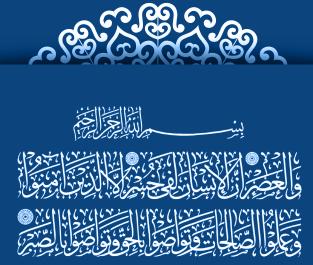


## **Data for Governance Lab**

## Co-creating the Future in the Digital Era





In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

By time (1)

Indeed, mankind is in loss (2)

Except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience. (3)

# **Data for Governance Lab**

[Students] should not drown themselves in the internet. Well, the internet does exist in the country despite all the things that are said here and there. Social media exists and the internet exists. Some people sit around waiting to be flooded with analyses, news, and content from the internet. That's wrong. You need to seize control of the social media. You should be the ones to direct it, your thoughts, news, and analyses should go out on the internet, not the other way around.

– April 2023 ,18 - Imam Khamenei -





## Annual Report 2022 Data for Governance Lab

а,

**L**1

## **Table of Contents**

Introduction	3
Manifest	6
<u>At a Glance</u>	7
Our Colleagues	10
Projects	16
Publications	27
Events	<u>32</u>
International Communications	<u>44</u>
The Way Forward	<u>48</u>
Partners	<u>49</u>
Contact us	50

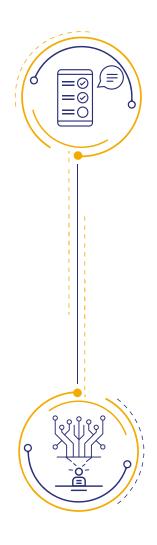




The government is crucial in promoting digital economy development, particularly in creating a favorable environment for ICT infrastructure development and digital innovation. And this is exactly the missing point regarding the interventions adopted by the European and U.S. governance regimes with development issues, especially within the technology field. The orchestration among national regulators, the private sector, SMEs, and academia is vital to producing workable governance arrangements.

"In the current political order of the digital world, which has automatically turned all people into digital citizens of American platforms by default, we must establish a third way for the new generation of young people in the EU beyond the borders of US technology giants to bring about its navigation." said the President of France - Emmanuel Macron - at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2018.

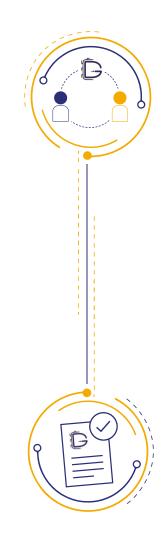
An essential feature of emerging and evolving communication and information technologies is that they transcend the boundaries of national sovereignty and change the common areas of authority of public, private, and social institutions. In this way, creating a sense of insecurity and trying to empower modes of governance institutions and the concern of making a profit and increasing economic productivity in



entrepreneurs and private sector activists creates a dichotomy; This conflict is global today, and all countries and national and international businesses are involved in it in some way.

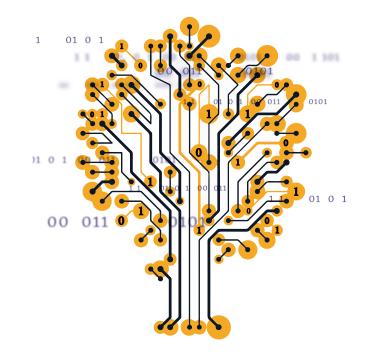
The <u>Data for Governance Lab</u> (D4G-Lab) seeks to establish a link between national entrepreneurs and public institutions to foster technological innovation without the need for direct state funding, aiming for competitive and scalable markets. As a missionary watchword, "Let our national sovereignty map its own territory."

D4G-Lab is a specialized think tank in the cyber policy and digital economy field, focusing on policy solutions to systematically and effectively reduce the digital gap and inequality and develop inclusive and grassroots digital literacy, in the era of disruptive technologies and the transition to web 2.0 and web 3.0, as its devoted mission.



