

MEETING REPORT

RIGF: RUSSIAN
INTERNET
GOVERNANCE
FORUM

2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

ABOUT RIGF

02

KEYNOTE ADDRESS. VIRTUTI
INTERNETI AWARD

03

SESSIONS

The 13th Russian Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2023) was held on April 6-7, 2023

Russian Internet Governance Forum is an event where all professional views can be brought to attention and discussed. The aim is to find a consensus between government agencies, telecommunications industry, businesses and society, leading to successful results in Russia and worldwide. With many ideas expressed during previous events turning into hands-on projects for Russian and international organizations, this year's Forum became a starting point for many collaborations for all RIGF attendees.

The RIGF 2023 participants discussed what role the government should play in the internet governance process and how to maintain the human-centricity of digital technologies, and learned about the progress on preparations of the Global Digital Compact. They also considered experience of various countries in ensuring digital sovereignty as well as the possible consequences of Internet fragmentation and approaches to governing the national segment of the internet in Russia. The acute topics of the forum also included the problem of the influence of the internet on children and adolescents, training personnel for the digital economy, the use of artificial intelligence in the healthcare system, and youth participation in internet governance processes.

More than 500 participants have registered for the Forum, almost half of them are in the hall, the rest are watching the stream on the RIGF 2023 website, participating in Zoom discussions, asking questions in the broadcast chats on the YouTube channel of the Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.РФ.

ORGANIZERS



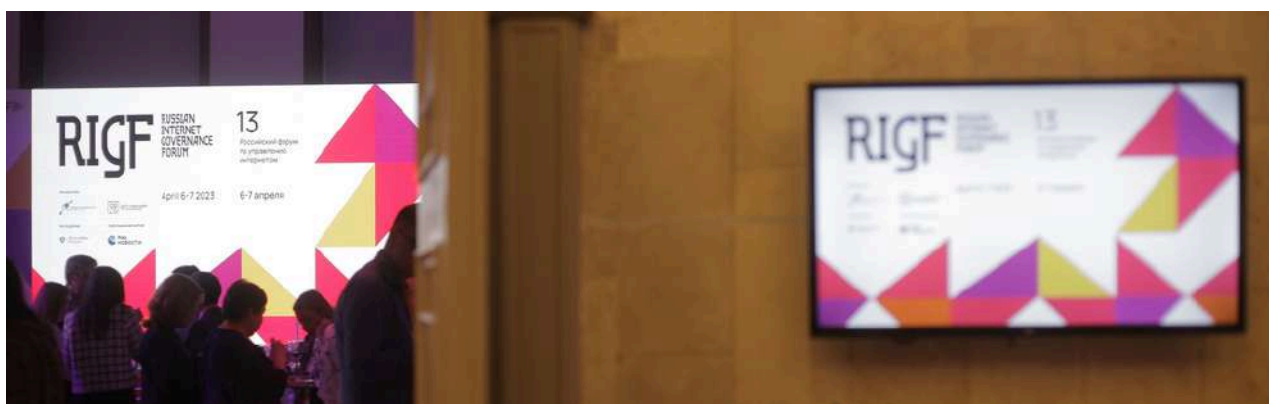
Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.PФ is the national registry (administrator) of the .RU and .PФ domains.

The organization functions as the national registry with the authority to create domain name registration regulations for .RU and .PФ, accredit registrars, and explore potential initiatives linked to the advancement of Russian top-level domains.



ANO «Center for Global IT-Cooperation» (Center) was established in 2020 to promote the role of the Russian expert community in the international cooperation in the field of IT and digital technologies, including promotion of new approaches to multistakeholder Internet governance.

The Center works with a pool of Russian and international experts to develop new approaches, conduct research and implement projects in the field of global IT cooperation, popularize scientific and technological cooperation, develop the international legal framework for the multistakeholder Internet governance. The Center engages all interested experts in Russia and abroad in the topical scientific and expert conferences, round tables, webinars and, including Youth Russian Internet Governance Forum (Youth RIGF).



