NGI Forum 2023: Celebrating 5 Years of Innovation and Unlocking the Power of Digital Commons

The Next Generation Internet Forum 2023 brought together thought leaders, policymakers and tech experts to discuss the future of the Internet.

The Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative held its annual forum on 15-16 November 2023 in Brussels. The event featured a range of speakers to discuss a safer, open and citizen-centric Internet for the future.

Roberto Viola, Director General of DG CONNECT at the European Commission, opened the event with a keynote speech outlining the Commission’s vision for the future of the Internet. This vision, shared in the Commission’s policies over the past four years as well as the Digital Decade policy programme, is one of a resilient and democratic digital landscape.

Viola said:

We are in a new phase for of the internet, in which humans will interact with intelligent machines. The use of AI “mediators” will influence the way people perceive the truth, learn and form their opinions. This is important not only from the business point of view, but also from the social and democratic points of view. We want the NGI community to be the whistle-blowers in AI, to help with spotting issues and to develop standards. That is why we are opening the public supercomputers in Europe so start-ups can test their algorithms, but also to verify those of third parties. We want the NGI community to be closer to the supercomputing community.

Viola was joined at the event by a number of speakers, including French Ambassador for Digital Affairs, Henri Verdier.
The NGI Forum 2023 also focused on digital commons – shared digital resources that are accessible to all. Sessions on the digital commons focused on fostering innovation while ensuring equitable access and promoting sustainability in the digital ecosystem.

The forum focused on other crucial topics for the future of the Internet, including:

- Digital identity
- Quantum Internet
- Large language models
- Web search
- Decentralised social media
- Security of the open-source supply chain

The event marked the 5th anniversary of the NGI initiative’s funding of innovations. It has now funded over 1000 innovator projects (https://www.ngi.eu/discover-ngi-solutions/). Over the past 5 years, NGI has fostered a unique ecosystem of innovators prioritising open source and open data solutions.

**NGI Impact Stories**

The NGI Forum celebrated NGI Impact Stories – tales from the NGI ecosystem that showcase achievements and commitment in the area and inspire others.

The stories shared at the forum reminded us of the NGI community’s pivotal role in shaping an Internet that prioritises people.

[Read more about this and watch videos of the event](https://spaces.fundingbox.com/spaces/ngi-next-generation-internet-ngi-news-events/655f63014b8f8d23cf993957)

**About NGI Forum**

The NGI Forum is the flagship event of the European Commission's Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative, bringing together innovators, policymakers, and technologists to advance a safer, open, and citizen-centric internet. The NGI Forum explores topics that underpin the transition to the future internet, focusing on the concept of the Digital Commons, equitable access to information, innovation, and digital sovereignty. Learn more at [https://ngiforum2023.eu/](https://ngiforum2023.eu/)

**About NGI Initiative**

[The Next Generation Internet (NGI)](https://www.ngi.eu/) is a European Commission initiative that
aims to shape the development and evolution of the Internet into an Internet of Trust according to the vision of the [European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/digital-principles). An open Internet that responds to people’s fundamental needs, including trust, security, and inclusion, while reflecting the values and the norms all citizens enjoy in Europe.

See also

[Visit the Next Generation Internet website](https://www.ngi.eu/)

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The NGI Forum 2023 is part of the Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative and aims to explore key building blocks of the human-centric internet of tomorrow.

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