DUBLIN – ICANN SEE (South Eastern Europe) Stakeholders Meeting
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ICANN54 | Dublin, Ireland

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Okay, I propose that we make a start. My name is Jean-Jacques Sahel. I'm the Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement in Europe at ICANN. I am from southeastern France, so I'm on the Mediterranean. I'm from the Mediterranean, but not… Well, it depends again geographically how you define southeastern.

Before I give you a more detailed welcome and suggest a few things we could discuss today, I would just propose to do a quick [tour de tab] so that everybody knows who's around the room.

I should say that this is a really informal meeting. We just took the chance of being at the ICANN meeting to gather, the community from this region, and really, the aim is to get to know one another. That's the number one aim on top of thinking about joint activities we can do together in the region and with people from the region.

I've already introduced myself, so what I would suggest is maybe we'll start with Oksana, and then I'll ask the people at the back to start coming to the microphone to say who we are. If you can just say your name, maybe just the organization you come from

if you represent an organization, and which country, of course. Thank you.

OKSANA PRYKHODKO: Thank you. Oksana Prykhodo, Ukraine. International non-governmental organization; European media outlet.

SIRANUSH VIRDANYAN: Siranush Virdanyan, ISOC Armenia board member and representative of Asia-Pacific Regional At-Large Structure. And I would also like having this chance to welcome [Dusan] and Alexander, who are joining us remotely. Hello, guys.

SASO DIMITRIJOSKI: Saso Dimitrijoski, Macedonia and Academic Research Network.

[ANNA BRADDO]: Hello, I am [Anna Braddo]. I'm from Moldova ccTLD.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hello? Can you hear me? I am from Moldova, and I am also from ccTLD.

VAGGELIS SEGREDAKIS: Vaggelis Segredakis from .gr registry; Greece.

PANAGIOTIS PAPAPILIOPOULOS: Hello, everybody. My name is Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos, [Prime Minister] of Communication of Greece.

SORINA TELEANU: Welcome, everyone. Sorina Teleanu, Parliament of Romania.

CARMEN ELIAN: Carmen Elian, Ministry for the Information Society, Romania.

ANDREA BECCALLI: Good morning. My name is Andrea Beccalli. I work with Jean-Jacques in the Engagement Team in Europe, currently based in Brussels. I am from the South because I'm from Italy.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You're from the southwest, aren't you?

ANDREA BECCALLI: [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you. Do you want to introduce yourself, [inaudible]?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:	Hello, I'm [inaudible]from Bulgaria, and I'm working for CORE Association.
ILIYA BAZLYANKOV:	Hello, everyone. Iliya Bazlyankov. Also work for CORE Association and many others. From Bulgaria.
RENATE DE WULF:	Hi, I'm Renate. ICANN staff.
MIRJANA TASIC:	Hello, my name is Mirjana Tasic. I'm coming from Serbia for Serbia registry.
ZARKO KECIC:	Yeah, hi, everybody. My name is Zarko Kecic, and I'm coming from .rs TLD.
VLADIMIR ALEKSIC:	Vladimir Aleksic, also from Serbian .rs registry.
GABRIELLA SCHITTEK:	Hello, my name is Gabriella Schittek. I'm working for Jean-Jacques now, recently joined Jean-Jacques as manager for

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Center in Eastern Europe, but I think most of you will know me from my previous position with the ccNSO.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Okay. I think, as Siranush was starting to say, we've got Alexander, [Anya], and [Dusan] on the line as well. Thank you so much for joining us, and please do ask any comments or any questions, or make any comments you'd like on the chat, and we can all see it, and we'll read it out loud for the record.

As I said, this is an informal meeting. This is really your meeting to get to know each other, to exchange ideas that are relevant to your region. There's quite a few things we could talk about.

This community has existed effectively since the…well, for thousands of years, but we created ICANN South Eastern Europe (ICANN SEE) mailing list just after London meeting last year in ICANN 50 with just I think seven or eight of us in the room. Only [Dusan] and a few of us were in the room.

This has grown very, very fast. I think the mailing list reached 80 or 90 people by the end of last year, and then there's quite a number of events that have followed with more and more people working together to organize events in the region. We've had events in Croatia, Romania, Serbia… Well, many more.

What I was suggesting was maybe we can talk in particular about the first southeastern Europe dialogue on Internet governance, which took place in Sofia in Bulgaria on the third of June, just before EuroDIG, and talk about ideas for the second edition next year, and for you to exchange on that. I will ask Sorina to start the discussion in a minute.

But then, what would be great also is just review some of the recent things. We've just had the first Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF on the first of October. We had a Croatia IGF earlier. So it's quite a lot of activities.

