

# UNARETE

## Digital Democracy, the Internet, Alphabetization

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### **THE ASSOCIATION**

*UNARETE was established to expand digital democracy and reduce the international digital divide through changes in culture and leadership's opinions.*

*Digital technologies empower people and citizens in developed countries. Today, there are about 600 millions people with access to the Internet; however, only 100 millions are outside the industrialized countries.*

*The United Nations recognize that Information is a fundamental ingredient of human development; the fast growth of digital technologies offers opportunities to produce, purchase, store and share information that stimulates progress. Opportunities stemming from the Internet should be shared and equally available to all. No human being should be excluded from the benefit of "being wired".*

*UNARETE is an international association whose membership is not based on political opinions, nationality, religion or race.*

*UNARETE believes that digital technologies and the Internet might balance the opportunities for every inhabitant of the world, and should not represent a further element of discrimination.*

*Access to information technology is an important strategic component of human development, especially in a global society, where communication and information exchange have become decisive competitive advantages .*

*Access to the Web will promote a better use of the resources which every individual can manage; particularly it is a tremendous advantage for the least advantaged and developed belts of population.*

*We think that Communication is a fundamental right; exclusion from the Net, for political, economic, social or geographic reasons, is a disadvantage which, in the future, will cause deeper and deeper isolation. 30% of the world has never used a phone: we believe that Web digital technologies might and should be employed to reduce distances and differences.*

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*UNARETE Digital Democracy, Internet, Alfabetization*

[www.unarete.org](http://www.unarete.org) - [info@unarete.org](mailto:info@unarete.org)

Via Salaria 222 – 00198 Roma, ITALY - Tel. +39 06 854 3492

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*We think that the integration of people at risk of exclusion in the advanced countries (old people, disabled and others), will be possible only by removing prejudices and barriers about the new technologies.*

*We think that developing countries could find through the Web opportunities to leapfrog in their development and ensure better life condition to their people.*

*We think that extensive alphabetization and education programs are a necessary precondition for the diffusion of an Internet culture.*

*We think that infrastructures are necessary but should be built in a second phase; first of all an impulse should be provided to the communication's need and create an Internet culture.*

*We deem it necessary to set up a dialogue with the governments of developing as well as developed countries.. However we would like to reach public administrators and civil servants rather than political leaders and country rulers;*

*We would like to promote minimal rights of digital citizenship to everyone, irrespectively of the temporary political status of the country.*

*We think that the Internet is not just another tool to make money, but a mayor development opportunity in this century.*

*We think the Internet should be used to build up an equal opportunity for every individual all around the world. We are in favour of introducing the Web in the mud hut of Sahel rural population; we are in favour of teaching old people to use Internet for their advantage; we are in favour of allowing e-mail access among peasants of Latin America.*

*We do not believe that infrastructures are the unique solution for fighting underdevelopment and bridging the digital divide. Infrastructures are useless without diffused access communication and community culture. First of all we have to create a communication need.*

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### **DIGITAL DIVIDE**

*The digital divide is to be fought at home and abroad.*

*In the developed economies, where access is a commodity, there are still many groups living outside of the Internet community. Economic barriers are by no means the only obstacle.*

*In the developing countries the digital divide is caused by financial and technological exclusion as well as cultural isolation. Exclusion is not only distance, but also absence of communication needs. We aim at stimulating these needs in order to activate, in a second round, the tools for satisfying them.*

*UNARETE aims to generate a communication culture layer in order to build up communication needs for all those people who are now excluded.*

### **DIGITAL DEMOCRACY**

*In many countries all around the world the Internet is regulated by undemocratic laws. UNARETE fights for making the Internet more and more a shared, fully free resource of everyone on the Earth. Furthermore, we consider very important the development of programmer's and user's communities able to share software and to create open source repositories.*

### **ALFABETIZATION**

*These objectives are achievable only through an effort for primary (reading) and secondary (technical) alphabetization. Education and training have to be integrated with wider, specific projects aimed to include in the web community all those people who are now out of the loop.*

*Alphabetization consists in bringing everyone to think the Internet as a tool rather than an unstructured repository of news and data.*

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*Our aim is to transform the data in useful informations for everyone.*

## **THE MISSION OF UNARETE**

*UNARETE has the following mission:*

- *To monitor the “score” of digital democracy of the different countries*
- *To promote the development of web community in order to raise the awareness for democracy through the Web*
- *To identify the opportunities for bridging the digital divide both at local (municipalities) and international (countries) level*
- *To promote studies and researches for the spread up of the culture of the Web*
- *To operate on every level to guarantee the diffusion of open source and best practices software*
- *To promote the use of workflow technologies, e commerce, business process management, e business etc... within governmental administrations*
- *To achieve, where it is possible, a cluster of projects in order to bridge the digital divide*

## **THE ORGANIZATION**

*UNARETE is structured in the following areas:*

- *INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL DIVIDE*
- *INTERNAL DIGITAL DIVIDE*
- *OPEN SOURCE AND HACKER COMMUNITY*
- *DIGITAL DEMOCRACY*
- *ALFABETIZATION AND EDUCATION*

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