

# NEXT GENERATION INTERNET

## PRESS RELEASE

**NGI Forum 2019: Shaping the  
Internet of tomorrow**



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The Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative invites all interested parties and media to the **NGI Forum 2019** taking place on 25 September 2019 in Helsinki, Finland.

Take the opportunity to learn about research and technology developments from top experts, to discuss internet challenges with high-level policy makers and to get information about European funding opportunities.

**Participation in the NGI Forum 2019 is FREE but registration is required.**

## The Next Generation Internet initiative

The Internet is the engine of digitisation of our society and our economy. With the explosion of the Internet of Things, multimedia content and social media, the Internet offers an unprecedented access to data and online services. Artificial intelligence helps to extract meaning from this data and to embed autonomy and intelligence into networks, connected objects and services.

However, there has been an erosion of trust in the Internet following revelations about the exploitation of personal data, large-scale cybersecurity and data breaches, and growing awareness of online disinformation.

**The NGI initiative** aims to build the key technology blocks of a human-centric Internet, which gives end-users full control of their personal data.

*“The Next Generation Internet initiative is designed to create an Internet of humans that responds to our fundamental needs, including trust, security and inclusion”* says Roberto Viola, Director General of DG Connect at the European Commission.

The NGI initiative comprises an ambitious research and innovation programme with an EU investment of more than €250m between 2018 and 2020. Focus is on advanced technology including privacy and trust, search, decentralised architectures, blockchain, IoT, social media, interactive technologies, as well as technologies supporting multilingualism and accessibility.

NGI is addressing Internet innovators as agents of change. It supports research and innovation for alternative solutions from individual talents who will develop technologies in line with our values, providing them with

funding which can significantly shorten the research cycle and time to market.

Learn more about the NGI initiative at [www.ngi.eu](http://www.ngi.eu).

## Highlights of the Next Generation Internet Forum, 2019

The **Next Generation Internet Forum 2019** is a dynamic, one-day conference about use of research and innovation to ensure diversity, democracy, and security - this goes way beyond what is typically addressed at a tech conference. See the agenda: <https://www.ngiforum.eu/agenda/>

The NGI Forum will bring together policy-makers, innovators and civil society **to discuss the priorities and challenges for building a better internet for all.**

[Speakers](#) are top of their field in public institutions, research, innovation, and business.

A high-level representative from the **Ministry of Transport and Communications of Finland** will open the Forum and give the perspective of Finland and the EU Presidency on the topic.

**Pia Pakarinen**, Deputy Mayor of the City of Helsinki, will give the perspective of a capital city on the role of internet and digital innovation to improve public services and increase citizens' engagement.

**Roberto Viola**, European Commission Director General at DG Connect, will share an inside look at how Europe is investing in an 'Internet of Humans'.

**Martin Wezowski**, Chief Designer, Futurist and Innovation Officer at SAP, will share his thoughts on the mechanics and dynamics of change in the internet era.

**Panel sessions** will feature experts' experience of shaping a new Internet with a human-centric approach; present the first results of NGI projects and ongoing funding opportunities; and discuss how to improve data governance.

**Workshops** will take a deeper dive and seek the input of the participants on electronic identity, collective intelligence, NGI trustmarks and Blockchain.

**A dedicated session on EU funding** will inform attendees of future opportunities under Horizon 2020.

The NGI Forum 2019 aims to facilitate connections and lay the groundwork for future collaborations.

The Forum will also feature a competition for high school students in Helsinki to present their ideas on mobile apps for the benefit of society.

***Space is limited, so sign up today!*** Participating in the NGI Forum 2019 is **FREE**, but space is limited to the first registrants. Don't risk missing this opportunity. [Register today!](#)

Learn more at [www.ngiforum.eu](http://www.ngiforum.eu).

## Note to Editors

[Next Generation Internet \(NGI\)](#) is an EU initiative that aims to shape the development of the Internet into an Internet of humans that responds to people's fundamental needs, including trust, security and inclusion, and reflects the values and the norms that we enjoy in Europe.

NGI aims to unite a vibrant community of Internet innovators and stakeholders around a common goal: building an Internet of humans.

The [NGI Forum 2019 in Helsinki \(25 September 2019\)](#) is organised with the support of the European Commission, back to back with the [MyData 2019](#) conference **in Helsinki (26 -27 September 2019)**, an official event of Finland's EU Presidency.

## Press contacts and social media

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Press pack: <https://www.ngiforum.eu/toolkit/>

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