In celebration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information

IPDCTALKS 2018

Good Laws and Practices for Open Societies:
Powering Sustainable Development with Access to Information

PROGRAMME

27 September 2018
Cité de la Culture, Tunis, Tunisia

#IPDCtalks #righttoknow
PURPOSE OF THE IPDCTALKS

Through the IPDCTalks, a platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange, UNESCO raises public awareness and reinforces the knowledge of the participants on how access to information, along with strengthened media institutions and civil society that help ensure such access, is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Through inspiring story telling, key influencers present their innovative initiatives that have contributed or can contribute to making progress on a particular Sustainable Development Goal and in holding powerful actors accountable.

UNESCO’S ROLE IN ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The acknowledgement of communication and information within the 2030 Development Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals) - that is SDG 16 target 10 - is a result of the successful advocacy led by UNESCO and derives from the leadership of UNESCO’s IPDC governing bodies. Parallel to the recognition of these issues in the development agenda, UNESCO Member States agreed in 2016 to the recognition of each 28 September as the International Day for Universal Access to Information. This perfectly complements SDG 16.10, and reinforces much of UNESCO’s work in this area such as on Right to Information laws and ICT policies conducive to actual access to information and communication platforms.

In this context, IPDC organized the second IPDCTalks at UNESCO HQ and eleven decentralized IPDCTalks in Africa, Latin America and Asia Pacific on 28 September 2017. The events adopted a creative and innovative platform, inspired by the TEDxTalks-format, and rolled out extensive public awareness campaigns before and during the event to foster public engagement. As a result, the hashtag #IPDCTalks on Twitter generated more than 31 million impressions and became trending topic in ten different countries. The twelve events combined attracted around 3,000 participants, with more than 700,000 viewers for the live webcast of the IPDCTalks in Paris. Building on the success of the IPDCTalks in twelve different countries in 2017, this year the project aims to continue spreading the successful formula to other countries with the global celebration held in Tunisia (Cité de la Culture, Tunis) in partnership with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Tunisia.

FORMAT

Following the success of earlier editions of the IPDCTalks, the format of the 2018 IPDCTalks will adapt a TEDx Talks-like conference format. The speakers will appear alone on stage and will be introduced by a skillful TV-presenter.

The morning session will give the floor to innovative policymakers, public leaders and other experts to deliver a powerful message, illustrating innovative and creative initiatives or policies to foster public access to information so to address a particular SDG challenge. In the afternoon, new media/journalist platforms, cultural artists, community front-runners, digital pioneers and other actors speak about their work towards spurring progress on sustainable development, educating and informing people, and holding those with power accountable for their achievements.

The talks will be held in English, French and Arabic, livestreamed and made available in video extracts. The talks will be disseminated through UNESCO’s main media channels and the IPDCTalks partners’ national TV and radio channels.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
09.30 – 12.00 | Opening Ceremony

- Ms Albana Shala: Chair of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)
- Mr Imed Hazgui: President, Tunisian Authority for Access to Information
- Mr Moez Chakchouk: UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information
- Mr Mohamed Zine El Abidine: Minister of Cultural Affairs of Tunisia

10.00 – 13.00 | Morning Session - A Selection of Key SDGs

Master of Ceremony

Mr Mekki Helal (Tunisia) is the Director of Information for Atressia TV. He previously worked as a journalist for BBC Arabic and started his career in journalism as editor at the weekly Al Arabi newspaper. Mr Helal also served as news editor and reporter at Al Jazeera.

10.00 – 10.15 How Access to Information is the Leveler for Gender Inequality (SDG 5: Gender Equality)

Ms Tawakkol Karman (Yemen) is the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Ms Karman is a journalist, politician, and human rights activist. She is co-founder of the group "Women Journalists Without Chains". She became the international public face of the 2011 Yemeni uprising that is part of the Arab Spring uprisings. She has been called the "Mother of the Revolution" by Yemenis. Ms Karman gained prominence in her country after 2005 in her roles as a Yemeni journalist and an advocate for a mobile phone news service denied a license in 2007, after which she led protests for press freedom.

Questions & Answers with the audience


Mr Christiaan Triebert (The Netherlands) won the 2017 European Press Prize categorized for the Innovation Award for his outstanding work to monitor and investigate conflicts through merely using digital open source investigation. His heroic and creative work to unravel the truth in what is often called the post-truth era has brought him the nickname Tintin of the digital world by the Guardian. Mr Triebert is a frequent TEDx Talks-speaker and currently works for Bellingcat, an investigative journalism platform using open source information in armed conflicts. He reported e.g. from Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Ukraine.