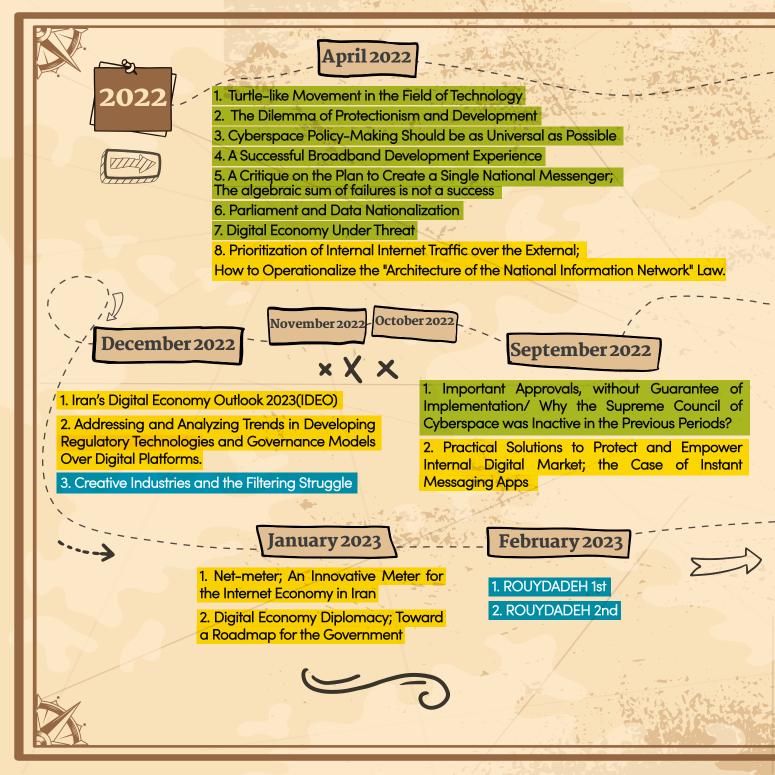
## Manifest

- 1. Dealing with the public issues in ICT policy; an innovation-led, inclusive, sustainable economic growth and digital transformation through a mission-driven state.
- 2. The prioritization of the private sector in the development process
- 3. The acknowledgment of training and development of human resources
- 4. Developing the country's governance capacity in the digital era
- 5. Transparency and free flow of information within the organization











 1.The Indefinite Equation of Internet Governance (Territorial War in a Border-less Cyberspace)
2. Official Law Draft; Countering Disinformation, Misinformation, and Fake News on Cyberspace

1. World Conference on Telecommunications Development (ITU-WTDC)

July 2022

June 2022

 5G Instead of Optical Fiber; Is There a Shortcut to Compensate for the Underdevelopment of the Network Infrastructure?
A Paradigm Shift in Digital Market Regulation: Brexit
Artificial Respiration to the Internet in the Country
The Development of the Internet Economy is Impossible in the Absence of Optical Fiber
Cyberspace Conflict in China



1. The National Information Network is Waiting for a Tough Decision; Is the Originality with the Market or the Government?

2. The GDPR and the Personal Data Protection Issue

3.Evaluation of the Government's One-year Performance in the Field of Information and Communication Technology

4. Digital Economy and Emerging Policy Challenges

**Publications** 

March 2023

 Pre-event of Persian domain names; Internet for everyone
ROUYDADEH 3rd
ROUYDADEH 4th
ROUYDADEH 5th
ICANN; International Conference

**Projects** 

Events

The End

1 7

International communications







#### || Ph.D. in Management, Decision Sciences - HEC Montreal University ||

Hossein Mirzapour is a mentor, lecturer, and policy entrepreneur. For more than 16 years, he has been studying, researching, and working on different aspects of policymaking and particularly reforms through public-private partnerships. Having received his engineering degree at Sharif University, he moved to Paris to pursue his MSc in Economics & Corporate Management at IFP School. Later, he left Renault Co to return to the Middle East and participate in projects about the emerging reforms of local markets, such as the privatization of Iranian stateowned energy companies. That allowed him to co-found Sharif Policy Research Institute (SPRI) at Sharif University. He served as the deputy director at SPRI until he started the joint Ph.D. administration program at the University of Montreal, HEC School of Business. He founded Data for Governance Lab (D4GLab), where young talents challenge themselves to educate top local decision-makers on value extraction from big data as the new oil. Recently, he founded Tanzim-Yar as a start-up studio for regulation and governance technologies, where just at the end of the first year, its 4th start-up is already to exit. On top of that, he's married and a dad of 3 kids, all born in the age of digital platforms!



