

Integrating web 2.0 technologies and mobile phones to simplify, improve and heighten civil society's use of new technologies to expand the technological pathways to inclusion and participation in global decision making at all levels

Thematic Track: Connecting people through technology

Activity Format : Flash presentation

Number of participants : Men : 20 Women : 25 (Total : 45)

Time and date : September 11th 11h-12h30

Presenters :

- Juan Camusso Institutional Development Director, Foundation for the Development of Sustainable Policies (FUNDEPS) www.fundeps.org Argentina
 - Heather Leson Director of Community Engagement Ushahidi www.usahidi.com Kenya
 - Alix Dunn Egypt Training Network Coordinator, MobileActive | SaferMobile www.mobileactive.org USA
 - Kristin Antin, New Tactics in human rights Online Community Builder at Center for Victims of Torture
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Abstract

The integration of mobile phones/applications and Internet technologies into formats that are easy to access and use creates further inclusionary platforms that require little technical skills, relatively little time investment and information flows in multiple directions that encourage discussion. This culminates in the growing availability of locally and globally relevant content to facilitate knowledge-building, community building and speedy mobilisation of groups to transform their world, in addition to giving civil society advocates a timely and speedy voice in global decision making processes. Employing the Flash Presentation format, this session will enhance and strengthen civil society's access to and participation in global decision making processes through informed and heightened use of web 2.0 technologies, mobile phones and mobile applications to simplify, expand and improve the technological pathways to inclusion and participation in global decision making at all levels.

Key presentation items

Mr. Camusso was the moderator of the workshop (opening speech).

Ms. Heather Leson : Director of Community Engagement from Ushahidi.

(www.usahidi.com (Kenya). She showed us how to use Ushahidi open-source platform (collect info and add it to a map).

It helps you to identify places and people by email , mobile , iphone, by check-ins and identify what you want to monitor, what topics are interesting to you.

Use:

- Election monitoring, used in some countries, soon in Argentina.
- Disaster response, using geomapping and text messaging
- Building bridges 6000 SMS messages + Ushaidi map, a tool for the Haitian Community. Only 6% have internet access, not everybody has mobile phones.
- Guatemala, tracking poll stations for election campaigns

Alix Dunn, from **MobileActive | SaferMobile** www.mobileactive.org USA

MobileActive aims to support activists interested in using mobile technologies for social change.

Governments are using social media against social change.

The idea is that “we have a lot of information on our devices, we don’t want the government to have access to.”

Resources:

- InTheClear (Wikipedia) <http://lab.safermobile.org/wiki/InTheClear>

It is a suite of mobile applications designed to keep users safer in difficult situations by using their phone's built-in tools. Two main features: Emergency SMS and Data Wipe.

Advantage: Ability to record information on your server without violating certain laws, no broadcasting.

Kristin Antin, **New Tactics in human rights Online Community Builder at Center for Victims of Torture** (based in Minnesota USA)

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/kristin-antin/6/647/8b>

Her organization held over 40 dialogues on how to use technology to promote transparency. Projects: using budgets, choosing reconciliation policies, using mobile phones/video for human rights work, using technology for documenting human rights violations.

<http://www.tacticaltech.org/>

Resources:

- Book: SECURITY IN A BOX (available online for free in many languages) <https://security.ngoinabox.org/>
- Film: Survival in the Digital Age Films

Were diversity, equality or gender issues raised or tackled?

No

Check the categories of results that apply for this session and give examples.

- Information on best practices**

<http://www.tacticaltech.org/> (using mobile phone/video for human right work)

- Dissemination of participatory methodologies**
Book: SECURITY IN A BOX
Film: Survival in the Digital Age Films
- Strengthening and developing of collaborations**
Ushaidi
One of the audiences said that “mobile tools should be used to facilitate human connections, not to substitute them. We have a great opportunity of developing partnerships and friendships at CIVICUS”.
- Dissemination of Canadian civil society expertise
- Concrete follow-up for development outputs

Questions from the audience and answers (summary)

N/A

Key lessons of the session

Group 1

- Social media for political awareness. Examples: people from Bahrain telling their stories online. Videos were downloaded by satellite television.

Group 2

- Challenge of using the technology to link up to existing systems/infrastructure. Example: How can we use this new data to link up to the UNICEF or the World Bank?

Group 3

- Getting your message out, post status updates on Facebook, the media may pick up on these messages if your Facebook friends happen to be journalists.
- Learning curve: how can we sync our key messages through one platform and reach our target audience? By using blogs.

Group 4

- Lack of people savvy enough to use it. We need to find a small group of enthusiastic people to learn and exchange ideas.

Group 5

- Using Facebook as a tool for creating revolutions. At first, people used Facebook because they needed to mobilize all the resources they had against dictators.

Now Facebook is used as a counter revolution tool. The police does not need to set up a database.

Challenge: Mobile tools should be used to facilitate human connections, not to substitute them. We have a great opportunity of developing partnerships and friendships at CIVICUS.

Suggestion: "Let's build an application that we can use when applying to CIVICUS, that allows us to add our own skill sets, and be able to use free time to have dinner with like-minded delegates, our mobile device will VIBE when walking around at CIVICUS next to delegates who share similar interests and complementary skills".

Handed documentation, resources and suggested readings

The following Toolkits by Tactical Technology Collective and Frontline Defenders:

1. Security in- a- Box
2. Mobiles in- a- Box
3. Message in- a- Box
4. MAPS for advocacy
5. Visualising information for advocacy
6. Protection Handbook For Human Rights Defenders

List of websites

1. www.poldec.org
2. www.fundeps.org
3. www.witness.org
4. www.usahidi.com
5. www.freedomfone.org
6. www.tacticaltech.org
7. www.frontlineSMS.com
8. www.frontlinedefenders.org
9. www.mobileactive.org
10. www.wikimappa.org

Contact person and organisation

Cristiana Charles-lyoha - kristie@poldec.org
kristie@poldec.org, jmcamusso@fundeps.org

