Deploy a method to measure the carbon footprint of ICT in an organization.

Vincent Courboulay, Associate Professor, University of la Rochelle
Guillaume Bourgeois, PhD student, University of la Rochelle (corresponding author)
  guillaume.bourgeois@univ-lr.fr
  +33 6 80 03 96 85
  IT, Image, Interaction Laboratory (L3I),
  University of la Rochelle, France
Benjamin Duthil, Associate Professor, EIGSI, la Rochelle, France

Introduction:

In 2018, WeGreenIt was announced as the first event to assess the environmental footprint of digital technology and the maturity of large French companies on the subject.

At the time, 24 large companies participated in the study, and the results confirmed the importance of the environmental impact associated with the user's digital footprint within the company.

Three years later, the topic of Responsible Digital is now on the public agenda, and there are public arena, and there are countless articles on the Internet discussing it. The topic has even been taken to the highest level of the country.

On June 10, 2021, the French National Assembly approved the first reading of a bill aimed at reconciling digital and environmental issues. The objective is to "guide the behavior of all digital actors, whether they are consumers, industry professionals, or public actors, to ensure a sober and responsible digital and environmentally sound development in France."

Among the users targeted by the law, organizations can obviously play a role, but what can we do?

Methodology:

If Gandhi said that "example is not the best way to persuade, it is the only way", Kelvin retorts, "we only care about what we measure". So let's do it, let's measure it. Welcome to WeNR 2021!

In line with the 2018 WeGreenIT operation, the Institute for Sustainable IT is launching in 2021, in support of a thesis conducted at La Rochelle University and EIGSI and funded by the Agglomération de La Rochelle, a tool to measure the Information System footprint of organizations, including Cities and Communities.

We have the support of two other Swiss and Belgian organizations and work in collaboration with the UCL.

Main results:

WeNR is more ambitious than WeGreenIT and contains more indicators. The questionnaire is accessible online and the data will be treated confidentially. The tool should therefore allow any organization to understand the impact and measure its level of responsible digital maturity based on the triptych "People-Planet-Prosperity".

To this end, ISIT is providing an open access tool based on open and public data, and we hope to publish its method in a peer-reviewed journal in order to ensure total transparency of the method. Thus, this questionnaire allows you to take stock of your equipment, your data center and its uses, your use of the cloud, and to assess the maturity of your organization in terms of responsible digital.

To date, more than 75 organizations have responded to WeNR, covering over one million employees. The responses provided free of charge to participants will allow them to quantitatively and qualitatively assess IS greenhouse gas emissions and maturity in many areas of digital responsibility.

Main references :

The site is available at: https://wenr.isit-europe.org/