

Community Networks: Features, Governance, Regulation

28 October 2021

A4AI - Nigeria

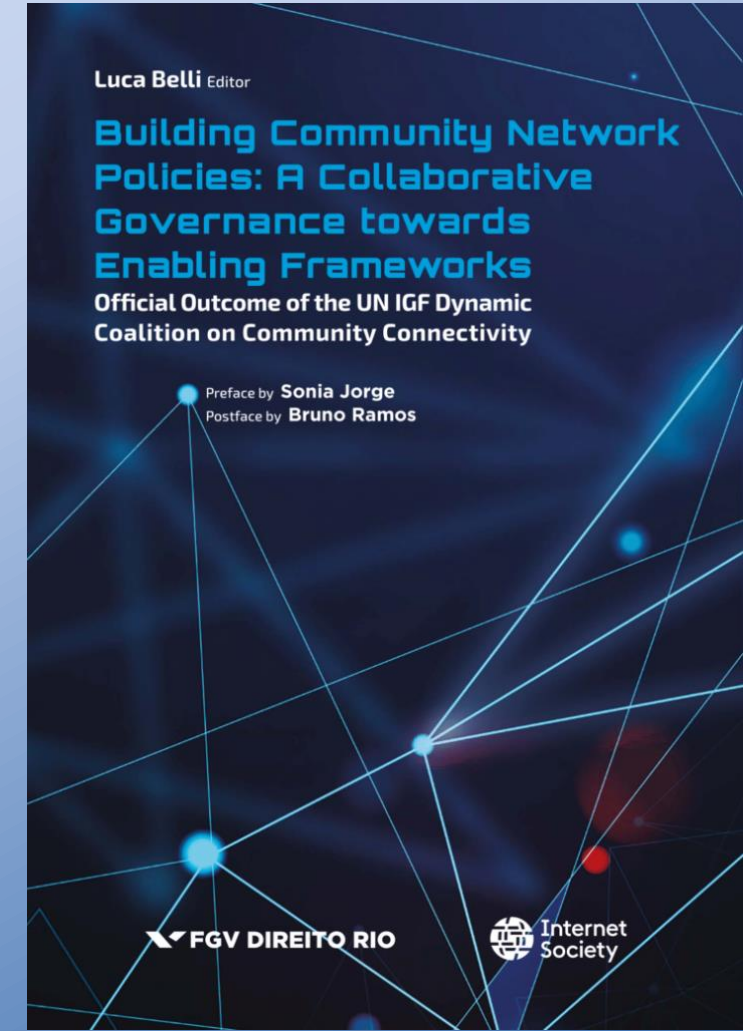
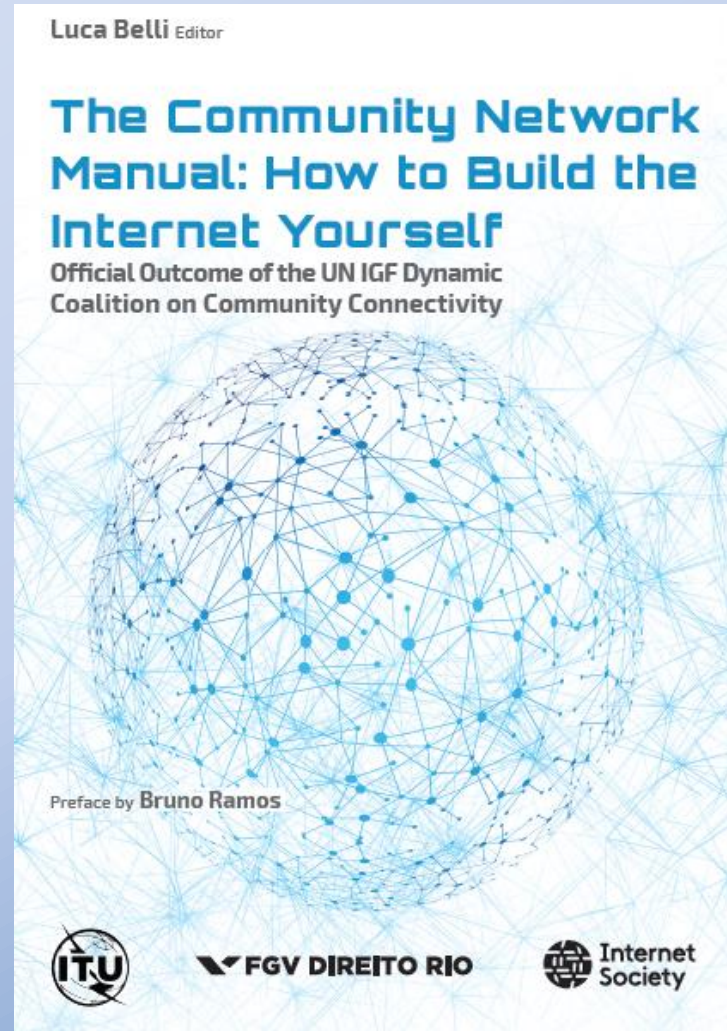
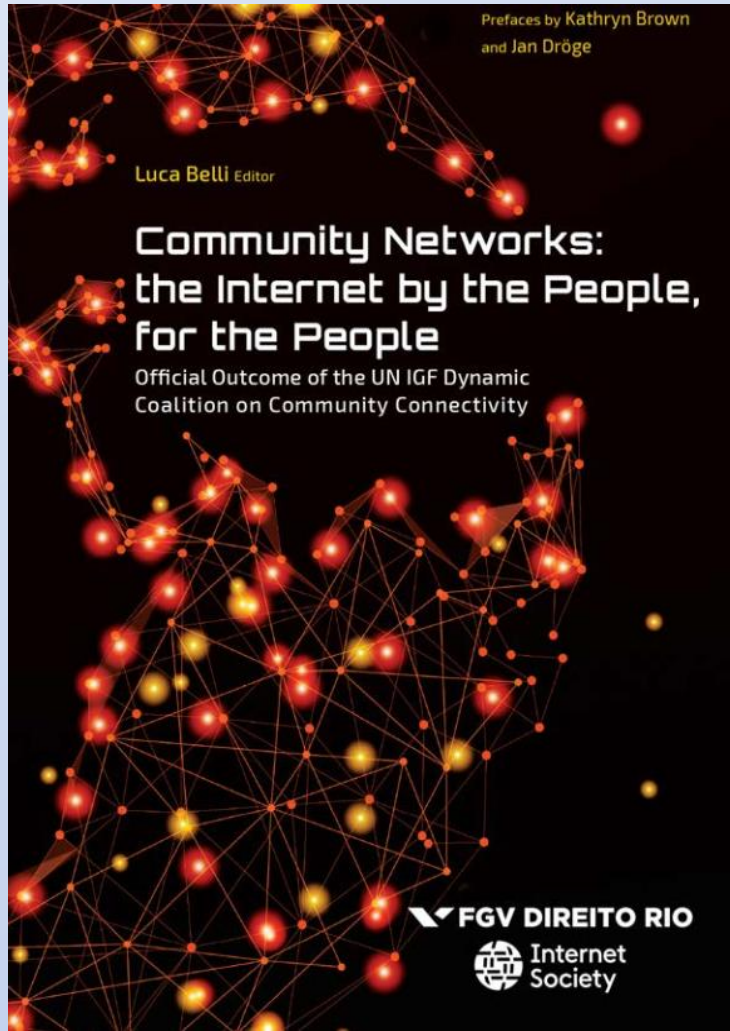
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Community Networks in Latin America

