



# ***FREEDOM AND SECURITY ONLINE IN BELARUS: WINDOWS FOR OPPORTUNITIES***



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# ***FREEDOM AND SECURITY ONLINE IN BELARUS***

## **IS THERE A WAY TO BALANCE FREEDOM AND SECURITY ONLINE?**

- Internet freedom
- Cybersecurity
- Data protection
  - Context
  - Challenges and possible answers
  - Battle lines

## **HOW TO MAKE BATTLE INTO COLLABORATION**





# **ACCESS TO INTERNET**

Population 9 467 000

Internet users 4,910 000



**Internet penetration 67%**

**84, 4% access internet on daily basis**

# INTERNET FREEDOM: violations of users' rights

2013



- Blocking access
- Filtering (*DPI is not only for spam*)
- Infiltration of viruses
- Censorship
- Blacklists





# ***INTERNET FREEDOM: ecology***

Freedom to connect

Freedom of expression

Free access to information

Freedom of assembly online

Free access to and usage of resources and services of the global network

- Access
- Privacy and anonymity
- Openness and neutrality
- Integrity
- Transparency of internet governance decision making processes



# ***INTERNET FREEDOM: context***

- ❑ Government: command and control
- ❑ Low level of public awareness (esp. internet ecology)
- ❑ Belarusian legislation does not provide satisfactory basis for proper balance between freedom and security online, lawmakers focus on restrictive measures
- ❑ Alliance of bureaucracy and internet-industry lobby lies at the heart of decision-making on issues of internet related policies

# ***INTERNET FREEDOM: challenges and answers***

## Lawtrend (2013) Internet freedom: Political Principles and Judicial Norms. The Republic of Belarus in a Global Context



СВОБОДНЫЙ ИНТЕРНЕТ: ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ ПРИНЦИПЫ  
И ПРАВОВЫЕ НОРМЫ. БЕЛАРУСЬ В ГЛОБАЛЬНОМ  
КОНТЕКСТЕ

2013

- fragmented discussions,
- no recommendations, designed for various interested parties,
- Belarusian actors are not involved into shaping global internet governance processes

Any correction of the deficiencies could become possible only in case of

- development of the adequate framework for structuring internet policy issues,
- involvement of non-state actors into internet governance discussions on national and international levels





# **CYBERSECURITY:** ***context***

- ❑ Technocratic approach (informatization)
  - part of national ICT development program
  - doesn't have any specific political attention
  
- ❑ Low level of public awareness
  
- ❑ Belarusian legislation does not provide satisfactory basis for proper balance between freedom and security online, lawmakers focus on restrictive measures
  
- ❑ Discrepant influences of external (foreign) actors



# CYBERSECURITY: *analysis*



e-Governance Academy

EGA (2013)\_Comparative Study of Open Governance and Data security in EaP Countries



CyberCrime@EAP Council of Europe Facility: Cooperation against Cybercrime

- ❑ (2013) Strategic Priorities for the Cooperation against Cybercrime in the Eastern Partnership Region
- ❑ (2012) Progress Report





# ***CYBERSECURITY: external incitements***

## **CyberCrime@EAP Council of Europe Facility: Cooperation against Cybercrime**

Continue the work to accede to the Budapest Convention

Announced in 2012

Develop a national cybercrime strategy including the protection of critical infrastructure.

Amendments to the national legislation

Establish a multi-agency task force to discuss and resolve practical challenges against cybercrime.

Announced in 2014

To found a national computer emergency response team (CERT) and integrate it into the international CSIRT/CERT network

Fulfilled in 2013

# ***CYBERSECURITY: external incitements***

Russian Federation

Council of Europe

Convention on international  
information  
security  
(2011)

Convention on cybercrime  
(2001)





# ***PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION: context***

- ❑ Technocratic approach (informatization)
  - doesn't have any specific political attention
- ❑ Low level of public awareness
- ❑ Low level of lawmakers expertise
- ❑ Belarusian legislation does not provide satisfactory basis for protection of personal data

Belarus is the only EaP country which has not signed Council of Europe Convention for the protection of individuals with regard to automatic procession of personal data

# ***PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION: challenges and answers***

Lawtrend (2013) Internet freedom: Political Principles and Judicial Norms. The Republic of Belarus in a Global Context



- no adequate definition of personal data,
- no specific law on personal data protection,
- legislation is based on sectorial approach,
- technical standards and codes of good, practice instead of laws
- no special data protection authority
- no independent expert agency

Any correction of the deficiencies could become possible only in case of

- development of the adequate framework for structuring data protection issues;
- capacity building of state and non-state actors,
- public awareness rising





# ***IS THERE A WAY TO BALANCE FREEDOM AND SECURITY ONLINE?***

Belarusian legislation does not provide satisfactory basis for proper balance between freedom and security online, lawmakers focus on restrictive measures.

Major impediments for  
comprehensive internet freedom  
cybersecurity  
protection of personal data

- Government: command and control
- Technocratic approach (informatization)
- Low level of public awareness
- Alliance of bureaucracy and internet-industry lobby lies at the heart of decision-making on issues of internet related policies
- Discrepant influences of external (foreign) actors

# IS THERE A WAY TO BALANCE FREEDOM AND SECURITY ONLINE?

Data protection

## Priorities for society/citizens

Net neutrality and integrity

Priority for government and EU

Cybersecurity

## Key success factors

- Awareness rising
- State and non-state actors capacity building
- Involvement of state and non state actors into internet governance processes
- Transparency of cybersecurity strategies and capacity building projects (including EaP programmes)

- Transparency of cybersecurity strategies and capacity building processes





# CONCLUSION

- ✓ In current political context, a feasible framework for balanced freedom and security online can be centered around data protection, net neutrality and integrity issues
- ✓ This agenda is likely to provide premises for state and non - state actors collaboration for public awareness rising and capacity building





**Thank you!**