April 6

Plenary session. Forum opening

Moderator: Andrey Vorobyev, Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.PФ

Speakers:

- Alexander Khinstein, State Duma Committee on Information policy, Technologies and Communications, Chairman
- Chengetai Masango, Programme and Technology Manager at United Nations Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum
- Sergey Plugotarenko, Director of Digital Economy

Session 1. New Digital World: The State and The Individual

Moderator: Vadim Vinogradov, Higher School of Economic

Participants:

- Lenar Fayzutdinov, ANO Dialog
- Anton Kukanov, Roskachestvo
- Aleksandr Yuhno, Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration
- Boris Yedidin, Internet Development Institute
- Sergey Grebennikov, RAEC
- Yik Chan Chin, Beijing University

Session 2. Global Internet and Digital Sovereignty

Moderator: Roman Chukov, Center for Global IT-Cooperation

Participants:

- Andrey Vorobyev, Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.PФ
- Vadim Glushchenko, Center for Global IT-Cooperation
- Vyacheslav Erohin, Radio Research Institute
- Olga Makarova, MTS
- Alexey Efremov, O.E. Kutafin University (MSAL)
- Boris Vasiliev, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Session 3. Digital Technologies of the Future

Moderator: Elena Suragina, MTS

Participants:

- Yuri Vasiliev, Center for Diagnostics and Telemedicine
- Maxim Fyodorov, Russian Academy of Sciences
- Andrey Ignatyev, Center for Global IT-Cooperation
- Mihail Shraybman, Octopussy - Integrator web 3.0
- Anastasia Pokrovskaya, MIPT

Session 4. Accountability Of Suspicion: How To Fight For The Safety Of Information

Moderator: Anna Sutyryna (Dupan), Higher School of Economic

Participants:

- Timofey V, ANO Dialog
- Elena Zinovyeva, MGIMO University
- Valeriy Komarov, Department of Information Technologies of the City of Moscow
- Rustam Sagdatulin, ROCIT
- Igor Ashmanov, Kribrum

April 7

Virtuti Interneti Award Presentation And Traditional Laureate Lecture

Session 5. Real And Virtual Worlds: The Red Lines

Modearator: Veronika Romanova, RBC

Participants:

- Elizaveta Belyakova, Alliance for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment
- Dmitriy Gulyaev, Youth Digital Ombudsman
- Olga Rubtsova, Academy of Innovative Education and Development
- Vladimir Todorov, «Lenta.ru», Rambler&Co
- Sergei Mardanov, VK
- Irina Smolyarchuk, Anti-crisis psychological center of Irina Smolyarchuk

Session 6. Cadres For The Digital Economy.

Moderator: Gleb Shuklin, Big Data Association

Participants:

- Julia Goryachkina, Digital Economy
- Dmitry Zubtsov, SberUniversity
- Vitaly Terentiev, HeadHunter
- Anna Abramova, MGIMO
- Evgeniya Shvyrkunova, University of National Technology Initiative 2035

Session 7. New Technologies In Medicine As A Tool For Healthcare Development

Moderator: Rimma Chichakyan, Digital Economy

Participants:

- Boris Zingerman, "INVITRO", Association "National Medical Knowledge Base"
- Philip Gorkavenko, Center for Expertise and Quality Control of Medical Care of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation
- Natalia Ushakova, Sotctech
- Karen Kazaryan, Digital Economy
- Yulia Seryapina, Center for Expertise and Quality Control of Medical Care of the Ministry of Health of Russia
- Marat Takhaviev, Big Data Association

April 7

Session 8. Digital transformation: the voice of youth

Moderators: Anna Monakhova, SPLAT Global; Ilona Stadnik, Saint Petersburg State University

Participants:

- Andrey Aleinikov, Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.PФ
- Arevik Martirosyan, Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia
- Daria Stepovaya, School of International Information Security, DA MFA
- Dmitry Gulyaev, Youth Digital Ombudsman
- Artemy Tretyakov, School of International Information Security, DA MFA
- Alim Khapov, Center for Global IT Cooperation
- Marco Paloski, IGF North Macedonia/Youth Coalition on Internet Governance
- Andrey Klovov, Documentary Telecommunications Association

Presentation of the 2nd collection of author's articles "Internet Today and Tomorrow"

- Andrey Ignatiev, Center for Global IT-Cooperation

Summing up

Andrey Vorobyev, Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.PФ

KEYNOTE ADDRESS. VIRTUTI INTERNETI AWARD

According to the already established tradition, the second day of RIGF 2023 was opened by the Virtuti Interneti ("For Services to the Internet") award ceremony, established by the Coordination Center in 2010.