Challenges, Regulations and Solutions

Authors: Carlos Baca, Luca Belli, Erick Huerta & Karla Velasco



[Community Networks in Latin America: Challenges, Regulations and Solutions](#)

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What are Community Networks?

crowd-sourced distributed networks



**built, utilised and managed in a
bottom-up fashion by the local
community as commons**

**managed democratically by groups of
individuals and entities such as NGOs, local
businesses, and/or public administrations**



why are they interesting options?

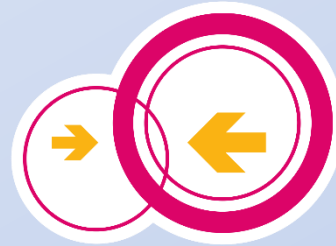
they can complement traditional options

community networks can succeed to connect “market failure” areas (rural/peripheral areas) left unconnected by traditional market players



guifi.net

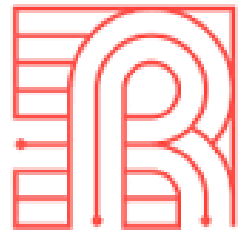
Red de telecomunicaciones
abierta, libre y neutral



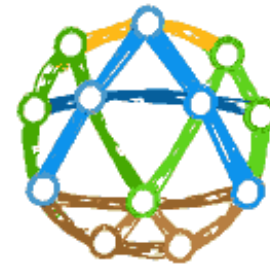
freifunk.net

B4ARN
broadband for the rural north

coolab



R H I Z O M A T I C A



**ALTER
MUNDI**





virtuous circle of knowledge and innovation

positive externalities of CNs:

