Network Infrastructure as Commons

netCommons

EU Horizon2020

CAPS

netCommons

Community networks are wired and wireless network infrastructures owned and operated by the community members.

netCommons

guifi.net

Xarxa Ouberta Lliure i Neutral

31.057 nodes operatius

Nodes operatius

- **34.541** enllaços de xarxa
- **56.480,3** quilòmetres d'enllaços totals
- **123** nodes creats la darrera setmana
- **47** nodes passats a operatiu la darrera setmana

més informació ➤

"The aim of ninux.org is the creation of an urban intranet for experimental purposes only, so no Internet."

What "as a commons" mean?

- Different types of resources
  - Provision, exclusion, rivalry, congestion, …

- Different notions of community
  - Who is included/excluded

- Complex interdependencies and externalities
  - Infrastructure, services, social/political impact

Community Networks as commons

- Similar to transport networks
  - Non-rivalrous but congestible
  - Requires investments

- But with important differences
  - Easier to build in a distributed way
  - Multiple layers of "commoning" and different uses

- Different reasons why (they affect analysis)
  - Practical, political, social, scientific

not all CNs are the same …

Key challenges

- Community networks not well understood
  - "Free" Internet vs. local services

- Self-organization comes at a cost
  - It requires organization :-)

- Cooperation under diversity

- Unfair competition and digital hegemony …

Discplines involved

Computer Science and Engineering

Economics

Political economy

Law and policy

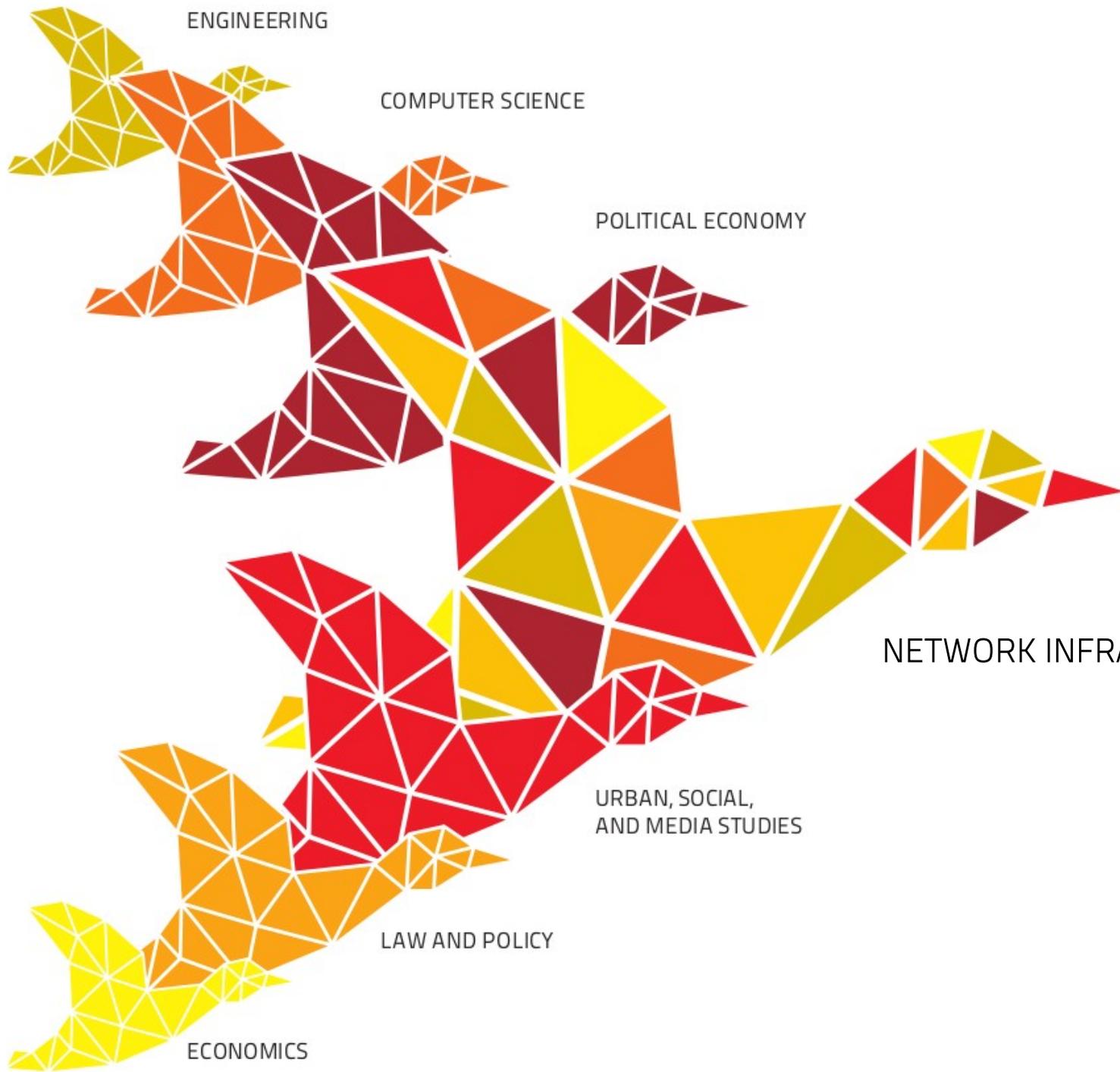Urban, social, and media studies

Key actors

Scientists

Designers and developers

Policy makers and politicians

Civil society and local authorities

Citizens

ENGINEERING

COMPUTER SCIENCE

POLITICAL ECONOMY

NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE AS COMMONS

URBAN, SOCIAL,
AND MEDIA STUDIES

LAW AND POLICY

ECONOMICS

netCommons

http://netcommons.eu – @netcommons