

**Internet Inclusion: Advancing Solutions**  
**Working Group Outcome Document**  
**24 April 2018**

Working Group Name: Community Networks

Working Group Chair(s): Roger Baig Viñas

Individual Participants (including name and affiliation):

- Ethan Green (EveryoneOn)
- Jane Coffin (ISOC)
- Steve Song (NSRC)

Achievements to date including launches, agreements, and commitments:

- Not yet. A report on the work resulting of the discussions is expected.

Key Discussion Points:

- Access to finance: currently existing financial tools neither meet the financial bodies (significant amount of money per allocation (+10M\$), formal agreements, liability, etc.) nor the CNs realities (small scale projects (usually ~10K\$), no financial grantees, etc.).
  - We started discussing opportunity to create an intermediate body to bridge this gap (demand aggregation, risk diversification, techno-economic validation, project management, etc.) [In 2016 did some work in this direction with the European Investment Bank -the resulting documents are available to the WG]
- Name and definition: discussion on the name of the WG and the definition of “Community Networks” has appeared again.
  - This shows that it is an issue that must be addressed
- As one of the largest and most successful community networks in the world, Guifi.net’s network commons model based on the work of Elinor Orstrom is clearly very successful yet communicating the details of the Guifi.net model remains a challenge. More compelling communication on the practical application of their philosophy and operations might help accelerate the uptake of their approach.

Outcome of Discussion including Key Messaging points:

- From working with/talking to Community Networks and Practitioners, we know we need a focus on:
  - Technical Training
  - Business/Sustainability Training
  - Backbone Access
  - Funding/Financing Models: Network, hardware, management
- Standardization would help to optimize efforts.
  - Network description
  - Procedures

- Good practices – we already know of a good number of success stories that are worthwhile to compile – there is also a good number of unsuccessful initiatives that should be used as a reference to repeat mistakes.

#### Notable Projects and Upcoming Events:

- Wireless Battlemesh (Berlin, 7-11 May, technical meeting) + Wireless Community Weekend (Berlin, 11-13 May, FreiFunk annual gathering event): ISOC CNSIG first meeting
- Third Summit of African Community Networks (August TBD)
- OPPORTUNITY: a worldwide gathering meeting of CNs is missing. It existed in the past, but it was stopped due to the lack of funding.

#### Next Steps:

- Reactivate the WG mailing list (<https://l listes.guifi.net/sympa/info/ii-as-cn>)
- Create a repository of case studies, sample financing models, etc.
- Coordinate with research groups in the space
- Make other teams aware of activities, invitation to participate
- Work with Public Access team on messaging