

More coordination or a less cross-border internet, shows world's first Internet & Jurisdiction Global Status Report

The pioneering Internet & Jurisdiction Global Status Report 2019 of the multistakeholder organization Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network exposes a dangerous spiral of uncoordinated policy making. At a time when the world has never been so interconnected, reactive and quick-fix, unilateral regulatory initiatives proliferate to tackle new digital challenges. This legal arms race is threatening the future of the cross-border internet, unless actors actively coordinate.

- *79% of surveyed stakeholders consider that there is insufficient international coordination and coherence to address cross-border legal challenges on the internet.*
- *95% of them agree that cross-border legal challenges on the internet will become increasingly acute in the next three years.*
- *Only 15% of them believe that we already have the right institutions to address these challenges.*

These are alarming statistics from the world's first comprehensive mapping of internet and jurisdiction trends, actors and initiatives. Released on **November 27, 2019** at the United Nations Internet Governance Forum in Berlin, the Internet & Jurisdiction Global Status Report, combines detailed desk research with a global data collection from over 150 key stakeholders – states, internet companies, technical operators, civil society, academia and international organizations from five continents.

50 years after the creation of the internet, the report reveals a growing amount of public and private regulatory initiatives, multiplying worldwide, to address transnational issues, ranging from online abuse and security to data protection and artificial intelligence. The problem is, these actions are often uncoordinated and designed under the pressure of urgency, leading to competing or conflicting policies and court decisions.

“We are facing an institutional challenge: makeshift policy measures do not address problems in a coherent and sustainable manner. Stakeholders must develop new ways to coordinate to address their common challenges. We collectively need to move beyond governance bricolage.” said Bertrand de La Chapelle, Executive Director and Co-founder of the Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network.

The absence of coordination is leading to a divergence of standards and preventing actors from efficiently addressing online issues. The lack of legal interoperability is creating high levels of legal uncertainty and generating distrust among internet users who cannot know which rules on the cross-border internet apply.

“The report is a first-of-its-kind resource for evidence-based policy making. It illustrates the sheer scale of uncoordinated policy initiatives and the impact this is having on our ability to address cross-border legal challenges on the internet” said author of the Report, Professor Dr. Dan Svantesson.

About the Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network

The [Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network](#) is the multistakeholder organization addressing the tension between the cross-border internet and national jurisdictions. Its Paris-based Secretariat facilitates a [global policy process](#) in which over 300 key entities including governments, the world’s largest internet companies, technical operators, civil society groups, academia and international organizations from over 50 countries work together. They enhance policy coherence and legal interoperability through the joint development of operational solutions.

The Report and Infographics can be downloaded here: <https://www.internetjurisdiction.net/report>

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