network infrastructure as commons

Fact Sheet

Project Information

netCommons
Grant agreement ID: 688768
Project website
Status
Closed project
Start date
1 January 2016
End date
31 December 2018
Funded under
H2020-EU.2.1.1.
Overall budget
€ 2 339 125
EU contribution
€ 1 933 500
Coordinated by
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO
Italy

Objective

Communication and information distribution are key components of a modern society. The advent of the Internet has been often invoked as a remedy for their democratization. The truth shows a different picture: the digital divide is widening the gap between those who can access and take advantage of the new systems, and those who remain disconnected.

The Internet’s unsustainability, coupled with the lack of awareness of the actual complexity of the Internet’s organisation, means that users are mostly unaware of the potentials of digital interaction and, most of all, of the possibility to have a bottom-up, democratic, communal organisation of it.

netCommons studies an emerging trend: community-based networking and services that can offer a complement to the global Internet’s model. Community networks not only offer to citizens the access to a neutral, network infrastructure, which naturally increases the transparency of data flow, storage and use, but they also represent the archetype of networked collective cooperation and action.
Community networks are complex systems that require multiple skills to thrive: technical, legal, socio-economic, and more. They face many challenges and they need means and tools to grow and produce a higher impact on society.

netCommons follows a dual approach to achieve its goals: 1) It works at a local level, mingling with the communities to gather relevant information, elaborate it, and return them advanced tools to grow and thrive; 2) Starting from the hands-on experience and work, it contributes to Internet Science by abstracting concepts: it studies and offers solutions and interpretations, that can be used by legislators and decision makers, to build global awareness of the importance of sustainability, participation, co-operation, on-line information, democracy, peer production, and how to foster the development of community networks to generate socio-economical opportunities based on this paradigm of Internet Science.

Field of science
/natural sciences/computer and information sciences/internet
/social sciences/political science/government systems/democracy
/social sciences/other social sciences/social sciences interdisciplinary/sustainable development
/social sciences/sociology/governance/public services

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal
H2020-ICT-2015

Funding Scheme
RIA - Research and Innovation action

Coordinator

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO

Address
Via Calepina 14
38122 Trento
IT Italy

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

EU contribution
€ 651 500

Website
Contact the organisation
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<th>EU Contribution</th>
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<td>UNIVERSITAT POLITECNICA DE CATALUNYA</td>
<td>€ 303 000</td>
<td>Calle Jordi Girona 31 08034 Barcelona</td>
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<td>THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER LBG</td>
<td>€ 356 250</td>
<td>Regent Street 309 W1B 2UW London</td>
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<td>CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE CNRS</td>
<td>€ 360 000</td>
<td>Rue Michel Ange 3 75794 Paris</td>
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<td>NETHOOD</td>
<td>€ 0</td>
<td>Limmatstrasse 209 8005 Zurich</td>
<td>Other</td>
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ATHENS UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS - RESEARCH CENTER

Greece

EU contribution

€ 262 750

Address

Kefallinias Street 46
11251 Athens

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Contact the organisation

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Record number: 199879

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