

# Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality

## Call for Papers

### *Network Neutrality: Emerging Challenges and Concrete Implementations*

#### Background:

Over the past two years, the importance of the network neutrality debate has become a priority for both national and international policy makers. While the US has explicitly banned discriminatory traffic management practices, such as blocking, throttling and paid prioritisation, other countries have already implemented or are currently formulating network neutrality laws and regulations, and even proposing to incorporate net neutrality principles within an [Internet Bill of Rights](#). At the same time, other governments are still considering whether and how to properly regulate Internet traffic management.

Even where the rule of non-discrimination has been enshrined into law, the practical details of implementation still have to be worked out. Some unanswered questions still remain with regard to what actually constitutes discrimination, and how should network neutrality principles be implemented into practice. On the other hand, new commercial offers based on price discrimination, such as the “zero-rated” services are being experimented in various countries by an increasing number of Internet players, raising questions as regards their compatibility with the non-discriminatory principles of network neutrality. On the one hand, Internet access is increasingly supported by the proliferation of grassroots Community Networks, relying on wireless connectivity and mesh networking technologies to set up alternative and autonomous network infrastructures, designed *by* the community and *for* the community. The traffic management practices adopted by these alternative initiatives remain unclear and only a limited amount of research has been developed on the matter.

The 2015 Report of the Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality aims at fostering a global reflection with regard to the relationship between the network-neutrality principle and the aforementioned emerging issues.

## **Call:**

The Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality, established under the auspices of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum, invites researchers and practitioners to submit a position paper pertaining to Network Neutrality: Emerging Challenges and Concrete Implementations.

After having explored the instrumental [role of NN in guaranteeing the full enjoyment of fundamental rights](#) and the [existing regulatory approaches to NN](#) in different countries, the Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality seeks to trigger discussion around the emerging practices that might either support or endanger the effective application of Network Neutrality principles, considering the latest evolutions in Internet access.

Suggested topics include analyses of, *inter alia*:

- Costs and benefits of price-discrimination schemes, such as zero-rating practices
- Traffic discrimination via unconventional broadband access (*e.g.* drones, balloons, etc.)
- Network neutrality approaches within Community Networks
- Net neutrality challenges linked the convergence of wireless and mobile networks
- The value of network neutrality for the Internet of Things
- Case studies of net-neutrality law enforcement and regulatory implementation

## **Submission Guidelines:**

Research papers, including analytical and theoretical papers, position papers, or case studies will be considered for inclusion in the report, even if they have been previously published. The length of the submissions should be between 2500 and 5000 words. To facilitate the reviewing process, papers should not include author names or other information that would help identify the authors.

All paper shall be in English language, and formatted according to the **HWPiL style template**. Submissions are due on **1st August, 2015**. They should include the following elements:

- Title
- Short abstract (250 words)

- Original contribution
- Author's name, affiliation and short bibliographical note (in the body of the email).

Submissions should be sent to [contact@networkneutrality.info](mailto:contact@networkneutrality.info) Authors will be notified within approximately two weeks from the deadline as to the status of their contributions.

All submitted papers will be subject to a rigorous double-blind peer review, whereby each paper will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. Everyone who submitted a paper will be asked to peer review another submission, which will be judged according to the novelty of the contribution, the theoretical soundness and the quality of presentation.

Authors will be given the opportunity to improve their contributions based on peer comments. Selected papers will be published into the Dynamic Coalition Report, which will be published under Open Access conditions. All authors must ensure that their contribution can be licensed under one of the Creative Commons licenses of their choice.

Some of the authors will also be invited (at their own expenses) to present their work at the annual DC meeting to be held at the United Nation Internet Governance Forum, from 10 to 13 November 2015, in Joao Pessoa, Brazil.