

Bridging Digital Divides through Community Networks

Side Event - 49th Session of
the UN Human Rights Council

Luca Belli, PhD

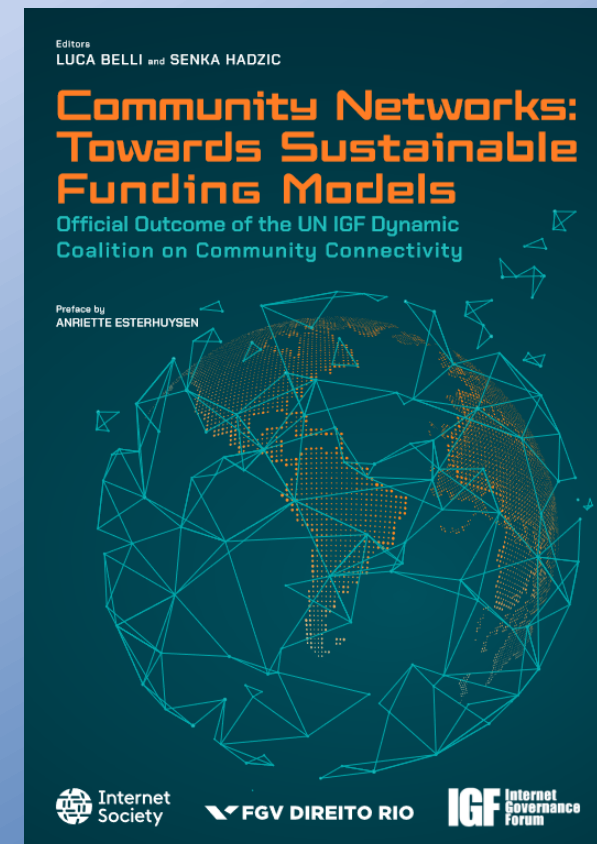
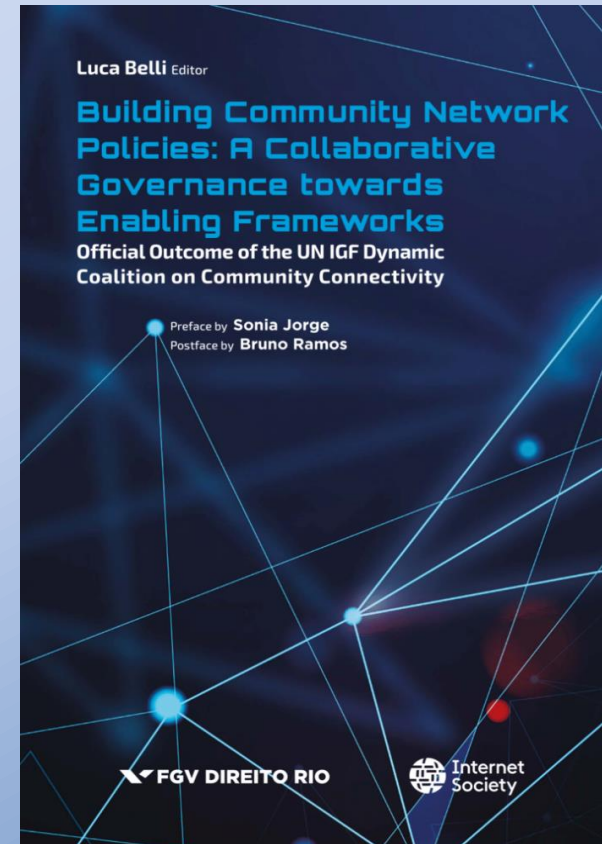
