Glossary

Civil society   Refers to the sphere of institutions, organizations and individuals located between the family, the state, and the market, in which people associate voluntarily to advance common interests (Anheier and Carlson 2002).

Commons   Indicates a shared resource that is not owned privately but available to all members of a community (Stalder 2005).

Community   Refers to a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members' needs will be met through commitment to be together (McMillan and Chavis 1986).

Culture   Addresses the integrated system of socially acquired values, beliefs, and rules of conduct that delimit the range of accepted behaviours in any given society (Columbia Encyclopedia 2008).

Empowerment   Refers to a process whereby individuals gain strength, confidence, and vision to work for positive changes in their lives (Eade 1997).

Framing   Addresses the construction of meaning, for example via metaphors, catchphrases, and visual images (Borah 2011).

Global public goods   Refers to a benefit-providing utility that, in principle, is available to the global population (Binger 2003).

Information and communication technology (ICT)   An umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing: radio, television, cellular phones, computers and network hardware and software, satellite systems and so on, as well as the various services and applications associated with them (SearchCIO 2011).

Information Society   Refers to the political, economic, scientific, and social changes related to globalization and communication infrastructure. The term is often used to characterize the post-industrial era (Bell 1973).

Infrastructure   The underlying foundation or basic framework of a system or organization (Frischmann 2012).

Internet   Refers to a global information and communication system that is linked together via the TCP/IP protocol (Federal Networking Council Resolution 1995).

Media   Refers to the range of tools that humans have used throughout history to communicate with each other about a shared reality (Bruhn Jensen 2008).

Mediated publicness   Refers to a publicness, which is not linked to individuals' sharing of a common locale, but is linked to transmission of actions via the media (Thompson 1995).

Metaphor   Refers to associational frameworks, enabling us to understand and experience one kind of thing in terms of another (Lakoff and Johnson 1980).

Opportunity Structure   The factors that limit or empower collective actors, such as the group's access to political institutions (McAdam 1999).

Power   Refers to the relational capacity that enables a social actor to influence asymmetrically the decisions of other social actor(s) in ways that favour the empowered actor's will, interests, and values (Castells 2009).

Public policy   Refers to government activities, whether acting directly or through agents, that have an influence on the life of citizens (Peters 2001).

Public sphere   A state-independent realm used to shape public issues (Habermas 1989).

Regulation   Refers to a law, rule, or other order prescribed by authority, especially to regulate conduct (Dictionary.com 2011).

Self-regulation   Refers to a process whereby private actors agree to rules regulating their activities, defined and enacted via codes of conduct (Schulz and Held 2001).