

PRESS RELEASE

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AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERT PANEL IDENTIFIES NEW INNOVATION PATHS IN INTERNET RESEARCH

From September 7 to 9, at the European Commission in Brussels, over 450 participants from Europe and the rest of the world will attend a high-level conference on the theme "Internet and societies: new innovation paths". During the conference, an international panel of 40 experts will present the draft conclusions of their analysis of the interactions between Internet and societies in the next decades, leading to the identification of new innovation paths in Internet research. Among the recommendations presented to the European Commission:

- **Holistic and multi-disciplinary** approaches of Internet research should be encouraged,
- **Forward-looking** approaches and foresight exercises should be supported in this domain,
- The **involvement of users**, communities, NGOs and other representatives of the civil society should be increased,
- **International cooperation** in Internet research should be strengthened,
- **Values-driven programmes and projects** should be promoted, which includes the concepts of socially and societally conscious approaches, of responsible innovation, and of improved ethical review mechanisms,
- Last, but not least, the panel recommends exploring **the limits of the Internet** to identify possible discontinuities and eventually enter highly innovative research.

Event details: <http://paradiso-fp7.eu/events/2011-conference/>

In a world of accelerating changes, and at a time when economic, social, and environmental risks of breakdowns are in sight, it is of paramount importance to better apprehend how the Internet can impact and transform societies in the next decades but also how it can be even better adapted to tomorrow's societies, particularly if societal paradigm shifts are envisioned and if a true sustainable future is targeted.

This is why a conference on the theme "Internet and societies, new innovation paths" is organized from September 7 to 9, 2011 at the Charlemagne building of the European Commission in Brussels. It invites all organizations interested in the interactions between the Internet and societies to listen to the visions presented by leading experts from Europe and the rest of the world on challenges and opportunities ahead, and to make their voices heard, thus contributing to the definition of the future priorities of EU-funded research.

The event starts on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 18:00 with a Welcome session, followed by a cocktail, featuring keynote speeches and an award ceremony to honour the winners of the PARADISO global children's drawing contest on the theme 'The future Internet seen by children' (79 drawings submitted by primary/elementary schools from Europe and other regions of the world).

On September 8, the 2nd edition of the PARADISO international conference will take place from 9:30 to 18:00. Ms Neelie Kroes, VP of the European Commission and European Digital Agenda Commissioner will deliver a welcome address. Keynote speakers from Europe and the rest of the world will share their visions of the future of our societies and of the Internet. The last session will be the occasion, for the PARADISO high-level

expert panel to introduce in detail its set of recommendations to the European Commission regarding research topics to be addressed in future EU-funded programmes.

On September 9, from 9:00 to 16:00, the event will be devoted to the 1st dialogue on “Platforms for collective awareness and action”, a focus in line with PARADISO recommendations. This one-day dialogue, chaired by Mr Robert Madelin, Director General of European Commission’s DG Information Society and Media, should contribute identifying related multidisciplinary research priorities for the last Call of FP7 and for FP8.



The whole event is organized in the framework of the PARADISO project

The PARADISO project, supported by the European Commission through its FP7 programme (<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7>) and coordinated by Sigma Orionis (www.sigma-orionis.com), was launched in 2007 - before the present financial and economic crisis - at the initiative of the Peccei Foundation, the Italian chapter of the Club of Rome (www.clubofrome.org).

The rationale of the project is the vision that, if it is today well acknowledged that the world has profoundly changed during the last decades, it should be acknowledged too that the world will have to profoundly change in the next decades in order to avoid major risks of breakdown.

Industrialised, emerging and developing countries will need to agree, sooner or later, on an alternative way forward based on a truly sustainable approach to development, including more sustainable economic and financial models and a more equal sharing of resources. What is ultimately at stake is the wellbeing of all the citizens of the world, measured by new indexes that go beyond GDP.

In this context, the PARADISO project (PARADISO is an acronym formed from parts of the words PARADigm and SOcietal, and is an obvious reference to a better world) proposes to explore the particular role that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in general, and the Future Internet in particular, could play in this envisioned future.

In other words PARADISO is adopting a forward-looking approach that looks into the foreseeable interactions between Internet and societal developments in the next decades, in order to distil recommendations on how to develop, particularly through EU-funded research programmes, the Future Internet to its full societal potential.

The project’s core activities consist in the analytical review of societal trends and evolution scenarios in the next decades and of the expected progress in the ICT area. Findings from this work are reported through successive public releases of ‘the PARADISO reference document’, each of which is submitted to an open consultation on the PARADISO web site.

The PARADISO project is committed to wide dissemination of its findings and open to inputs from any interested individuals and organisations - both in Europe and in other regions of the world. Because of this, PARADISO is organising many open workshops and conferences. Moreover, PARADISO can count on the involvement of a multidisciplinary expert panel composed of around 40 representatives of leading institutions, companies, research institutes and NGOs from Europe and the rest of the world.

September 2010 saw the establishment of the not-for-profit PARADISO Foundation (www.the-paradiso-foundation.org) in order to extend the scope and objectives of PARADISO activities. The PARADISO Foundation targets citizens and the civil society, from Europe and other parts of the world, and aims at fully informing them, at supporting their initiatives, and at networking them.

For full details, please visit <http://paradiso-fp7.eu> or contact info@paradiso-fp7.eu

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