

Unicity vs diversity in cyberspace

The routes for an intercultural dialogue on digital issues are now taking new directions. The world recomposes itself on a massive scale and at high speed. New frontiers are emerging, sometimes virtual, and multiple diasporas, due to migrations and climate change, are reshaping demography worldwide. However if government, industry and civil society recognize the urgency of this phenomenon, the importance of crossing knowledge and culture in cyberspace is still neglected.

Thus, the plurality of language and cultural diversity, the inner soul of any population, must be recognized as a "common good" at international level. There is an urgency to promote local languages and cultures in cyberspace, those which are largely forgotten by the dominant digital platforms. Moreover the ethical values which are at the core of the digital humanities entail to open new research fields through an enhanced academic dialogue. We need to map the proper conceptual frame for such a paradigm. Meanwhile a mediation process should be put in place on how to share language of words and signs on the Internet, and to gain mutual respect for the traditions peculiar to each continent.

Finally, one of the main questions raised by the "knowledge digital society" is the cultural gap which remains, along with the lack of equipment and of power supply, and which ignores the cognitive processes specific to each culture.

In short, we must go beyond the current Unesco "Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions". New legal instruments and methods of governance for the knowledge digital society should be put in place.

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