### Imad al-Din Payande

#### || M.A. in Social Sciences \_ University of Tehran ||

Imad al-Din Payande has a Master's Degree in Social Sciences from the University of Tehran. He directs the Data Sovereignty research group within the Data for Governance Lab (D4GLab). Before that, he spent more than three years as a media policy researcher and analyst at Sharif Governance Think Tank (GPTT). Relying on the literature of regulation and public policy, He brings about policy briefs and consultations, helping regulatory bodies in the field of ICT and Cyberspace reinforce



data-driven policy-making, to support public interest, protect the domestic market and drive social change in the age of "Data is the new oil." Mainly, he is interested in emerging approaches to disruptive technologies regulation and "How to get away from digital totalitarianism" in favor of reg-tech solutions and co-creation.



## Seyed Ahmad Hosseini Ghourtani

#### || M.Sc. in Philosophy of Science \_ Sharif University of Technology ||

Seyed Ahmad Hosseini Ghourtani is a senior policy analyst at Data for Governance Lab (D4G lab). He completed his bachelor's degree in theoretical physics, and due to his philosophical curiosities and scientific background, he completed his master's degree simply by studying the philosophy of science and technology at the Sharif University of Technology. In addition to contemplating philosophical issues in science and technology, he gradually became involved in problems in policy-making regarding emerging technologies in the digital era. It was his starting point for collaboration with D4G Lab.



12

## Mostafa Kharatyan

#### || Allameh Tabataba'i University ||

Educated in Economics and interested in Sociology, Mostafa seeks to analyze issues in the digital economy sphere of Iran with an eye on the solutions and impacts they bring. Economics of data, market regulation of ICT markets and social innovation are the topics that drive his enthusiasm and career.



## Faezeh Esmaeili

#### || M.A. in Laws \_ University of Tehran ||

The law is evolving to adapt to the ever-changing digital world by acknowledging the need for increased data protection, novel forms of consumer protection, and greater transparency on digital platforms. As an ICT policy researcher and a student of public law, Faezeh explores various facets of data governance, platform regulation, and E-governance. In Data for Governance Lab, she makes valuable contributions to policy-making in Iran by investigating legal challenges and proposing amendments to laws and regulations.



## Maryam Zohdi

#### || Ph.D. student in Industrial Engineering-Tarbiat Modares University ||

Maryam Zohdi has an M.Sc. in industrial engineering from Sharif University of Technology and is currently a Ph.D. student in this field at Tarbiat Modares University and works as a researcher in the data for governance lab. Digital economy, regulatory technologies and parental control are among the important issues that Mrs. Zohdi is interested in.







### Mahsa Nouri Zonouz

#### || M.A. in Social Sciences - Shahid Beheshti University ||

Mahsa is currently a Policy researcher at D4G-Lab where they address innovation-related regulatory challenges to support public interest, protect the domestic market, and drive social change in Iran. She has an M.A. in social research and B.Sc. in Physics and is interested in Social Policy Studies, Political Sociology, and Computational Social Science. Nowadays, co-leading a course design project they are creating an online gamified «data-driven decision-making» course to instruct both private managers and public policymakers.





### Fatemeh Sadat Sarki

#### || M.A. in Economics - Allameh Tabatabai University ||

Fatemeh Sadat Sarki is a graduate of Allameh Tabatabai University in economics. She started her activity as a researcher in the field of digital economy in 2018. While collaborating with the Data for Governance Lab, Sadat is engaged in research in the fields of RegTech, digital economy and platform economy. Cyberspace Governance, data analysis and data-driven policymaking are among her interests in this field.





