



The Next Generation Internet Forum 2018 **Building the NGI Ecosystem: highlights and key takeaways**

The second annual Next Generation Internet Forum (NGI Forum) took place on 13 September 2018 at the Alfindega Porto Congress Centre in Porto, Portugal. The event was a great success, with 200 of 300 registered participants attending, including several high-level representatives from the European Commission and a prestigious lineup of speakers.

The active and engaged participants were there to explore the trends, priorities and challenges of building the NGI ecosystem. Attendees included technology research experts, policymakers, innovators, activists and academics. They represented a range of fields, from network infrastructure to platforms, from application domains to social innovation. The event was chaired and moderated by **Dr Monique Calisti**, CEO of Martel Innovate and HUB4NGI coordinator, who also invited actors to join the NGI Initiative at www.ngi.eu.

Speaker highlights:

Pearse O'Donohue, Director Future Networks, DG CNECT, confirming the EC's commitment to Digital Europe and urging the NGI community to "lean in" and convert the uninitiated *"The communities working [to close] the digital divide are also those working in NGI."*

Porto's Vice-Mayor Filipe Araujo introducing Smart City Porto's innovative initiatives in the areas of transport, traffic control and waste management. *"Porto is a resilient city, meeting challenges in an innovative way"*

Internet pioneer **Louis Pouzin** saying the work on the internet of tomorrow starts today *"We are once again disrupting existing systems and the existing industries... Many of the protocols used today are outdated"*

A lively roundtable discussion on key aspects of the NGI including blockchain, smart cities, AI, data protection and privacy led by **Olivier Bringer**, Deputy and Acting Head of the NGI Unit, DG CNECT/E.3 EC with experts including Professor **Susana Sargento**, University of Aveiro, Co-founder Veniam), **Antonio Tenore Fornes**, Complutense University of Madrid), Professor **Virginia Dignum**, Umea University, Chair of Social Artificial Intelligence and **Manuel Noya** from Linknovate.

A look at the future of digital society by **Frédéric Donck**, Director, European Regional Bureau, Internet Society *"There is a role for all of us to be ambassadors to try to involve our communities. We believe we should continue to engage with all aspects of society, but we only can address [the issues] if there are people in the room."*

Jorge Gasos, the NGI Unit, DG CNECT/E.3 presenting upcoming calls for EU funding in the NGI space.

Key takeaways

- ➔ The NGI “offering” must become more concrete to engage players all around Europe: Open Calls and more consistent funding for research and innovation work will be key to grow and sustain the NGI initiative.
- ➔ The focus is still very much on connecting humans with technology. Human values and ethics must drive technical development, not the other way around.
- ➔ Open consultation with the community is key.
- ➔ The EC will be spending even more on Digital Literacy and the Data Economy.
- ➔ The NGI ecosystem needs to help address a lack of trust in the internet caused by breaches of privacy such as Cambridge Analytica/ Facebook.
- ➔ Certification and regulation can be a force for good, driving innovation.
- ➔ IoT might be the next big threat, or opportunity indeed.
- ➔ Synergies across related EC initiatives, such as 5G PPP, IoT, BDVA, European AI Alliance, Blockchain Observatory, etc. should be pursued.
- ➔ The EC can only go so far, need genuine partnerships and communities to spread the word/ do the work.

ABOUT THE NGI FORUM

The NGI Forum is partly funded by the European Commission H2020 Programme and is hosted by the Municipality of Porto through the collaboration of [Porto Digital](#).

The NGI Forum is organized by the HUB4NGI project - with support from all other NGI CSAs – Engineroom, NGI Move and SpeakNGI.eu as part of the Next Generation Internet initiative (www.ngi.eu). The HUB4NGI project consortium comprises six partners: Martel Innovate (Switzerland), Project Coordinator; IT Innovation (United Kingdom); the Open University (United Kingdom), IDC (Italy), Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center (Poland), and IMEC (Belgium).

LINKS AND CONTACTS

Join the NGI <https://www.ngi.eu/join-ngi/>

NGI Survey <https://consultation.ngi.eu/ngi-survey>

Full event report <https://www.ngi.eu/resources/white-papers-reports/>

Photos, videos, speaker presentations on the [NGI Forum website](#)

Twitter: [@NGI4EU](#) #NGIForum18 #NGI4EU

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