- freedom of **expression**
- access to **knowledge** and **capacity building**
- permissionless **innovation**
- **decentralisation**
- more "**interesting**" Internet

new content and services by the community for the community

- maps
- instant messaging apps
- VoIP services
- hosting services
- local e-commerce platforms
- e-health apps, etc.

the local community
self-determine itself

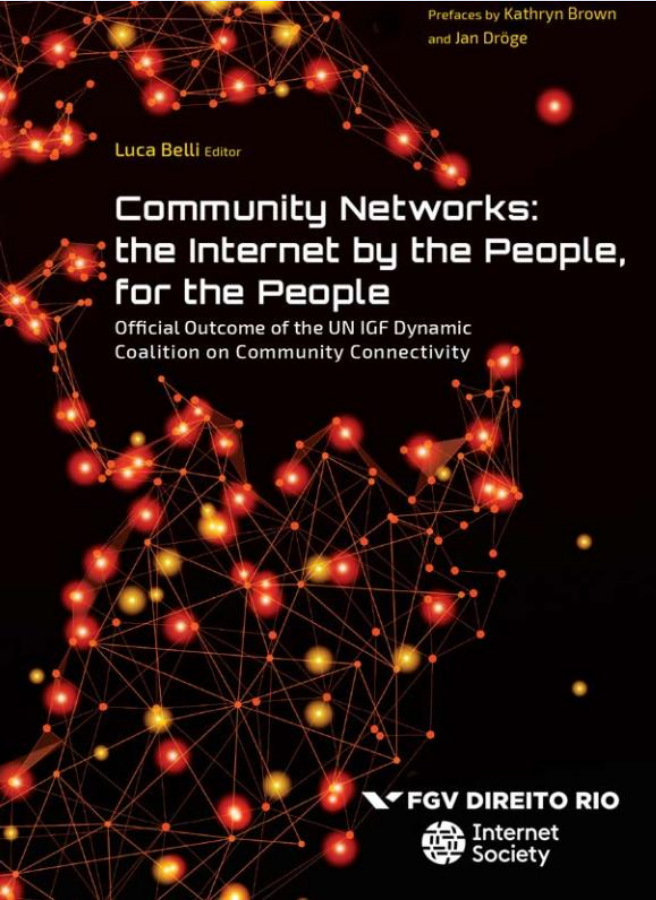
"all peoples must be free to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development"

art. 1 UDHR, 1(3) ICCPR & ICESCR

Network **Self-** **determination**

*right to free **d**evelopment of
network **i**nfrastructure*

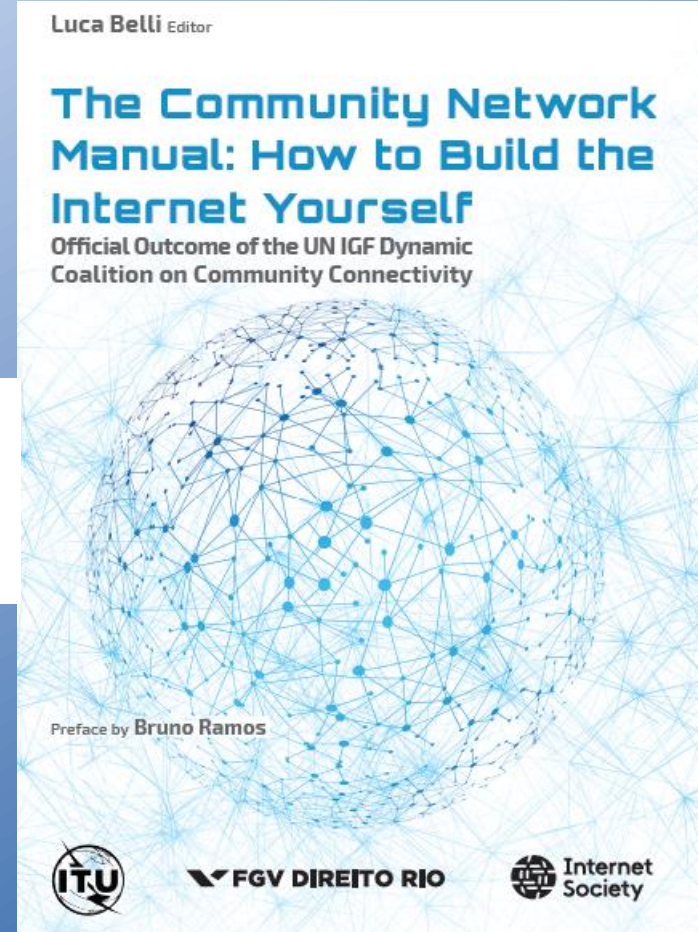
*“the right to freely **associate** to define, in a **democratic** fashion,
the **design, development and management of network
infrastructure as a common good**, in order to freely **seek,
impart and receive information and innovation**”*



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<i>Luca Belli</i>	

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<i>Luca Belli</i>	



Network self-determination: When building the Internet becomes a right

There is no doubt that network self-determination reinforces the distributed nature of the Internet and there is no reason why individuals should not have the possibility to build the Internet themselves, improving their standards of living while bridging digital divides.

