

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “DIGITAL FOR GOOD”

Concept and narrative

The technological revolution has changed the way we live and work. But it can play a critical role in the way we address the needs of citizens and organizations to promote social change.

In fact, the use of tech to promote social innovation can play a key role in terms of scaling up and accessibility processes. It is also reshaping the way we manage projects performance, share data and measure impact.

Being aware of the fast path of the ongoing digital revolution and of its impact on the social sector, the Active Citizens Fund Operators of Portugal, Estonia and Malta have decided to organize a forum where the latest developments and trends shall be exchanged to secure a stronger and better prepared civil society in Europe, able to thrive in the digital age.

The conference “Digital for Good” is an opportunity not only to share achievements and promote peer learning between different social innovation stakeholders, but also to discuss new concepts and instruments like artificial intelligence or big data and to examine their impact on our lives and on our democracies. For that reason regulation, privacy and ethical standards cannot be absent from these discussions.

The agenda of the conference combines keynotes and plenary sessions of thought leaders of the sectors (Social Innovation and Digital Agenda) with breakout sessions with a thematic focus on different societal agendas (civic participation and human rights; education; health and inclusion; environment and climate change). A number of high level experts and IT entrepreneurs from several European countries and the U.S. will trigger and enlighten the discussions.

Objectives

The conference intends to present the state of the art regarding the digital agenda and its impact on the social sector but also to discuss the future trends of an area which is evolving very quickly and for which many social agents are not yet prepared. The new challenges resulting for this moving digital environment should generate transformation of the organizations themselves and also of the approaches, methodologies and tools underlying social responses and the promotion of public good and well-being.

The objective of the conference is therefore to raise awareness of CSOs and social agents and activists to the impact of digital innovation on the way they work and call

to action to ensure that the third sector shall be at the forefront of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Participants

The Conference addresses primarily Civil Society Organisations but it is open to academia, business and the general public. All Active Citizens Fund Operators and CSOs from the 15 ACF beneficiary countries shall also be invited to participate. A specific individual promotion will target CSOs. 300-400 participants are expected to attend.

Location

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Auditorium 2, Lisbon (Portugal)

Date

28 May 2020 (full day)

Draft Programme

09:30 – 10:00 | Opening Session

Isabel Mota, President of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
Anders Erdal, Ambassador of Norway to Portugal

10:00 – 12:00 | Plenary Session

The aim of the session is to discuss new trends and challenges of digital social innovation: how to work and organize for social good in the digital age, what approaches, tools and solutions are emerging, what opportunities are offered by new tech tools for social services, what threats can we foresee for activism and defense of values in our democratic societies?

Keynote – Lucy Bernholz - Digital Civil Society Lab at Stanford University

Panel of Specialists:

Geoff Mulgan - Faculty of Engineering Sciences, University College London
Alexiei Dingli - Faculty of Information & Communication Technology, University of Malta
Danielle Hernandez - IDC European Digital Transformation Practice
Filipe Santos – Business School, Catholic University of Portugal

Moderator: Rosália Amorim - Journalist

12:00 – 14:00 | Network Break & Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 | Breakout thematic sessions

The breakout sessions will enable to present challenges and solutions in different sectors across Europe and use them as enablers to discuss with the audience the potential of digital social innovation in key societal areas.

The panels of each session will have the contribution of an expert on the topic, a case study from an IT startup and an NGO insight on the impact of the digital era. The expert will provide guidelines on the landscape of the specific topic, including new digital trends. It will be followed by the presentation of two examples to discuss the challenges of developing digital solutions and how to best prepare this social area to seize the new opportunities.

Digital social innovation in practice – Civic participation and Human Rights: empower people voices through digital literacy and critical thinking

Clare E. Vassallo - Faculty of Arts, University of Malta
Paulo Ribeiro – Linkare, Digital on Civic Participation
Maarja Leena Saar - Estonian Cooperation Assembly

Moderator: Jaime Quesado - Expert in Innovation and Competiveness

Digital social innovation in practice: Education: changing the way we learn

Rui Grilo, Microsoft
Miguel Leocádio - Novabase
João Correia de Freitas - Educom, Associação Portuguesa de Telemática Educativa

Moderator: Fátima Caçador - Journalist

Digital social innovation in practice – Health and inclusion: new ways to promote well-being for all

Shawna Butler - Radboud University Medical Center, Singularity University
Helena Canhão - Patient Innovation
Stephen D'Alessandro - S.O.S. Malta

Moderator: Francisco Rocha Gonçalves – Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto

Digital social innovation in practice – Environment and climate change: make a sustainable world

Tiago Domingos - Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon University

Michael Parkes - BIOS

Kristiina Kerge - Let's Do It World Foundation

Moderator: Inês Santos Silva - Portuguese Women in Tech

15:30 – 15:45 | Break

15:45 – 17:00 | Final Plenary Session

Ethical issues, corporate governance and regulatory challenges in digital social innovation

What ethical problems the sector faces; what should be the role of regulation

Ciro Cattuto – ISI Foundation

Jaana Sinipuro – Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra

Stefaan Verhulst – GovLab, New York University

Moderator: Maria do Céu Patrão Neves - Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Azores

17:00 | Closing