## Fateme Hasan Nezhad

#### || M.A. in Public Policy - University of Tehran ||

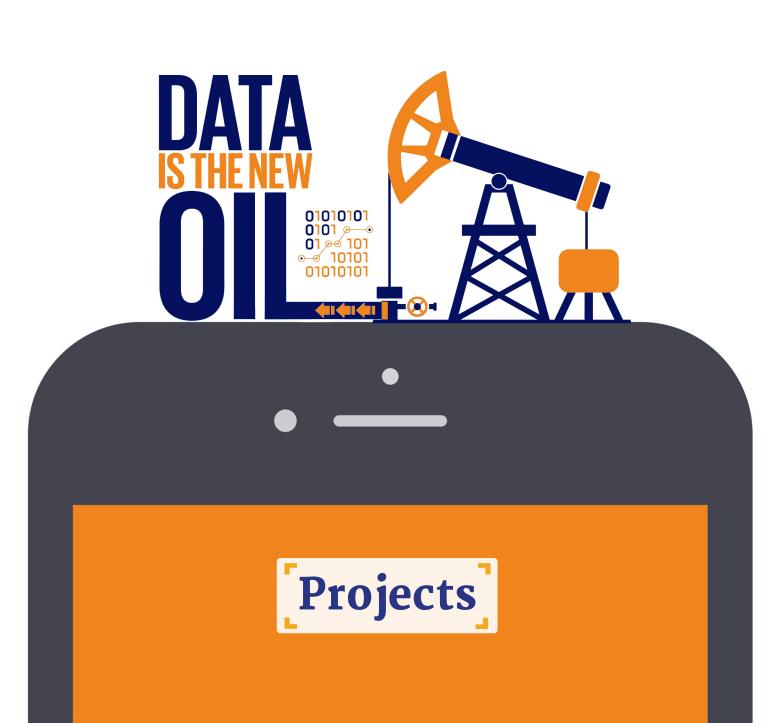
Fateme Hasannezhad has graduated with a dual degree, in law and political sciences, from the University of Tehran. She is a master's student in public policy at the same university. Her field of interest concern media and communication policy, internet governance, data protection, especially legal challenges of digital platforms.



## Omid Zadehadi

Omid Zadehadi is a graphic and motion-graphics designer at Data for Governance Lab. He is interested in designing vectors and schematics of the digital era, and therefore, since 2019, he has been seriously cooperating with the D4G Lab in creating the visual identity, graphic designing of elements and icons, infographics, posters, and layout of reports.



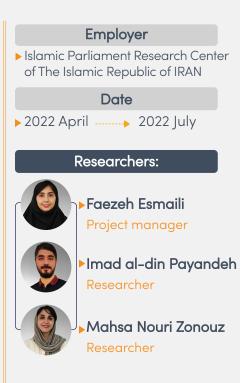


## 1. Official Law Draft; Countering Disinformation, Misinformation, and Fake News on Cyberspace

The project's primary aim was to design a policy-making framework suitable to the conditions of Iranian society and the ecosystem of active digital businesses to prevent the spread of fake news and misleading content on Cyberspace.

This report presents a proposal in the field of actively dealing with Disinformation, fake news, and misleading content in Cyberspace, which is in line with the demands and general frameworks determined in the form of the approvals of the Supreme Council of Cyberspace and to strengthen the position of the four-level regulatory system that includes the Supreme Council of Cyberspace, the Supreme Commission for the Regulation of Cyber Space (coordinator of regulators), specialized regulatory institutions and the private sector.

The researchers have tried to avoid obstacles and unnecessary restrictions on the development of the domestic knowledge-based and job-creating ecosystem as much as possible. Also, the procedural, legal, and economic platforms necessary to assert the rights of Iranian users against the uncontrolled activities of foreign social media and to deal with their malpractice in the face of false and misleading information should be designed.



### 2. Addressing and Analyzing Trends in Developing Regulatory Technologies and Governance Models over Digital Platforms.

During this project, the Data for Governance Lab will try to play an influential role by designing and developing a conceptual model for the use of regulatory technologies in the field of licenses and regulatees, as well as provide a RegTech roadmap in the Information Technology Organization (ITO) to improve the regulatory process of this organization in facing the selected regulatees and also to realize internal and external benefits of using regulatory technologies for ITO as a regulator.

Among the internal benefits of using regulatory technologies (RegTech) for the ITO, we can mention such things as designing preventive compliance systems, real-time monitoring, improving monitoring utilizing the richness of data and information, reducing the gap between decision and implementation, and increasing the efficiency of internal processes.

Also, the external benefits of using regulatory technologies for this organization include: reducing the cost and complexity of compliance and increasing innovation and competitiveness in digital platforms and businesses.

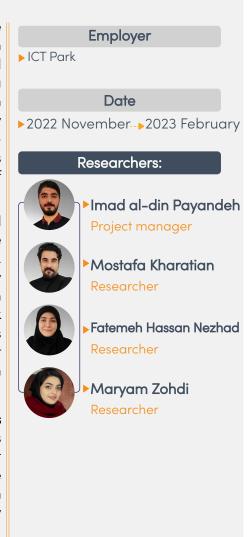


#### 3. Iran's Digital Economy Outlook 2023(IDEO)

Although the digital economy is backed by the ongoing spread of information and communication technologies (ICTs), the development of the digital economy is something beyond ICT or IT. Without a doubt, it's a new, complex, large-scale phenomenon that requires a paradigm shift in almost every field, including policy-making and regulation, cocreation, etc., since the conventional approaches seem inefficient or incompatible with the nature of this new trend.