This year the award was given to Elena Voronina - one of the key persons of the Russian Internet. She stood at the origins of the Runet and took an active part in the creation of the .RU and .РФ domain zones, the MSK-IX traffic exchange point and other fundamental projects. Since 1999, Elena Voronina has led the Moscow Internet eXchange (MSK-IX) project. For more than 20 years, she has been the director of JSC Computer Network Interaction Center MSK-IX, and currently she is the Development Director of the Indata Network Technologies Development Fund, which is engaged in analysis and research in the field of the Internet.

"This award is from my fellows, so it is especially exciting for me. And, of course, it's nice to join the club of Virtuti Interneti laureates," she said.

Elena also congratulated the forum participants on the birthday of the Russian national domain .RU and, in the laureate's traditional lecture, spoke about the Internet connectivity ecosystem.

Let us recall that the winners of the Virtuti Interneti award are representatives of the Internet community, business, science and the state, who have made a significant contribution to the development of Runet and the global Internet. Past laureates include Steve Crocker, the inventor of the RFC Internet policy format, one of the founders of the technical community of global internet builders, Wolfgang Kleinwachter, professor emeritus of internet policy and regulation at Aarhus University's Media and Information Research Department, author of the book "Internet Governance" Jovan Kurbalija, one of the founders of Runet, ex-director of RIPN, director of MSC-IX Alexei Platonov, director of Autonomous Nonprofit Organization "Digital Economy" Sergey Plugotarenko and many others.



NEW DIGITAL WORLD: THE STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL

The Fourth Industrial Revolution dramatically reshaped the international economic and political landscape. The Internet has become a repository of knowledge and achievements of mankind, as well as the main means of production in the modern world. However, the opening of new digital horizons not only created opportunities for business and science, but also became a challenge for citizens and states around the world.

Government systems are increasingly forced to transform, adapt to new realities, respond to information risks and protect the physical world from the digital one. The state is creating a brand-new framework for sustainable digital dialogue based on setting the individual at the center of the digital transformation as a response to the issues of our time. It relates to the cooperative promotion of common approaches to the regulation of the digital environment within the context of international processes.

During the session, it will be proposed to discuss what values underlie this new approach, what role the state should take in modern Internet Governance processes, and how to maintain human-centric digital technologies. The panelists will also consider the role of such initiatives as the Global Digital Compact, which proclaims its goal to create a fair and equitable digital world order.



GLOBAL INTERNET AND DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

In order to ensure technological independence from foreign solutions and to independently regulate the digital information space, countries must have what is known as “digital sovereignty”. This means they have to be able to provide the necessary infrastructure for the steady advancement of the information society on their territory. The Internet, due to its comprehensive cross-border nature, acts as the main driving force that develops the global digital information space. At the same time, the desire of many states to ensure their own digital sovereignty directly stimulates the process of “splitting” the Internet into regional and country zones with a special regulatory regime and rules for the circulation of content and services.

Within the framework of the session, it will be proposed to consider the experience of ensuring digital sovereignty in various countries and regions of the world, as well as to assess the possible consequences of the growing fragmentation of the global Internet. There will also be discussion of potential scenarios and management strategies for Russia's domestic Internet market, as well as potential opportunities for foreign marketing.