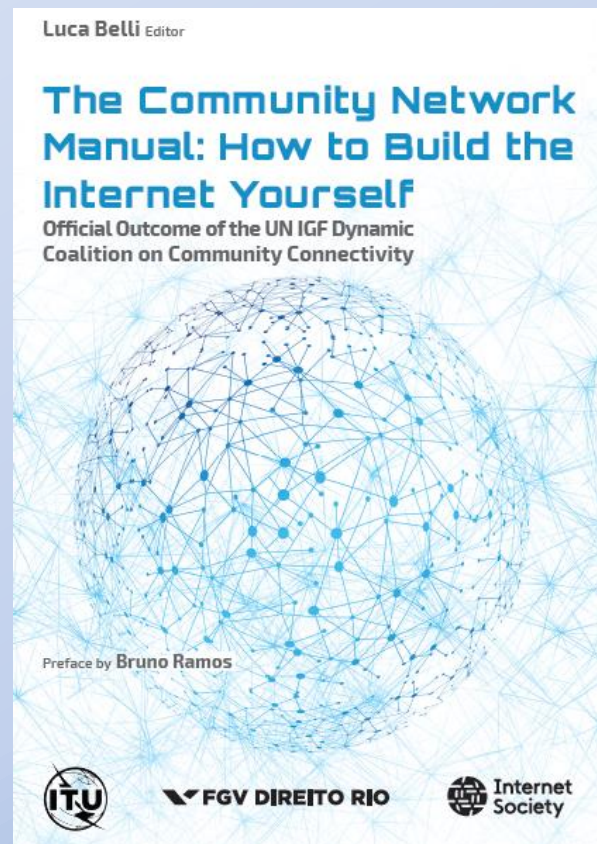
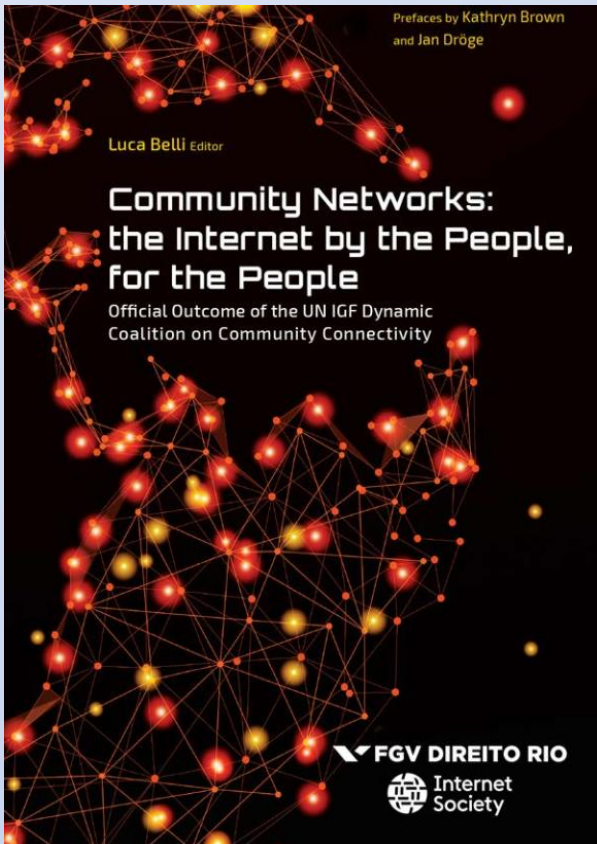
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Community Networks in Latin America