Our purpose in this report is to show what could be done relying upon a realistic grasp of the multifaceted status of the digital economy in Iran. The main structure of the report was initiated by China Academy of Information and Communication Technology (CIACT). As an independent local think tank, the Data for Governance Lab (D4G) has accompanied the report as a contributor to content development and policy recommendation. We aim to reach these objectives throughout the report:

Building an evidence-based depiction of Iran's digital economy: A central goal of preparing this report is to provide a clear picture of Iran's current situation regarding ICT infrastructure and the digital economy to provide accurate information for stakeholders to accelerate digital economy development in Iran.



**Consensus formation:** Since there are discords about some statistics and there is no consensus on, such as the share of the digital economy in Iran's GDP and other similar cases, this report tries to provide reliable data foe decision-making and stakeholder consensus. As a result, a more remarkable agreement is needed on incorporating and strengthening policy initiatives, thereby establishing an integrated national vision proactively toward digital economy development.

**Providing a practical roadmap:** Considering the undoubted importance of the digital economy's development, one of this report's main goals is to provide a road map for the development of the digital economy in Iran. With the current situation analysis and international case studies, policy recommendation for Iran's digital economy development will be proposed.



### 4. Prioritization of Internal Internet Traffic over the External; How to Operationalize the «Architecture of the National Information Network» Law

D4G-Lab defined the project to solve three coexisting problems in the country's Internet field. First, there was an urgent need to improve both the quality of service and experience of the internet in the country. Second, to help the development of local content, and third, to develop the country's internet infrastructure as quickly as possible and towards new technologies such as optical fiber and 5G. Achieving these three goals once is possible by creating economic savings for the content production chain on the one hand and providing the infrastructure of mobile and fixed operators on the other hand, and the lever is to reform the Internet tariff system.

However, more than such reform is needed, and the design of incentive/punishment mechanisms and constant monitoring of anti-competitive practices are all required to achieve the above objectives. For this reason, the specific point of this project, in comparison with other solutions proposed by the country's policy-making body in the field of communication and information technology, can be seen as an ecosystem and economic view, which is not in the allocation of funds to solve these problems, but in the development of the market-oriented search.



#### 5. Net-meter; An Innovative Meter for the Internet Economy in Iran.

We know nothing is comparable with the Internet. But just to have it in numbers, Deloitte has recently estimated that a connectivity drop for an area with around 10 million population would cost up to 23 million dollars per day! Amazon has also claimed about 10 thousand bucks of loss for each second of lag for its website visitors.

As a policy simulator, Net-meter tries to measure the price elasticity of demand and the willingness to pay for the Internet among Iranian users by means of gamification. Totally interactive and adaptive, this simulator guides the users through this journey by using their responses on one side, and on the other, the most up-to-date data provided by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

More precisely, the user enters information such as internet data usage, the type of internet used (mobile or fixed), the operator providing it, and some background variables in Net-meter, then this user can compare his/her monthly internet expenditure (in dollars) and also internet speed with his/her counterparts around the world.





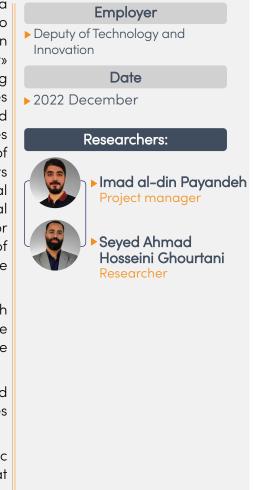
#### 6. Digital Economy Diplomacy; Toward a Roadmap for the Government

From a reductionist view, economic diplomacy in a pre-digital economy means diplomatic activities to develop exports and attract foreign investments. In recent years, the issue of «digital economy diplomacy» has been raised, including the possibility of using innovative companies and digital technologies at international levels and attracting capital and development. The basis of this diplomacy relies upon the principle that the technological power of a country in the era of Industry 4.0 depends on its technol companies' ability to enter the international competition scene. This is necessary for the digital economy, where technology and innovation, or in other words, digital transformation by virtue of Big data, become a new source of economic value creation and power as such.