By: [Luca Belli](#)

Date: March 28, 2018





**what can be done to
facilitate CNs?**

- **legal definition of CNs**
- **simplified licensing/authorisation**
- **simplified equipment approval**
- **spectrum sharing and non-discriminatory interconnection obligations**
- **tax exemptions and funding programs**

Luca Belli Editor

Building Community Network Policies: A Collaborative Governance towards Enabling Frameworks

Official Outcome of the UN IGF Dynamic Coalition on Community Connectivity

Preface by **Sonia Jorge**
Postface by **Bruno Ramos**

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Community Networks 11 December 2018

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Resolução 614/2013

License waiver for small (less than 5% of market share) Multimedia Communication Providers



República Argentina - Poder Ejecutivo Nacional
2018 - Año del Centenario de la Reforma Universitaria

Resolución

Número: RESOL-2018-4958-APN-ENACOM#MM

CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES
Miércoles 15 de Agosto de 2018

Referencia: EX-2018-15739323-APN-SDYME#ENACOM - ACTA 36

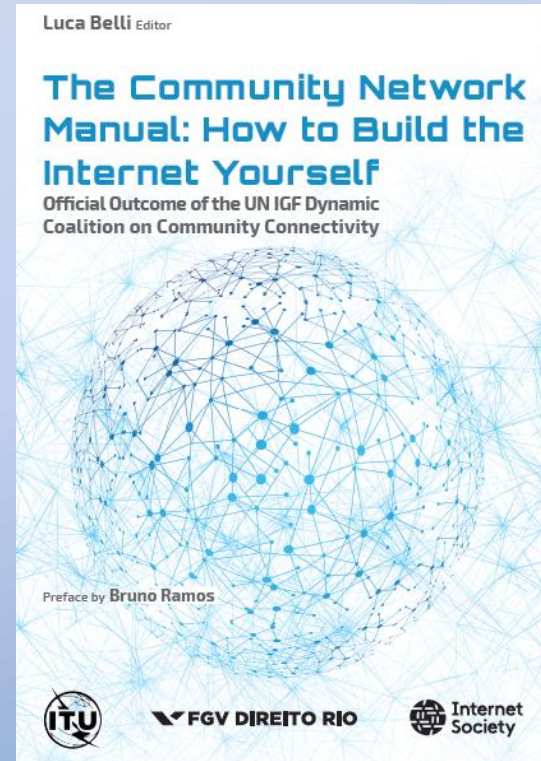
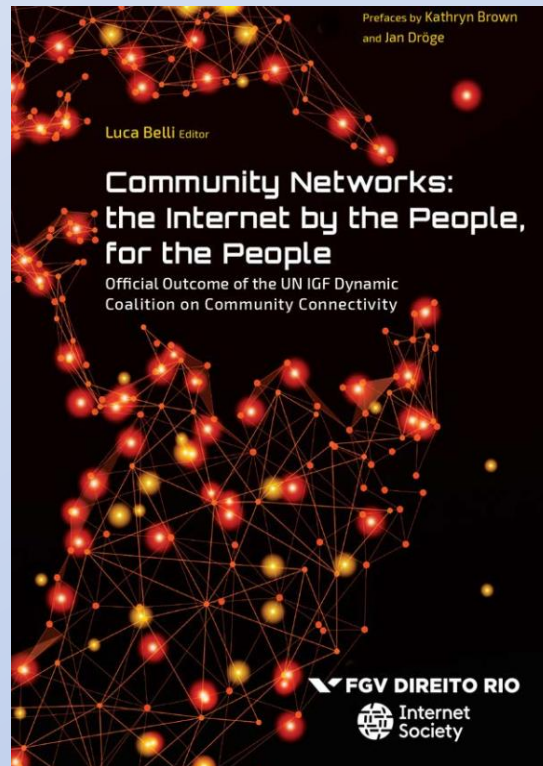
CNs are not a silver bullet

BUT

**there is nothing to lose from allowing people to
build the Internet themselves**

Thank you for your attention!

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