In and out.
Internet between public utility, inequalities and opportunities.

In recent years, the right to internet has been increasingly recognized as a fundamental one, both in national legislation and at the European Level. Parallely, for Italy the increasing demand for digitalisation from civil society, companies and institutions, has found a partial response in the Italian NPRR, inserting therefore in the activities prevised in the Next Generation EU. As the internet represents a public good, then the possibility to have internet access can constitute a form of divide. This "digital divide" could then affect the cultural and social opportunities available for people and territories. Consequently, it is necessary to look at the management of the internet, at its governance and at its availability. Other than a boost in productive capacity, the digital transition should increase people's welfare and foster the development opportunities of territories. Then, *how to manage this transition in an inclusive and participatory manner? How could the internet be a driver of democratic development?*

 "In and out. Internet between public utility, inequalities and opportunities" is a research and stakeholder engagement path that aims at studying the role that the internet assumes in the development of territories and in ensuring opportunities for citizens. Its scope is to look at the concrete experiences and practices in which the internet works as a driver for enhancement. Also, the internet is framed as an asset that responds to the individual and collective needs. The four meetings aim to involve representatives from institutions, local governments, academia, associations and the private sector to highlight the impacts of the digital transition process but, also, to help the conceptual setting of the minimum conditions for making the internet and the network an asset for citizens and businesses. *How could the net be designed to serve citizens? What does it mean to be off the net? What is the role of the public actor in ensuring network accessibility? How should the private actor integrate the needs and welfare of citizens and territories into its business strategies?*

The workshops

The workshops are coordinated and supervised by Stefano Quintarelli, Computer Security Professor and former chairman of the Advisory Group on Advanced Technologies at UN-CEFACT and former chairman of the Italian Digital Agency.

1) **The access to the internet and digital rights. Public utility, inequalities and opportunities. (May 23).** On what basis to build a public-private alliance to guarantee the right to connection for communities and territories? What elements characterize the right to network access and rights on the Internet?

2) **Digitalised and confused. Job creation vs job displacement in the IV industrial revolution (June 20).** How is the network redefining our conception of work and its organization? How does access or non-access to the network impact opportunities at the professional level?

3) **No one left behind. Health and services in the digital era (July 11).** What differences in services and health characterize the areas at the center of the digital transition from those that are not connected? How can the network improve access and quality of services and health protection?

4) **People, territories and the internet. Which local development for the peripheries? (September 26).** What elements characterize the digital transition of enterprises? How does the internet enable connection and produce opportunities for geographically isolated territories? How does this process fit into the framework of social and environmental sustainability goals?

Workshop May 23 2023
The access to the internet and digital rights.
Public utility, inequalities and opportunities.

from 3PM to 6PM

In Europe, the debate over the governance of public utilities, from water to state-owned property, is increasing in relevance at different levels: from the public sector to businesses; from the European institutions to citizens. In Italy, in particular, the inclusion of the right to Internet access in the Constitution is at stake. Against that, the right of access to the internet is may the most relevant issue. Accordingly, it is finding more and more space, and in particular its legal protection is increasing, considering both international Declarations and

national law. Moreover, the governance of the network, and the issue related to the ownership of the internet infrastructures, are highly topical.

In EU Commission vision the rights to internet is a human right and should accompany people in the EU in their everyday life: affordable and high-speed digital connectivity everywhere and for everybody, well-equipped classrooms and digitally skilled teachers, seamless access to public services, a safe digital environment for children, disconnecting after working hours, obtaining easy-to-understand information on the environmental impact of our digital products, controlling how their personal data are used and with whom they are shared.

Such conceptualisation of the right to the internet as a human right is problematic, as some consider instead the internet, and in a broader sense, technology, as an enabler of rights rather than a right itself. Moreover, it should be considered how the access to such human rights can prevent people and territories from entering socioeconomic development path and cultural growth. This is particularly relevant due to the typical overlapping of multiple inequalities: those geographically isolated areas are typically lacking in infrastructures and services. Thus, the absence of internet connection can constitute a further source of problems.

Other than the right to the internet, it is also relevant to point out the so-called digital rights, i.e. the rights related to the use of the internet. These rights are typically the correlate of human rights in the context of the Internet. For example, the right to freedom of expression, which can be variously conditioned by state political authority, is considered a digital right. In addition to this, the definition embraces the right to privacy and data protection, as well as the access to information and communications.

However, rather than go through this conceptually informed debate, the objective of this workshop is to highlight challenges and opportunities related to right to internet and right in internet, or digital rights.

Accordingly, we ask:

i) On what basis to build a public-private alliance to guarantee the right to connection for communities and territories?
ii) What elements characterize the right to network access and digital rights?
iii) Which impacts in terms of inequalities can cause the lack of internet access?
iv) Can be internet a leverage of human development? How?
v) Which are the most exposed social categories?

Programme

15.00 – 15.05 *Welcome: Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli.*
15.05 – 15.30 *Opening speech.*
15.30 – 17.30 *Debate.*
17.30 – 18.00 *Conclusions.*

Invitation list

Andrea Fumagalli, Università di Pavia
Juan Carlos De Martin, Nexa Politecnico di Torino
Vincent Puig, Institute de Recherche et d'Innovation, Centre Pompidou, Paris
Carlo Colapietro, Università di Roma Tre
Lorenza Violini, Università di Milano
Andrea Simoncini, Università di Firenze
Grazia Concilio, Politecnico di Milano
Gabriele della Morte, Università Cattolica di Milano
Roberta Rabellotti, Università di Pavia
Fernanda K. Martins, InternetLab - Brazil
Dario Pizzul, Università degli Studi di Milano - Bicocca
Dilmar Villena Fernandez Baca, Hiperderechos - Peru
Giacomo Gilmozzi, Institute de Recherche et d'Innovation, Centre Pompidou, Paris
Carolina Botero, Fundacion Karisma - Colombia
Flavio Tapia, Derechos Digitales - Chile
Agustina Del Campo, Centro de Estudios en Libertad de Expresion y Acceso a la Informacion Universidad de Palermo - Argentina
Matthias Kettemann, Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet & Society, Germany
Adriana Lazzaroni, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Alessandro Del Ninno, Università Luiss Guido Carli
Marco Bussone, Presidente UNCEM (Unione Nazionale Comuni Comunità Enti Montani)
Simone Bigotti, CEO BBBell
Guido Scorza, Autorità Garante della Privacy