

Suvi Lindén

Former Minister of Communications and Minister of Culture, Finland



Suvi Lindén was Minister of Communications for Finland responsible for media and telecommunications in 2007-2011 and previously Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, 1999-2002. She was Member of Parliament for 16 years and has a long experience of the Oulu City Council.

Currently, she is Board Member for Telit Communications, a global leader in IoT enablement and Chair for NxtVn Finland, a developer of open-access, carrier-neutral and multi-tenant Data Center Parks.

Suvi Lindén has had numerous positions of trust in a number of organizations including roles as ITU's Special Envoy for the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, memberships in the Broadband Commission and Arctic Economic Council's (AEC) Telecommunications Infrastructure Working Group. The Intelligent Community Forum, a New York-based think tank named her as its "Visionary of the Year for 2011" for her commitment to ensuring affordable broadband access to every citizen in Finland.

Ms Lindén holds a Master of Science (Computer Science) degree from the University of Oulu, Finland.

Policies as Enablers for the Digital Economy

A quality telecommunications network is a vital element in the creation of the digital economy. It means a sustainable allocation of the spectrum, including a strong and a comprehensive core network. This requires the right kind of regulation for the telecommunications sector in order to create sufficient competition in the markets and allow for reasonable prices for end-users. Affordability and accessibility are the key issues for an active digital economy.

As the digital economy depends on data, the right kind of regulation is needed to create trust and make users feel safe in the digital world. Cybersecurity, data protection and data privacy are terms that are fundamental to the digital economy. Unfortunately, policies are often lacking in this respect. Access to big data is a source of innovation but also needs the right kind of regulation.

The biggest challenge for regulators is how to keep up with rapidly developing technologies and to understand if and when the regulation is needed to secure trust to the digital economy.

The Arab region can establish a coherent platform and a single market for regional digital services but this requires a strong cooperation amongst the Arab governments. Once achieved, it can bring a strong competitive edge for the region and a significant boost for the economy and equality.