Based on this, the main goal of the current research is to identify and formulate diplomacy that is suitable for the development of the digital economy in the country, which includes two principal axes:

Firstly, determining strategic goals and actions and plans related to these goals following the opportunities and threats in the target countries.

Secondly, determining the new structure of economic diplomacy by the digital economy in such a way that the new institutional design ensures the effectiveness of diplomacy.



## 7. Evaluation of the Government's One-year Performance in the Field of Information and Communication Technology

The Data for Governance Lab (D4G Lab), in cooperation with the Governance and Policy Think Tank (GPTT), in this article entitled «Evaluation of the one-year performance of the government in the field of Information and Communication Technology,» has tried to examine the most critical issues and policies adopted by the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology of the 13th government. Each section should outline the most primal challenges and suggest strategies to overcome the current situation and reach the desired destination, i.e., objective function from the policy-maker's POV while expressing the brief circumstances. We aim to examine these issues throughout the report:

Copyright and personal data protection, examining various aspects of open data, advocating domestic messengers, the state of the country's fixed internet infrastructure, developing 5G and optical fiber, improving the economic model of the National Information Network, and finally supporting internal production.



## 8. Practical Solutions to Protect and Empower Internal Digital Market; the Case of Instant Messaging Apps

Unregistered activities of U.S.-based social media platforms in Iran and their significant contribution to Iran's digital economy before the complete ban of Meta products in Iran brought about the ecosystem of internal competitors as one of the main priorities of policy-makers in the information and communication technology field.

Domestic instant messaging applications should obtain a more significant share of traffic and users in Iran while focusing on providing more local services such as e-government and micro-payment. However, the statistics illustrated that the apps adopted by various institutions still need to meet this field's expectations and policy-making goals.

The report has tried to come up with practical solutions to protect and empower the ecosystem of instant messengers within the internal market and increase their share in the consumption portfolio of Iranian Netizens.

















1		
Click Here	16. Important Approvals; without Guarantee of Implementation; Why the Supreme Council of Cyberspace was Inactive in the Previous Periods?	Imad al-Din Payande
	- Fars news 2022 August 29	
Click Here	17. The Ship of the Digital Economy and the Iceberg of the Unstable Internet!	Mostafa Kharatian

Events



2022 December 18

#### Creative Industries and the Filtering Struggle

#### Lecturers:

- Seyed Reza Shirazi Mofrad, Member of the Board of Directors of the Employers Association of Internet Businesses
- Arash Qaboosi, member of the board of directors of the trade association of advertising companies
- Seyed Jamal Akbarzadeh Jahromi, A faculty member of the Faculty of Communication Sciences, Allameh Tabatabai University, Tehran
- Mohammad Keshvari, IT expert and CEO of Teif Group
- Hamed Mankarsi, deputy policy and accreditation officer of the Information Technology Organization
- Imad al-din Payande, Director of Data for Governance Lab
  - Filtering and creative industries meeting was held on the topic of reviewing the government's support package for internet platforms and businesses at the invitation of Sharif University's policy research institute.







<u>Click Here</u>

Click Here

#### 2 Digital Economy and Emerging Policy Challenges

#### Lecturers:

- Hossein Mirzapour, founder of Data for Governance Lab
- Imad al-din Payande, Director of Data for Governance Lab
- Kamil Shahhosseini, the CEO of TanzimYar startup studio
- Ahmad Ronagi Khamene, researcher of data-driven co-creation in the European Union

The first specialized event on the topic of the digital economy and emerging policy-making challenges with four issues: a. The compromise between regulation and innovation in the digital era, b. Government as a platform; An introduction to regulatory technologies, c. Agile governance; From open data to intelligent intervention, d. Internet infrastructure economy and the concept of modularity was held with the cooperation of the Sharif Governance and Policy-making Scientific Association.

📰 2022 July 26,27,28





Click Here

Click Here

#### 3 Pre-event of Persian Domain Names; Internet for Everyone

#### Lecturers:



- Faezeh Esmaili
- Maryam Zohdi

**3**6

Domain names and email addresses play a crucial role in facilitating Internet access and enhancing user experience in the virtual space. They serve as gateways for individuals to access information resources and utilize online services. By familiarizing themselves with Persian domain names, individuals can fully benefit from the wealth of information and services available on the Internet, regardless of their proficiency in the English language. Moreover, the advancement of Persian domain names can contribute to the promotion of the Persian script and language in the digital realm. It can also lead to the expansion of Persian content, foster the growth of local businesses, and bolster Internet governance within the country.