SESSION 3

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES OF THE FUTURE

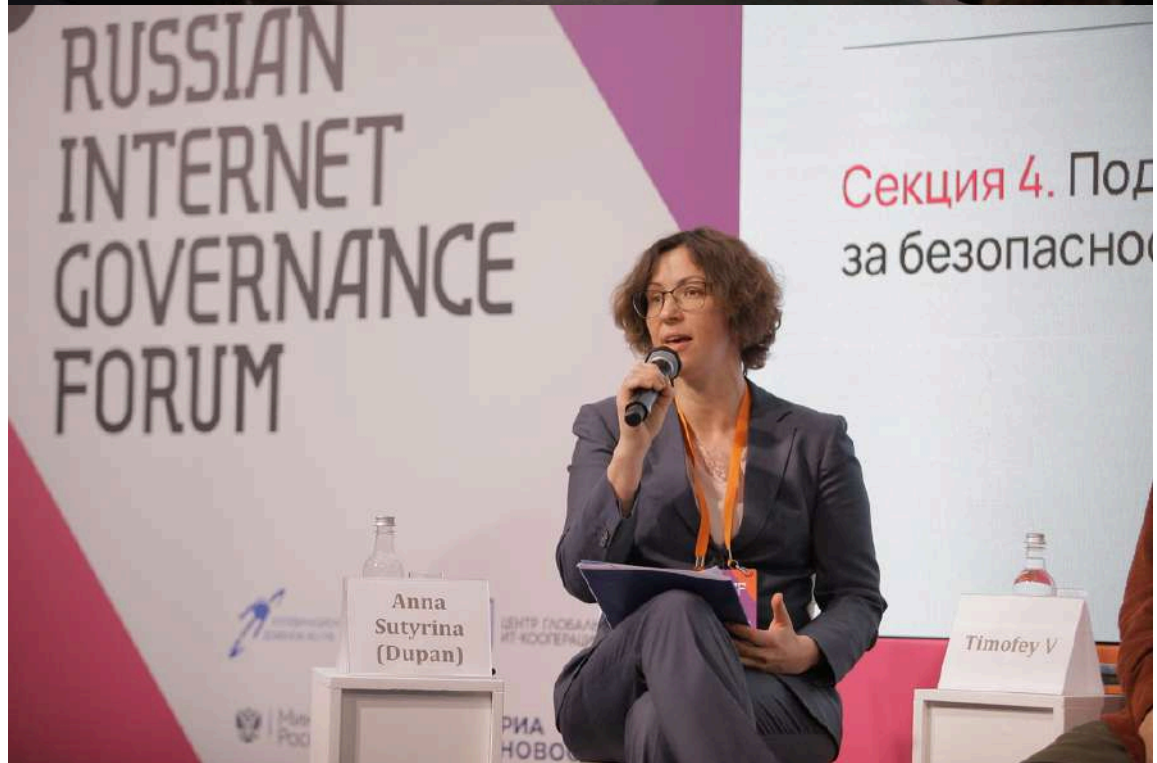
Machine learning and ultra-efficient neural networks, Internet technologies, immersive Internet and metaverses, distributed ledger technologies, cryptocurrencies, quantum computing, industrial automation – these and other technologies are becoming a reality and trends of today's development, and are beginning to perform increasingly critical economic and social functions.

During the session, it is proposed to consider scientific developments, innovations and already implemented projects in various industries and fields of application – medicine, education, public administration, urban infrastructure, etc. Representatives of various platforms will be able to share information about their projects, new opportunities, main tasks, difficulties and prospects for further development. During the discussion, the problems of a comprehensive assessment of the impact of digital innovations on the economy and the socio-humanitarian sphere, issues of regulation and standardization will be touched upon.



ACCOUNTABILITY OF SUSPICION: HOW TO FIGHT FOR THE SAFETY OF INFORMATION

We are witnessing an unprecedented amount of online misinformation as geopolitical tensions grow. Fake information itself is not the only threat to Internet users; intentional information operations aiming at dividing society are also a threat. How can the Runet expert community work together to address these issues? How can the Russian experience be useful to those who are interested in effectively countering fake information and digital discrimination?



SESSIONS

REAL AND VIRTUAL WORLDS: THE RED LINES

The session will address issues such as how the Internet affects personality development, how children and youth interact in a virtual environment, how to create the ideal conditions for the younger generation's development and education in a digital society, how participants in educational relationships form media and information cultures, and the legal issues surrounding Internet space for children regulation.

Scientists, practitioners, including innovative sites of the Safe Information Environment for Childhood project, representatives of specialized non-profit organizations, and experts are invited to participate in the work.



CADRES FOR THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Only professional personnel are able to achieve the goals set within the framework of the entire federal program “Digital Economy”.

