

FREEDOM AND SECURITY ONLINE IN BELARUS: WINDOWS FOR OPPORTUNITIES



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"Cyber security, Data protection and Freedom on the Internet.

Seminar for experts from the Eastern Partnership countries"



e-belarus.org T developments in the Republic of Belarus

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

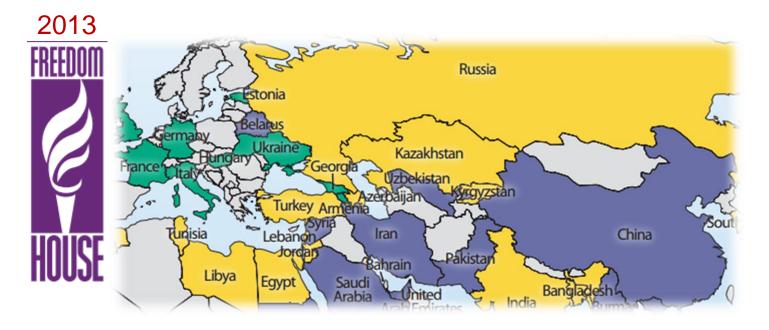
Internet penetration 67%

84, 4% access internet on daily basis



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INTERNET FREEDOM: violations of users' rights



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



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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

Transparence of internet governance decision making processes





INTERNET FREEDOM: where is the battle line?

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

Transparence 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



- □ 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



belarus.org levelopments in the Republic of Belarus

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



CYBERSECUIRTY: analysis



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	S.ORG the Republic of Belarus
To found a national computer emergency response team (CERT) and integrate it into the international CSIRT/CERT network	Fulfilled in 2013	e-belaru
	LAWTREND	

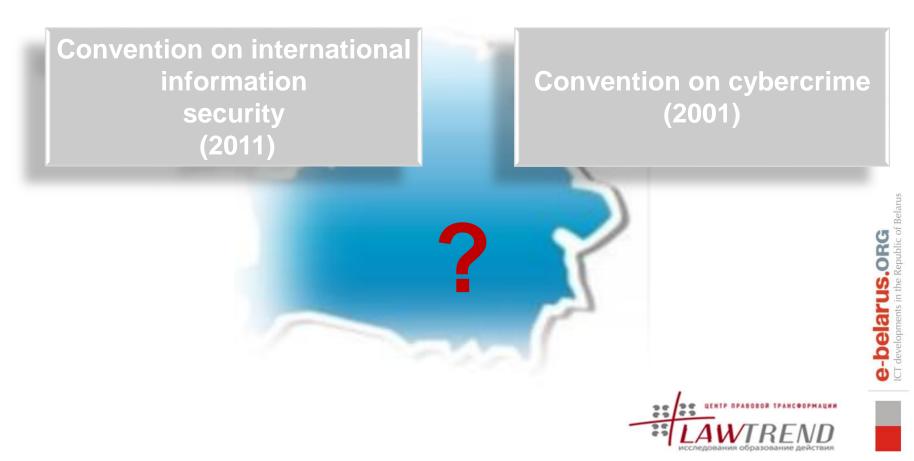
исследования образование действия



CYBERSECURITY: external incitements

Russian Federation

Council of Europe



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

Net neutrality and integrity

Priority for government and EU

Cybersecurity

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)

projects (including EaP programmes)

Transparency of cybersecurity strategies and capacity building

processes

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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!







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