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?

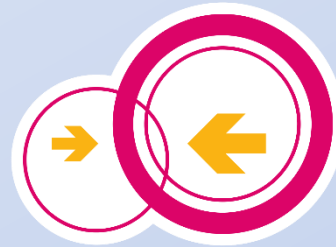
they can complement traditional options

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



guifi.net

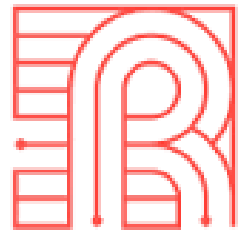
Red de telecomunicaciones
abierta, libre y neutral



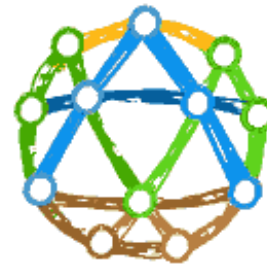
freifunk.net

broadband **B4ARN** 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”

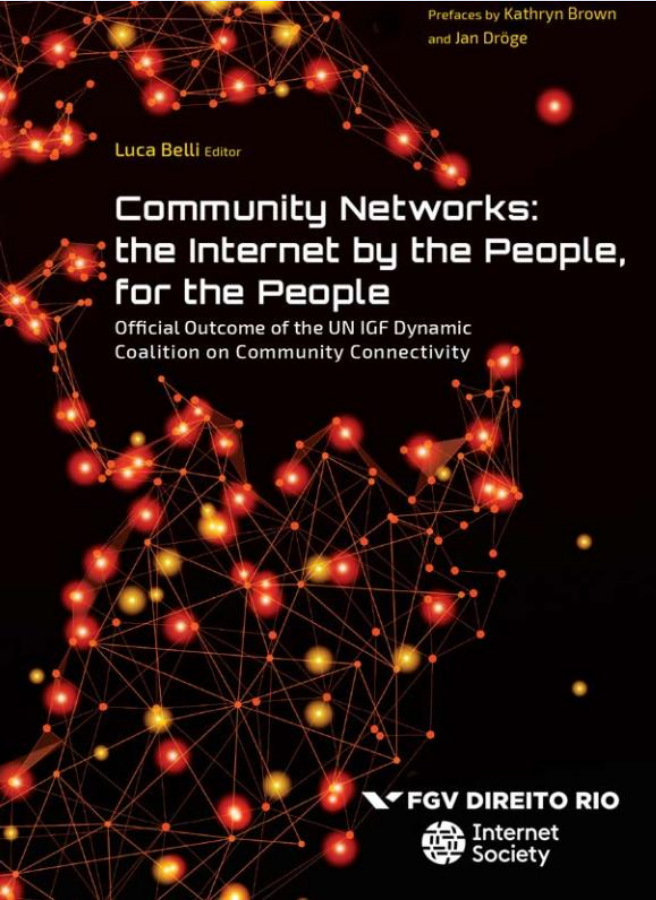
art. 1 UDHR, 1(3) ICCPR & ICESCR

Network Self-determination

right to free development of network infrastructure

*“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**”*

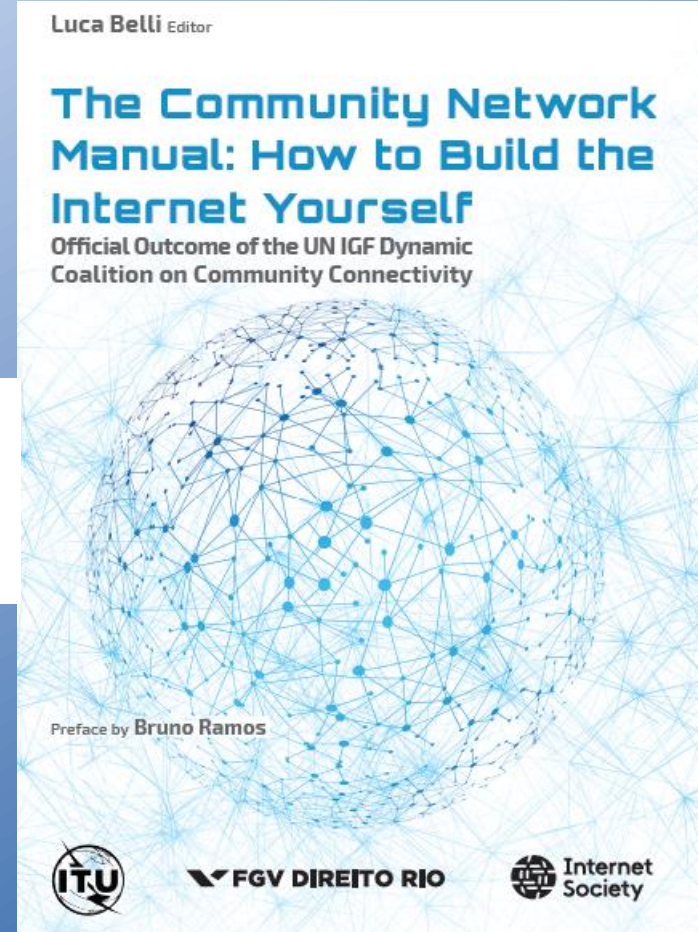
(Belli, 2017 & 2018)



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|--|-----------|
| 2 Network Self-Determination and the Positive Externalities of Community Networks | 35 |
| <i>Luca Belli</i> | |

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| | |
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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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Challenges, Regulations and Solutions



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



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Resolución

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CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES
Miércoles 15 de Agosto de 2018

