Internet intermediaries provide the Internet's basic infrastructure and platforms by enabling communication and transactions between third parties. They can be commercial or non-commercial in nature, and include Internet service providers (ISPs), hosting providers, search engines, e-commerce intermediaries, payment intermediaries and participative networked platforms. Their main functions are: i) to provide infrastructure; ii) to collect, organise and evaluate dispersed information; iii) to facilitate social communication and information exchange; iv) to aggregate supply and demand; v) to facilitate market processes; vi) to provide trust; and vii) to take account of the needs of both buyers/users and sellers/advertisers. Related public policy issues concern notably their roles, legal responsibilities and liability for the actions of users of their platforms.


Links
[12] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/critical-mass