Session questions:

- Current challenges: staff shortage of 1 million (will it grow?), technological separation from the West, the rapid growth of databases and AI.
- Lack of employees VS lack of competencies: what is the ratio? Where is the deficit most acute, including in CDTO digital transformation teams in the regions?
- Is it possible to quickly and efficiently cover the deficit of 1 million specialists? Where is the main potential? In which segments is quantity better, and where is quality needed? Short-term and long-term strategies.
- Educational mechanisms for responding to challenges: professional standards, retraining programs, continuous education, early career guidance, accessibility of education.
- Non-educational mechanisms: revealing hidden personnel potentials in related areas, waves of migration, personnel mobility, outstaffing.
- Theoretical foundation and practical skills: what is more important?

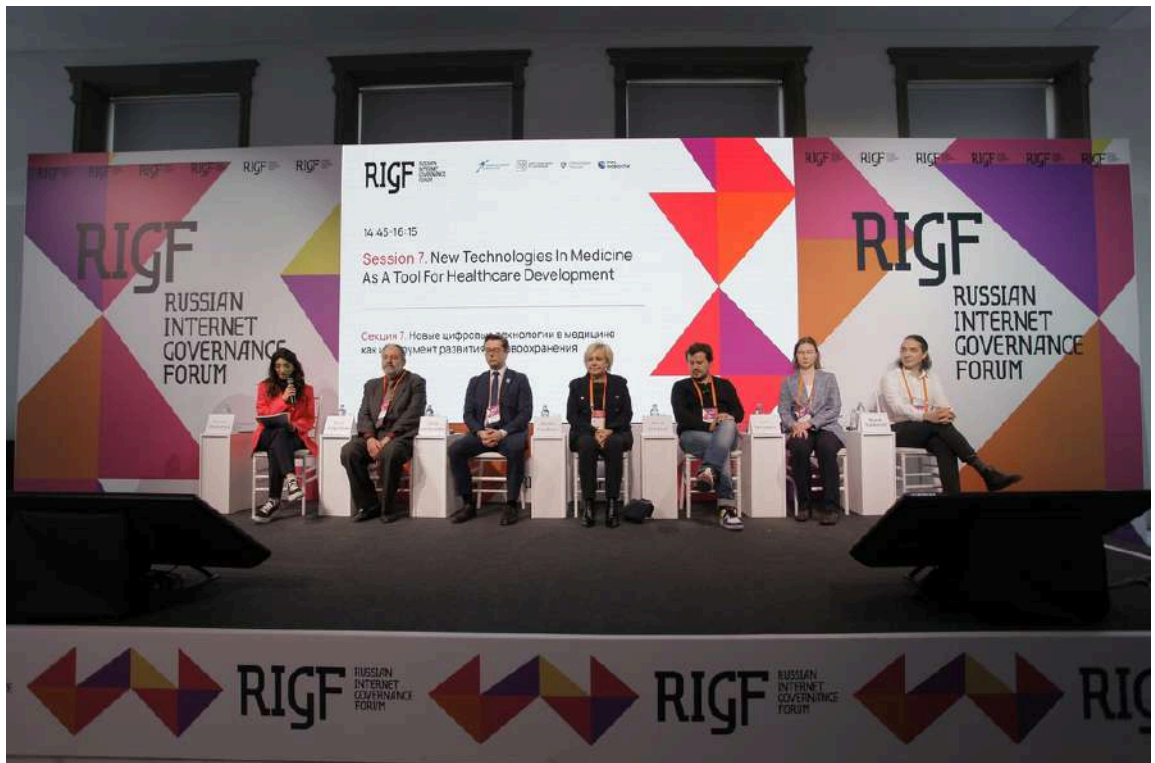


NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN MEDICINE AS A TOOL FOR HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT

The session participants will discuss approaches to reforming the current regulation in the field of healthcare based on the best international practices for the development of artificial intelligence technologies.

Topics for discussion:

- Artificial Intelligence in medicine.
- Validation of large datasets: can all the data be used or is it mandatory to select them?
- Barriers to data processing using AI systems in medicine: will be there a consent?



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: THE VOICE OF YOUTH

Internet Governance plays a special role in sustainable development and digital transformation. Focusing on the Internet, it is important to take into account the opinion of stakeholders, and especially the younger generation.

The youth has always been an important driver of digitalization. However, there is still a lack of informing young people about the existing opportunities to participate in digital transformation processes in Internet Governance ecosystem. Projects that provide such opportunities must be open and accessible in order for the younger generation to become the positive force that it can become.