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

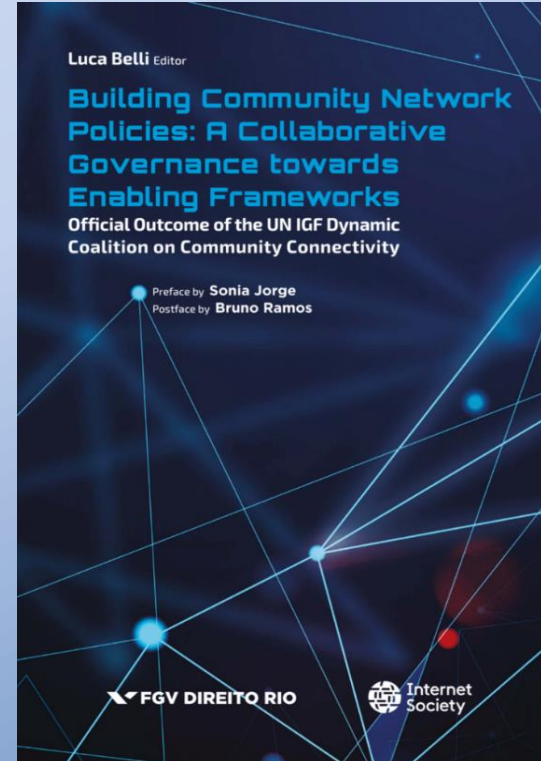
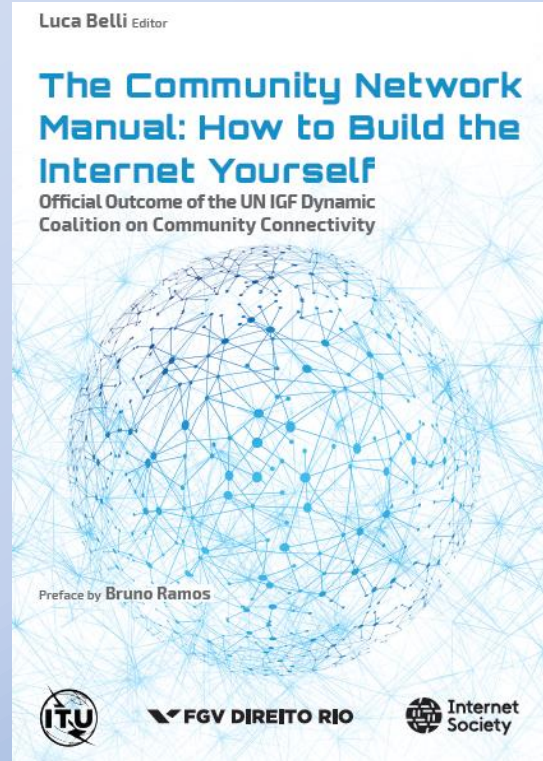
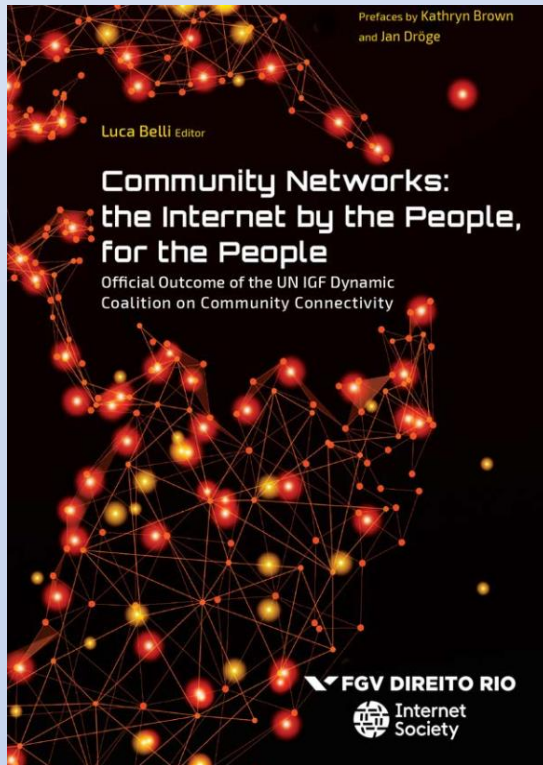
CNs are not a silver bullet

BUT

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

Thank you for your attention!

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