

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

COMMUNITY NETWORK XCHANGE [CNX] 2026

DECENTRALISED COMMUNITY DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Community Network Xchange (CNX) was founded in 2017 to engage community network providers worldwide and share their lessons, experiences, and technological innovations on a single platform. Over the years, CNX has engaged with stakeholders on different themes relating to digital empowerment and internet governance through community networks. This year's theme addresses 'Decentralised Community Digital Public Infrastructure'. This year's edition aims to explore how community networks are not only 'alternative' but also part of a larger Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) at the local scale.

At this year's CNX, the discussions will focus on how existing community internet infrastructure ideas and models will enable more meaningful, affordable, and inclusive access to digital public infrastructure. The summit will envisage how the building blocks of DPI, such as identity, payments, and data exchanges, can be more integrated, interoperable, people-friendly, transparent, sustainable, resilient, and inclusive for vulnerable and underserved populations.

THE SUB-THEMES FOR THIS YEAR'S CNX ARE:

Community Networks, Universal access to rights:

- Issues related to access to information and how communities navigate the digital ecosystem in a low-resource context.
- Challenges in universal access to rights using centralised digital IDs in unconnected areas.

Community Networks and creation of digital commons:

- Interoperable internet for the people.
- Capacity building of communities to use open-source technologies for education, livelihood and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Building multilingual open-source digital resources for digital inclusion.

Data Sovereignty:

- Data Cooperatives to manage and store data for local development and welfare issues.
- Building data safety and safeguard policies at the local levels to fight against data extractivism.

Scaling, Sustainability, Management of Community Networks for Inclusive DPI:

- Models built on DPI safeguards at the local level to serve communities.
- Management of low-scale community networks.
- Collaborations and pathways for the sustainability of community networks.



SESSION FORMATS

We invite individuals and organisations to submit session proposals in the following formats. Each session will be limited to 45 to 60 minutes.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Expert-led discussions on specific sub-themes. Each panel will include a moderator and 3–4 speakers sharing research, insights, or experiences.

WHO CAN APPLY?

We welcome proposals from:

- Students & Researchers
- Civil Society Practitioners
- Technologists & Developers
- Journalists & Artists
- Public Policy Professionals
- Designers & Community
- Organizers
- Academics

The deadline for submissions is 20th September.

(Limited national travel support available)

SUBMIT