation should be at all levels/phases of the process, along with all the other stakeholders;
- the current efforts related to accelerating the globalization of ICANN and IANA functions, as clear steps towards an environment in which all stakeholders, including all governments, participate on an equal footing;
- enabling regulatory systems in order to create an enabling environment for local content, local initiatives;
- the role of the Internet Governance Forum in the broader Internet Governance agenda;
- knowledge sharing and education – the need to address the core Internet Governance principles via the formal educational system and partnering with Ministry of Education in this

regards has been highlighted as important steps forward. Institutionalizing the IG related education/training and capacity building will contribute to a greater awareness among internet users in all regards: net etiquette, freedom of speech, e-services, use of internet for innovation, creativity and development, etc;

- the opportunity to have a National Action Plan on Internet Governance and moving from the adhered Conventions and declarations to their practical implementation at national level. These action plans could be co-designed, co-created with participation of key stakeholders interested and engaged in Internet Governance;
- local initiatives and key challenges of the “No Hate Speech” campaign – the need to partner with the Ministry of ICT and other key stakeholders in order to do more outreach and more awareness raising on No Hate Speech;
- local initiatives and key challenges of “alerte.md” – lack of capacity of public servants/local public authorities to respond on citizens’ reports in a timely manner might affect their motivation to use interactive apps for development. Public institutions should start embedding more innovation into their daily activities and thus, contribute to an enabling environment for innovation and creativity – which is at the heart of Internet and could bring an great value for the development across all sectors;
- the example of a platform launched by the Ministry of ICT called “implicare.md” which has been stopped due to several legally related disputes between Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Center for Personal Data Protection. This example is a clear illustration of how crucial it is to adjust the regulatory framework to the online space and have clear provisions which would enable rather than disable innovative approaches which might bring users closer to public authorities;
- the role of private sector, IT industry in providing services called “parental support” for those parents who are demanding for such services and what are the best practices and recommendations in the field;
- as there is no currently any formalized Internet Governance related platform in Moldova, it is opportune for the key stakeholders in Moldova to start addressing the IG issues in a more organized and systematic way. One way would be to create a community of experts in the field or an Experts’ Club on Internet Governance that could be coordinated by the Ministry of ICT in partnership with civil society;
- it was agreed that during the upcoming Moldova ICT Summit in May, a separate session will be dedicated, for the first time in the history of the given Summit, to the Internet Governance – by having representatives from ICANN, Council of Europe, European Commission, etc on the panel. Participation of civil society in this session is crucial.
- it was agreed that participants will follow the working session @NETMundial on the 23<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> of April and will continue making further contributions to the IG related discussions: both on the principles and on the road map!

## Annex 1. Agenda for the NETMundial@Moldova

<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	Registration of participants. Tea/Coffee
<b>9:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Session 1:</b> Brief presentation of the NETMundial – Why? Who? How? When? Internet Governance: who are the key stakeholders: ICANN, IGF, ISOC, others.
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Session 2:</b> How do the global debates on Internet Governance influence the national policies in the field? Examples of national initiatives related to promoting a free, accessible and user-friendly Internet.
<b>12:30 – 13:00</b>	Informal discussions over coffee/tea.

## Annex 2. List of Participants

1. Vitalie Tarlev, Deputy Minister of ICT
2. Veronica Cretu, President, Open Government Institute
3. Viorel Rodideal, Co-founder, Media Point
4. Irina Frunza, specialist MK, B2B, Moldcell
5. Natalia Colesnic, consultant, Ministry of ICT
6. Vitalie Boboc, Vice-Chief of the DPC Department, Ministry of ICT
7. Irina Turcanu, Consultant, DPC Department, Ministry of ICT
8. Victoria Rosca, E-Government Center
9. Balutel Adrian, National Youth Council
10. Olga Batir, Coordinator of No Hate Speech Campaign
11. Cucer Inga, specialist, Ministry of ICT
12. Sergiu Voitovschi, Ministry of ICT
13. Dumitru Agachi, Ministry of ICT
14. Valentina Sadnic, Ministry of ICT
15. Stanislav Gorda, Ministry of ICT
16. Valeriu Gribincea, Ministry of ICT
17. Nistor Stela, Ministry of ICT
18. Gordila Mihaela, Ministry of ICT
19. Popovici Valentina, Ministry of ICT
20. Sincariuc Pavel, Ministry of ICT
21. Vitalie Boboc, Ministry of ICT
22. Coliban Valentin, Registru, Ministry of ICT
23. Irina Tisacova, Open Data Coordinator, E-Government Center
24. Andrei Cusca, Ministry of ICT