The session will present the results of the IGF 2022 youth track, the results of the RIGF special course for youth, programs for youth in the world (ITU, NetMission, IGF, ICANN), as well as information about the youth projects of the Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.PF.



THE SPECIAL YOUTH COURSE'S RESULTS WERE GIVEN DURING RIGF 2023

The results of a special course for youth, which was held on the eve of the forum, were presented at the final section of the 13th Russian Internet Governance Forum "Digital Transformation: The Voice of Youth" On April 7.

Six theses prepared by the participants of the special course were presented from the RIGF platform on behalf of the younger generation. The course participants identified the main, in their opinion, problems from various areas of Internet Governance and tried to find solutions for them, which they reflected in their message.

Here are the results of the course:

Internet fragmentation

There are several types of Internet fragmentation: technological, content, political. A special case of technological fragmentation is a limited number of IPv4 addresses and difficulties with the transition to IPv6 (fragmentation at the infrastructure level).

Technical and economic cooperation between the technical community, private and public sectors could be a possible solution:

- To create favorable economic conditions, transitions to a modern and more secure version of IP addressing;
- For high-quality developments (technical solutions) in the field of integration of systems operating at the IPv4 and IPv6 levels.

Global Internet and Digital Sovereignty

Digital technologies are becoming more widespread and powerful, so governments are trying to find a balance between the benefits of the so-called "connected world" and the need to protect the rights and interests of their citizens. Slow process of transition of critical infrastructure to domestic technologies.

As a solution to this problem, it seems to us necessary:

- to stimulate the growth of the number of own developments in the field of technology in order to gain real sovereignty in the field of IT security
- to move away from foreign software in favor of domestic one
- to build up the IT potential of the country through the training of specialists, attracting investments in the field of cybersecurity, etc.

THE SPECIAL YOUTH COURSE'S RESULTS WERE GIVEN DURING RIGF 2023


Cadres For The Digital Economy

 The education system is slowly adapting to the pace of development of new technologies and does not always keep up with them. Often there is a lack of balance between understanding the work of digital technologies and soft skills. It turns out that companies, having the opportunity to develop a product, lose the market due to insufficient development of flexible skills (in particular, the ability to present and implement their product).

 We believe that the following can help solve these problems:

- implementation of state education programs in secondary and higher schools to improve computer and information literacy;
- the possibility of presenting startups for defense as graduation thesis for some educational programs.

New Technologies In Medicine As A Tool For Healthcare Development

 There is a shortage of personal data (PD) of real people for the use of information technology in modern medicine. The collection of PD in this area is complicated by the lack of a legal framework for the mechanism of their anonymization. The other side of the coin of the introduction of new technologies in the healthcare sector is the sharply increasing likelihood of DDoS attacks on hospitals and cyberterrorism (for example, hacker intervention during operations and other procedures).

 Possible solutions:

- development of legal framework for regulating the anonymization of medical PD;
- conducting an information campaign explaining that people can consent to the processing of their data, becoming donors of information by analogy with blood donors;
- creation of state center of cyber security in the field of health, which, if necessary, can contact healthcare institutions.

THE SPECIAL YOUTH COURSE'S RESULTS WERE GIVEN DURING RIGF 2023

Information Security On The Internet

»»» The development of digital technologies, in addition to new opportunities entails many risks: fraudulent schemes using new technologies, phishing, deepfakes, cyberattacks, personal data leakage.

»»» In order to comprehensively address emerging issues, more attention should be paid to increasing the digital literacy of users and instilling digital hygiene skills. But along with this, the state should stimulate and support technological research in the field of the future Internet, as well as the development of secure technological solutions.

Interaction Of Children And The Youth In A Virtual Environment. Formation Of Information And Media Culture Of Participants In The Educational Process

»»» There is a risk of potential negative impact of online platforms and media on the psychological health and well-being of children and the youth.

»»» One of the options for solving this problem is to promote digital literacy and media literacy skills among children and the youth. When creating content, it is necessary to emphasize the role of those who set the rules for its consumption - parents, and find ways to push them to convey positive content to the child (keep their attention, stimulate interest).



RIGF is hosted by Coordination Center for TLD .RU/РФ

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