

14-15th February, Vienna

Track 1	Bibliotheksaal
Track 2	Room 525
Track 3	Room 201
	Cafeteria

Wednesday, 13th February

19:00 - 22:00	Informal Side Event
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Thursday, 14th February

9:00 - 9:30	Registration - Hofburg			
9:30 - 10:30	Exhibits Open	Opening Plenary Session - Ratsaal		
10:30 - 12:30		Plenary Session - Statements from the Delegations Ratsaal		
12:30 - 14:00		Lunch Break		
14:00 - 15:30 Session 1		A1. Blocking and filtering practices and policies	B1. Social media, social activity and media freedom	C1. Freedom of expression of minorities in a digital age Information stands
15:30 - 16:00		Coffee-break	Coffee-break	Coffee-break
16:00 - 17:30 Session 2		A2. Today's news is social	B2. Freedom of expression - rights and responsibilities	C2. Hateful speech - banned or tolerated? Information stands
17:30 - 19:30	Reception			

Friday, 15th February

9:00 - 10:30 Session 3	Exhibits Open	A3. The future of copyright online	B3. New media services	C3. Comments on news sites Information stands
10:30 - 11:00		Coffee-break	Coffee-break	Coffee-break
11:00 - 12:30 Session 4		A4. Internet governance and ITU WCIT	B4. Internet self-regulation - how does it work?	C4. Protection of minors Information stands
12:30 - 13:30	Closing Session			
13:30 - 15:00	Farewell reception			

Description of split sessions

Bibliotheksaal

Blocking and filtering - practices and policies

Description:

The Internet is a global infrastructure that enables the free flow of information across borders. Apart from opening up new possibilities, the rapidly growing traffic on the Internet has also brought about hateful and even illegal content. Blocking and filtering are often considered to be solutions to this phenomenon. This raises a number of legal, human rights and technical questions. Should minimum principles on ethics, accuracy and personal rights be established? If so, how could this be achieved without infringing on freedom of speech and editorial freedom? This session endeavors to assess consequences of filtering or blocking on media freedom.

Today's news is social -The RFOM Social Media Guidebook

Description:

This session aims to deepen the discussions on the changing landscape of journalism. Web 2.0 applications and social media are opening up new ways to share information online. These combine different technologies and serve as tools to seek, receive and disseminate information for journalists and citizens alike. The 'audience' now have all tools at hand to also produce journalistic and media like content. Professional journalists are increasingly relying on social media for gathering or filtering data, e.g. through crowd sourcing or crowd funding. The panel will elaborate on the role of social media for citizen reporting and professional media.

The future of copyright online

Description:

This session raises questions pertaining to recent debates regarding intellectual property rights. On 4 July 2012, the European Parliament rejected ACTA in a plenary session, since the intended benefits of this international agreement were considered far outweighed by the potential threats to civil liberties. SOPA, PIPA and ACTA (among others) all demonstrate the need to reassess the design and scope for intellectual property rights in the digital age; a more comprehensive understanding whereby fundamental rights such as freedom of expression are guaranteed and copyright proportionately protected within a civil rights framework. What could such an approach look like in the OSCE region? The dynamic mix of panelists will help shed light to some aspects of the complexity of copyright in the digital age.

Internet Governance and ITU WCIT

Description:

This session aims to discuss how to foster and nurture a multi-stakeholder approach toward Internet governance; enabling openness, freedom of expression and access to information. The session takes place within the framework of the 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications of the ITU and a possible expansion of the scope of international telecommunication regulations.

Social Media, Social Activity and Media Freedom

Description:

How should principles and standards of freedom of expression be applied in practice, given the complex information environment on the Internet? Social network platforms have accelerated the pace of protest movements, and recent clashes between authoritarian governments and tech-savvy protesters have also shown the limits of freedom through and on the Internet. Governments have sponsored Internet freedom projects, including software that enables activists to break through firewalls imposed by oppressive governments. Every day, more than one million people use online tools to circumvent extensive blocking programs and government surveillance. To what extent can a free Internet prompt regime change and when is it perceived as fostering destabilization of national security and sovereignty? Is there a definitive line between national security and the right of users to receive and disseminate information anonymously? Is it the corporations' /governments' responsibility to maintain or disclose user IDs?

Freedom of Expression - Rights and Responsibilities

Description:

Freedom of expression is a cornerstone to any democratic society, and as of July 2012 the UN Human Rights Council stated in a resolution that freedom of expression applies online just as it does offline. However, recent cases demonstrate how freedom of expression can be abused for provocative purposes that humiliate values and beliefs. Must freedom of expression be defended even when that means letting those we disagree with have their say? Or are there instances where freedom of expression should be restricted to common justice? Can freedom of expression be defended even in cases where blasphemous speech offends 'public morality' or impacts the national or regional security?

New Media Services

Description:

What are the challenges of regulating new forms of broadcasting, such as Internet television, and regulating traditional broadcasting content made available on new devices, such as television content made available on smart phones, tablets, etc.? How to reconcile new media services with public interest regulation and freedom of information? How to apply national broadcasting regulation on content made available globally? Can we still clearly distinguish video, audio and Internet content? How to deal with 'borderless' advertisement and how to ensure provisions on the protection of minors, drawn up for the broadcasting sector, are adhered to? What are the new roles and functions of broadcast regulators in the digital age?

Internet self- regulation - how does it work?

Description:

The term 'media self-regulation' refers to the implementation of mechanisms drafted by and for media professionals aimed at upholding the quality, responsibility and credibility of mass media. Media self-regulation has proven to be an essential safeguard of media freedom since it enables media to preserve its independence, while minimizing political interference and legal constraints.

With the rapid development of new media, it appears essential to discuss what spheres of the Internet should be self-regulated and to what extent existing media ethics is suitable for today's and tomorrow's news media. How does the concept of media self-regulation apply to online media? How are media self-regulation mechanisms adapting to the Internet?

Freedom of Expression of Minorities in a Digital Age

Description:

This session will give a general account of the specificities regarding freedom of expression for minorities. Specific focuses will be placed on:

- (i) The role of public service media (including an acknowledgement of the importance of other types of media and actors in the online environment);
- (ii) Cultural and linguistic questions, and
- (iii) Questions of tolerance and participation.

Hateful speech - ban, tolerate, or respond?

Description:

What is "hate speech"? Is there a universal definition to "hate speech" and should such speech when expressed online be blocked, banned, sanctioned, or challenged? Or is the issue far more complex and requires us to judge on a case by case basis? Are more than legal restrictions needed and should solutions be culture sensitized rather than general? Is it possible to combine universal freedom of expression standards and cultural sensitivities? Where are the limits of someone's right to freedom of opinion and right to free expression online? How can we effectively and swiftly counter hateful speech without restricting the free flow of information on the Internet?

Comments on news sites

Description:

The practice of allowing anonymous comments on online news sites has been problematic. Comments sections are sometimes packed with personal attacks and hateful content. Some newspapers have moved in stages toward requiring users to register before posting comments, providing personal information that is confidentially maintained. What are best practices and how do large online media outlets deal with this?

Protection of Minors

Description:

While the Internet it brings considerable benefits to children's education and development, it also exposes them to online risks such as access to inappropriate content, abusive interaction with others, exposure to aggressive marketing practices and privacy issues and other risks. What are regulatory approaches to protection of minors online can be used while not restricting freedom of expression?

The session will discuss

- (i) National and European self-/co-regulatory and educational initiatives,
- (ii) Current approaches to protection of minors in video-on-demand services,
- (iii) Rights of the child to access information,
- (iv) Protection of private life;
- (v) Parents' rights to freely educate their children.