○ ○ ○ Thursday 21 June

Should Open Data end where Data Protection begins ?

A Next Generation Internet (NGI)
& New European Media (NEM) event
organised by Cap Digital

The debate provided us with a stage to meet and exchange with stakeholders from Paris' Region in the presence of:

- Olivier Bringer, Deputy and Acting Head of Unit, Next Generation Internet, European Commission (EC);
- Rehana Schwinniger-Ladak, Head of the Unit "Data Applications and Creativity", DG Connect, European Commission (EC);
- Tristan Nitot, Advocacy Vice-President, Qwant ;
- Régis Chatellier, Innovation & Foresight Project Manager, French Data Protection Authority (CNIL);
- Paul Fehlinger, Deputy Director, Internet & Jurisdiction;
- Dr. Monique Calisti, CEO, Martel Innovate, HUB4NGI Coordinator.

As the event took place during the Futur.e.s in Paris festival, it was natural to challenge our audience by setting up a debate. The famous statement of Jean-Paul Sartre "my freedom ends where the others' begin" was rephrased in "Should Open Data end where Data protection begins?"

To broaden the horizons and the possibilities of the futur.e.s, Marta Arniani, founder of Futuribile - Curating Futures perfectly moderated the discussions! She briefly compared the NGI meetings to "Salons à la française" before reminding the audience that "Salon" actually came from Italy! The debate aimed at enhancing the knowledge of the participants through conversation.

During the debate different visions were put forward: the entrepreneur, the technologist, the lawyer and the European Commission all had their word to say. Through 4 key topics, the speakers discussed: governance, cross-border Internet, business models and education, culture and citizens' awareness. This gave a full picture of the different issues that Open data raises and how the NGI initiative handles it.

To boost innovation and create new opportunities for citizens, the European Commission encouraged public administrations and companies to open their data for free since it has been

already paid by public money. At the same time, new regulations have to be set up to protect personal data. For the CNIL, "GDPR is a milestone in the way we can put standards (privacy, data…). It is the same regulation for all the European countries which represent a market of 500 million people." A common regulation on a territory enables business collaboration and stimulates the companies to invest in Europe as well as setting up a common infrastructure for cross-border services.

From a legal point of view, Paul Felhinger described the situation of internet today and the necessity to think global. He emphasized on the fact that more governance has become necessary to keep a cross border internet as well as the distinction of governance of Internet and governance on Internet.

Tristan Nitot took the floor and made the audience aware that there was an alternative to Facebook and Google and explained Qwant's business model. He considers NGI initiative a reflection of what he and the company he just joined believe in. Qwant develops services and products which respect the privacy of the user.

Rehana Schwinninger-Ladak then illustrated the difficulties that europeana collections faced. She said: "We have to find ways, a way in between to still make it open while at the same time respecting the GPDR. Open data is as many layers if you want to make it reusable by as many as applications as possible."

Regis Chatellier then informed the audience about the responsibility of the national data protection authority which is to make citizens aware of the digital tools, Internet and their rights. He stressed that the data protection responsibility is to be shared with the companies. Together with them, the authority is aiming at informing the citizens about their data protection rights. To do so, he suggested to involve UX designers in the upcoming NGI projects. New perspectives will be needed to create new standards. Companies can catch the market and be more privacy friendly. These initiatives can help change the way citizens are using internet. He stressed on the European regulation (GDPR) which keeps people informed about their rights. He concluded by putting forward the public funds available to educate children on digitalization (e.g project of CNIL https://www.educnum.fr/).

In a way, Tristan Nitot thanked the scandal of Cambridge analitica and Facebook to make people aware of data. However, he emphasized that entrepreneurs can make products with bright values and change the world by providing respectful products. For example, Qwant developed a search engine for kids (https://www.qwantjunior.com/?l=fr).