

Internet Governance in Russia: State of the Play

A Presentation for APIA
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General Natural Challenges

- **Institutional pillars missing:**
 - **genuine representative democracy;**
 - **the concept of “*Contract Social*”;**
- **No tradition of seeking a broad consensus**
- **The concepts of “stakeholder” and “community” are foreign to the Russian language and conscience**

A Promising Onset: Legal Fundamentals

- **“While allocating the numbering of the Russian segment of the international telecommunications networks, the RF Government takes into consideration the commonly used international practice of operation of self-regulated organizations in the said area”**

(the Federal Law of 1994 and Resolution of the RF Gov't of 2004)

Nowadays: Roses

- **Strong technical community**
- **Robust business environment**
- **A plethora of civil society organizations: research, advocacy, dialogue with the Government**
- **MS has taken its roots to give rise to an anti-unilateral IG practices – Gov't to reassure Internet's openness and freedoms**
- **Sound legal grounds in IPR protection; cybercrime; users rights**
- **Academic research in IG, cybersecurity, international cooperation**
- **Russian IGF- the biggest event across Eurasia, MS-based**

Nowadays: Thorns

- **Draconian legislation potentially having very adverse effects Internet's advancement;**
- **Small ISPs to leave the market due to new burdensome requirements**
- **Toying with the Great Firewall and closed-circuit RuNet concepts and other controversial practices**
- **Gov't campaigning for multilateralism and information security on international arena as opposed to MS and cybersecurity**
- **Coupled with a severe economic crisis, narrowing market and acceleration of brain drain and business' exodus**

The Outlook

- **Scenario-based; in the short to medium run (3-5 years):**
 - **Optimistic:**
 - **Core values revisited & best international practices promoted (*probability: highly unlikely*);**
 - **Moderate:**
 - **Inconducive legal environment in place but not enforced; MS practices not encouraged but in place; domestic and international cooperation not advancing, but dialogue is there (*probability: unlikely*)**
 - **Pessimistic:**
 - **the conservative agenda is promoted to further aggravate the state of affairs; further policy setbacks; inability to replicate the concept of a “sterile” RUNet gives rise to further tensions domestically and internationally (*probability: quite likely*)**

Community as a Pivot

- **3 avenues:**
- **Awareness raising: Russian IGF; lectures & other public events for target audiences (students, ISPs, school teachers; journalists**
- **Outreach: decision makers;**
- **Education and infotainment with focus on youth**
- **International cooperation**

Thank you

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