NGI COMMONS WORKSHOP 2024 IGNITES KEY CONVERSATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL COMMONS IN EUROPE

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Amsterdam, 5th June 2024: The **NGI Commons Workshop 2024: Co-Creating Digital Commons Priorities for Europe's Digital Decade** convened over 50 experts, policymakers, and Digital Commons practitioners at the **Tolhuistuin** venue in Amsterdam's Noord district for a pivotal one-day workshop focused on shaping Europe's public-interest digital future.

Organised by the **NGI Commons consortium**, the workshop explored core questions around the definition, funding, and policy alignment of **Digital Commons**, shared, open, and accessible digital resources and infrastructures developed for the public good.

The event featured members of NGI Commons' advisory bodies—the **Digital Commons Task Force (DCTF)** and the **Strategic Advisory Panel (SAP)**—alongside representatives from related European initiatives such as the **European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) for Digital Commons**, currently being developed by France, the Netherlands, Germany, and Estonia.

"The workshop was rich and busy, providing us a useful foundation of inputs from the community which will hopefully lead the way in creating a Digital Commons environment that serves the interests of all its citizens and contributes positively to global progress," said **Jean-Luc Dorel**, Programme Officer, European Commission.

Engagement and Outcomes

Structured across **six sessions**, the workshop included:

- In-depth presentations contextualising the NGI Commons project within the broader **Next Generation Internet (NGI)** policy landscape.
- Two participatory, interactive sessions where stakeholders shared experiences from the field.

- A closing ideation workshop where future priorities for Digital Commons were collaboratively brainstormed.

Participants—both in-person and online—brought diverse insights that converged into **four key considerations** for the future development of Digital Commons in Europe:

1. **Guard Against Concept Drift**
   There is a need to anchor and continually reaffirm the meaning and relevance of the Digital Commons, particularly to policymakers, to prevent it from becoming a diluted or misunderstood concept.

2. **Promote Awareness & Narratives**
   Stronger storytelling and media engagement are essential to embed Digital Commons into broader digital transformation and governance discourses, making the case for their social and civic value.

3. **Rethink Funding Models**
   Workshop discussions highlighted the importance of exploring diverse, flexible funding mechanisms—such as **cascade funding**—and examining what approaches best support long-term sustainability.

4. **Embed Digital Commons Across Policy Areas**
   To avoid siloing, the Digital Commons agenda must be actively connected to other policy initiatives, from AI governance to digital sovereignty and infrastructure resilience.

"While the Digital Commons landscape in Europe is still young," noted **Karolina Gyurovszka**, from Martel Innovate and session co-facilitator, *"there are already strong foundations to build from—what's needed now is alignment, ambition, and strategic investment."*

A Path Forward

The NGI Commons Workshop 2024 marks a significant step in Europe's efforts to build a more **human-centric, democratic, and sovereign digital future**. By bringing together leading voices and surfacing shared priorities, the event has laid the groundwork for deeper cooperation across borders and sectors.

A full **Workshop Summary Report** is available for download, capturing key insights and recommendations that will inform future NGI Commons policy proposals and project activities.

For more information about NGI Commons or to access the report, visit: **https://commons.ngi.eu/2024/07/08/ngi-commons-workshop-2024-a-summary-report/**

About NGI Commons

NGI Commons is run by a consortium that includes Martel Innovate, who coordinates the project, OpenForum Europe, the Open Future Foundation, the Linux Foundation, and the Centre Internet et Société (CIS) of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). The project is a Cooperation and Support Action (CSA) within the Next Generation Internet (NGI) Initiative and will be carried out between January 2024 to December 2026.

About Next Generation Internet (NGI)

NGI Commons is part of the European Commission's Next Generation Internet (NGI) Initiative. The NGI initiative aims to reimagine the internet as an interoperable platform ecosystem that embodies the values of openness, inclusivity, transparency, privacy, and cooperation. The end goal is to create a range of open-source and decentralised solutions, which provide an alternative to mainstream and help achieve digital sovereignty. NGI has already provided 1000+ innovative projects with more than 350 million euros of funding since 2018.

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- BlueSky
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- Matrix
  https://matrix.to/#/#ngi-commons:matrix.org
- Zenodo |
  https://zenodo.org/communities/ngicommons/

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