Questions & Answers with the audience
11.00 – 11.15 How ICTs Are Empowering Nigeria’s Youth  
(SDG 9: Innovation and Industry)

Ms Mante Makauskaite (Lithuania) & Ms Jevgenija Kovaliova (Lithuania) focus on issues related to ICT for Development, with an anthropological mindset and interdisciplinary approach to the field of development cooperation. One of Ms Makauskaite’s and Ms Kovaliova’s key projects involves strengthening the skills of Nigerian youth through mentorship and skill sharing programs with European ICT companies.

Questions & Answers with the audience

11.30 – 11.45 How Gathering Information on National Educational Systems can lead to Quality Education for All  (SDG 4: Quality Education)

Ms Amel Karboul (Tunisia) is Member of the Education Commission which aim is to map the scale of the global ‘learning crisis’ and to know what is needed to actually achieve SDG 4: Quality Education for All. Together with the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown, Ms Karboul encourages all countries to monitor data and information on students to improve educational policies and practices per country. Ms Karboul is the first woman in history to occupy Tunisia’s Minister of Tourism from 2014 to 2015. She has given several TEDx Talks about the global learning crisis and shared actionable ideas to ensure that every child is in school and has access to the information to do so.

Questions & Answers with the audience

12.00 – 14.00 Free lunch offered by UNESCO  
(Reception, Cité de la Culture)

13.30 – 14.00 Musical performance (TBC)
14.00 – 17.00 | Afternoon session - Access to Information & SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

14.00 – 14.15 How Journalism can foster Sustainable Development (Access to Information)

Mr Andrew Jaspan (Australia) is the Director of The Global Academy, which aims to develop new forms of narratives for global journalism. Mr Jaspan has been at the forefront of digital and print media for the past 30 years. Mr Jaspan is also founder of The Conversation, Australia's largest independent news site, currently operating in Africa, US, UK, Canada, France, Spain, New Zealand and Indonesia.

Questions & Answers with the audience

14.30 – 14.45 How Open Data Can Drive Sustainable Development (SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

Mr Emmanuel Letouzé (France/US) is the Director of the DATA-POP Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, MIT Media LAB and Overseas Development Institutes. It promotes people-centered big data revolution and focuses on the use of data to reinforce capacity building in development countries. The work of the DATA-POP Alliances focuses on the linkages between data, politics and government, population statistics, peacebuilding and climate change.

Questions & Answers with the audience

15.00 – 15.15 How Investigative Journalism can help foster Peace and Justice (Access to Information & SDG 16: Peace and Justice)

Mr Aniruddha Bahal (India) is one of India's foremost investigative journalists. He is the founder and editor-in-chief of Cobrapost.com (2003), India's first investigative non-profit organization. Cobrapost has a record of accomplishment of over 100 investigative documentaries the subjects of which swing from exposing political corruption, corporate wrongdoings, genocide, communal politics, social wrongs, misuse of social media, and other topics.

Questions & Answers with the audience

15.30 – 15.45 How Journalism and Open Information can influence Consumer Behaviour and foster Climate Action (SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & SDG 13: Climate Change)

Ms Cyrielle Hariel (France) is a French journalist and 'changemaker', trying to make the world a better place through journalism. She is a journalist for Yahoo Green, a news website to promote the dissemination of 'climate change news' as well as an environmentally conscious lifestyle. Ms Hariel previously worked at Europe 1 and is author of "Faire battre le coeur du monde".

Questions & Answers with the audience
16.00 – 16.15 How Journalism is crucial for Open Societies (Access to Information)

Mr Christophe Deloire (France) is the Secretary-General of the leading press freedom watchdog Reporters Without Borders, headquartered in Paris, France. A former journalist and successful author, Mr Deloire has also served as the director of one of the leading journalism schools in France (CFJ).

Questions & Answers with the audience

16.30 - 17.00 Wrap-up Session: action points to guarantee public access to information

Moderator
- Ms Rosa M. Gonzalez (UNESCO) - Deputy Secretary of the IPDC

Panelists
- Mr Mohammed Adnène Trojette (Tunisia) - Deputy Secretary-General of the French Court of Audit
- Ms Saloua Ghazouani (Tunisia) - Head of the MENA-region of Article 19
- Ms Caroline Giraud (France) - International expert on Access to Information

The final wrap-up session will gather several experts in the field of access to information. They will provide a summary of main ideas presented throughout the day and reflect on how all of these can be formulated into concrete recommendations and action points for governments and non-governmental stakeholders to:

- Improve the legal and regulatory environment that ensures public access to information (SDG 16.10.2) and its implementation;
- Establish or reinforce monitoring mechanisms on the national level to measure progress on SDG 16.10.2 and other SDGs.

17.00 – 17.30 Closing Remarks

Introduced by
- Ms Sylvie Coudray
  UNESCO Chief of Freedom of Expression

Speakers
- Ms Golda El Khoury
  UNESCO Representative to Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia | Director of the Rabat Cluster Office
- Mr Rauno Merisaari
  Human Rights Ambassador of Finland
- Mr Ghazi Jeribi
  Minister of Justice of Tunisia