To shed light on the various aspects of domain name policy and regulation in Iran and worldwide, as well as to document the challenges and conflicts surrounding policy-making in this field, an event titled «Persian Domain Names: Internet for Everyone» will be held on May 18 and 25. The event aims to provide valuable insights into the topic and explore opportunities for institutional collaboration and cooperation.

In summary, the event seeks to foster a greater understanding of the significance of Persian domain names and their impact on Internet accessibility and utilization. It aims to promote inclusivity, empower local businesses, and contribute to the overall growth and development of the Internet landscape.

37





# ROUYDADEH



#### The Data for Governance Lab

provides a platform to host a communication medium for experts and intellectuals of the digital economy titled "ROUYDADEH", seeking consensus among stakeholders on emerging technological issues agenda and data-driven co-creation.







Event 2nd: Reflections on the Monopoly within the Iran's Fixed Broadband Market





Event 3rd: The Securitization of Cyberspace by the United States in the Obama Administration; Causal Mechanisms and Discourse Features









Event 4th: Identifying the Legal Gaps of Data Protection in the Data Value Chain by Comparing the Laws and Regulations in Iran and the United States







Event 5th: Addressing the Experience of the Iran's Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-based Economy in Smartization









# International Communications





#### World Conference on Telecommunications Development (ITU-WTDC)

2022 June 9 🛗 ..... Rwanda\Kigali 🙎

Dr. Hossein Mirzapour, in the High-level Panel 9, which was hosted by the manager of the content department of Netflix and was held with the presence of more than 6 representatives of the Ministry of Communications of European and African countries, discussed the importance of the specific and contextual conditions of developing countries for large-scale plans to upgrade the Internet infrastructure and the quality of access and the role of local entrepreneurs in realizing this goal.





<u>Click Here</u>

#### iCANN; International Conference

2023 March 13 📰 ...... Cancun/Mexico 🞗

Dr. Hossein Mirzapour emphasized the importance of universal acceptance of international domain names in the meeting of the ICAAN Governmental Advisory Committee for the realization of a multilingual Internet and facilitating the access of people around the world to the Internet.





Click Here



47

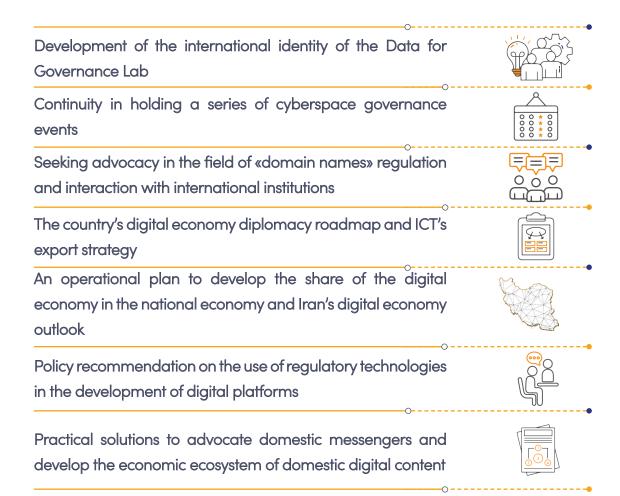


The offical launch of **IDEO 2023** at CAICT with Dr. Hossein Mirzapour, Founder of D4G-Lab, and Dr.Zhiqin Wang, the Vice President of the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT).

June, 2023



# The Way Forward





## Partners





Vice Presidency of the Islamic Republic of Iran Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge Based Economy

Islamic Republic of Iran Supreme Council of Cyberspace National Center for Cyberspace







Contraction of Klamic Republic of Ir

Presidency of Islamic Republic of Iran National Elites Foundation



Sharif Policy Research Institute





















Ministry Of ICT Telecommunication Infrastructure Company



### Contactus



Data for Governance Lab, next to the Faculty of Mechanics, infront of the Iran Migration Observatory building, end of courtyard of new education, Faculty of Energy Alley, Shahid Ghasemi St., in front of the north door of Sharif University, Shahid Habibolahi St., Azadi St., Tehran, Iran.

