



Swiss Internet Governance Forum

Largest Swiss Internet Governance Forum held since its foundation

The Swiss Internet Governance Forum was once again held in Bern. The national offshoot of the United Nations Internet Governance Process brings together various stakeholders to discuss digital policy ranging from AI regulation and cyber security to sustainability and digital rights. This year, more than 500 participants took part online and offline, more than ever before in the history of the conference.

5. June – Berne: For around ten years, a committed community has organized the annual Swiss Internet Governance Forum (Swiss IGF) under the patronage of OFCOM. The Swiss IGF is the national offshoot of the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF), the global process in which all stakeholders agree on the rules of the game on the Internet (“Internet Governance”). The global Internet Governance Forum was launched in 2005 at the UN World Summit on the Information Society ([WSISL](#)). Since then, numerous regional and national forums have formed spontaneously. At a regional - i.e. pan-European - level, the IGF process is being implemented as part of the [EuroDIG](#).

Unique format for participation

The Swiss IGF is open to all interested parties and participation is free of charge. The focus is on the best possible inclusion, which is why participation is possible off- and online and the discussions are also translated. In addition to a balanced stakeholder participation in the organization, the multi-stakeholder approach - a core element of Internet governance - is also lived in the composition of the speakers, from the public sector and the economy to academia and civil society.

The topics to be discussed are selected in a participatory bottom-up process, the *Call for Issues*.

The Swiss IGF thus offers a unique opportunity in Switzerland to inform and exchange views on the important issues of digital policy.

Doing justice to digital policy with thematic breadth

Originally launched as a pure Internet governance conference, the Swiss IGF has evolved thematically in recent years and reflects the thematic breadth and social relevance of digitalization through the *Call for Issues*. In addition to frequently discussed topics such as the role of data and fundamental digital rights, the topics of the individual sessions also provide an insight into topical issues

Once again, this year, a varied program was presented with three sessions on artificial intelligence: how it is regulated internationally, what this means for Switzerland and where the national debate and the role of AI stand in relation to disinformation and democratic processes.

The topics of cyber security, dealing with data leaks and the sustainability of digitalization were also discussed. Other sessions dealt with the issue of digital skills, digital rights and the expanded use of data.

For the first time, the new format of the Lightning Talk gave interested parties the opportunity to briefly present their work to the community: from new studies and the digital strategies of the Swiss administration to the Global Digital Compact and the Swiss position.

Messages as Input for international debates

Although no formal resolutions are passed at the Swiss IGF, the intensive exchange between various stakeholder groups makes it possible to obtain a picture of the mood on the topics discussed. The key messages from the individual sessions are therefore summarized in the *Messages from Berne*, which serve as input for regional and international discussions. Those [Messages](#) are freely available on the conference website just as the recordings of the individual sessions.

For further information please visit: <https://www.igf.swiss>