



**Our Digital  
Future—  
c'est ICI**  
INCLUSION  
COLLABORATION  
INSPIRATION



**Hour  
Thinkathon**

## Policy Recommendations

### EDMONTON

#### *The Empathy Act*

The Empathy Act calls on federal legislators to draft and implement policy that requires social media and forum platforms to actively remind users to take into account intersectionality (such as with Gender-Based Analysis + lenses) and requires them to reflect on whether the content that they are posting is offensive to marginalized groups and/or visible minorities.

#### *Lack of netiquette (Etiquette in technology)*

We believe that a proper and educated use of technology can have a fruitful and positive influence on online social relations. We would recommend that, policy makers should pursue age-segmented digital education programs, with the aim to:

1. Teach the basic functionality of new technology;
2. Learn to recognize threats and opportunities granted by online interactions;
3. Build bridges between the public and the private sphere.

Beyond the above recommendations, which are fundamental to ensure socially sustainable technological progress, we also believe action must be taken to implement a common "honour code" to define appropriate online behaviour.

### MILAN

#### *Strengthen relations between local governments and citizens*

Direct participation of citizens into decision-making within local communities (i.e. city level), surely represents a democratic opportunity to engage together people living in the area and approach local project development more effectively. In fact, citizens are aware of real-existing needs in the area they live. In this respect, we would recommend policy makers to make greater use of participative tools such as:

1. "Participatory budget", to involve citizens in the allocation process of the municipality budget to local projects, so that local investments can better target the community's needs;
2. Use of digital platforms to allow citizens to plan, vote and monitor the winning projects of the participatory budget. This tool would also allow constant interaction among people living in the area. The use of this digital tool would be complementary to offline connections.

Providing people the opportunity to exercise active citizenship, would also help to strengthen the inclusion process of immigrant communities living in the area. Needless to say this would also increase trust in local institutions, while easing the ability to meet expectations at the governmental level. We would recommend to consider Milan and Turin as best practices for the above measures as they have already been implemented in the past years with great success and tangible results.

To read full recommendations produced during the Edmonton-Milan Thinkathon, please visit:  
<http://bit.ly/2RqkNgW>