I know that [Dusan] and the team are already working on the next Serbia Domain Days in March next year, so there's plenty coming up. Iliya's got quite a few activities in mind, already some planned for December, so maybe he can say a few words about that.

As I said, this is not my meeting. In a way, I'm just enjoying here. I'm very happy to put you here together, and I will let you take the floor, and just sit back and be ready to support you in any way we can. So maybe, Sorina, [inaudible] on the floor, please.

SORINA TELEAU: Thank you, Jean-Jacques, also for organizing this meeting and getting us together.

Hello, everyone, again. I will try to explain briefly the whole idea of the southeastern European dialogue on Internet governance since I see some more or less new faces around. As Jean-Jacques said, we had our first meeting this year in June in Sofia, and it was organized in conjunction with the EuroDIG. I know this sounds more familiar to many of you, the European dialogue on Internet governance.

Now, the whole idea of having a SEEDIG as an Internet governance initiative for southeastern Europe is basically related to the fact that us in the region sometimes – or most of the times – have concerns and challenges that are, let's say, specific to us, and maybe not that specific to the rest of Europe. Because, yes, we have the European dialogue on Internet governance, which is the Pan-European dialogue for the whole Europe, but sometimes maybe they don't look too close to what's happening in our part of Europe.

It will be good if us, we can gather together and discuss about our issues, and then go to EuroDIG and present our issues, have this [actual] interactions between whatever happens in our region and whatever happens at the Pan-European level. So this was the starting point for SEEDIG. We managed to organize it for the first time this year in June. I think it was a pretty good event. It was a start.

It had a capacity-building dimension first, basically trying to explain what Internet governance is, what are the organizations/processes, why we should involve our stakeholders in the region, and what we can do at local and regional level to raise more awareness and to actually attract people to participate in the wider ecosystem like ICANN meetings, IGF meetings, even EuroDIG. So we had this meeting.

In addition to this introduction for Internet governance, we also had some specific discussions on some specific issues like human rights and how they are protected or how they should be protected on the Internet, and what are the concerns in our region and in our countries.

We discussed about the domain name space also, and the IDN since this is really relevant for countries in our region, and also discussed about multi-stakeholder modeling Internet governance since we have some examples in the region, and how we can learn from each other and basically improve the way in which Internet governance is perceived and actually implemented at a national level.

This was the first meeting. It was a start. We had around 150 participants, not only from the region, what we call southeastern Europe and the neighboring area, but also from beyond, because people were a bit curious about what's

happening here and what is the whole thing with southeastern Europe.

The idea was to have it as a process, not a one-time event or a one-year meeting – more of a process to allow us to interact more with each other and with the rest of Europe, and then with the rest of the world. For example, having SEEDIG fed into EuroDIG, and then into the global IGF.

If I'm using too many acronyms, and something sounds strange at the point, let me know. IGF is the Internet Governance Forum, the global one. EuroDIG is the European Dialogue on Internet Governance, and I think that's it at this point. And SEEDIG, again, is the South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance.

The plan for next year is to have a second annual meeting of SEEDIG, which has been decided to be held in Serbia, in Belgrade, and we have our colleagues here who will host us, the Serbian registry. Thank you for that, officially. We have this chance. It will be in April, and we are basically now starting building the whole event with the program and what will happen there.

And as it is a bottom-up initiative, open and transparent and all these principles that the IGF initiative follows, it is dependent on the involvement of the community.

We have an Executive Committee. Some of us are here today. I have Iliya. I have [Dusan] remote. [inaudible] unfortunately is not here with us. But we are only there to coordinate the process, not to build it from the start and up to the end, so we do rely a lot on the community, and we need the community to participate.

We have launched a call for issues, which is a joint call with EuroDIG. You will find it on the EuroDIG website, and it has been sent several times on our mailing list.

We have this call for issues, which means we are accepting proposals for topics to be discussed at the meeting. Again, the meeting will be in April next year, and we are looking for ideas of issues to discuss – issues that are relevant for us, for our region, for the Internet communities in our country and in our region.

Everyone is more than welcome to support a proposal. It doesn't have to be a proposal for natural [inaudible], just a topic. You can say "IDN" or you can say "human rights" or whatever general topic. But we need this kind of input to be able then to build a program which is actually based on the interest of the community. So you are all invited and encouraged and kindly asked to actually contribute to that call, and also spread the word within your national and local communities.

After that, we will build a program together. Again, it will be a bottom-up and inclusive process. We will have regular meetings. Some of you have followed our discussion. Again, we have this mailing list. Everyone is welcome to join that mailing list. We can share the contacts at the end of the meeting, and everything happens through that mailing list. We have regular virtual meetings where we discuss about the program of the event, and how we build it, and whatever other concerns we have for this event.

What else? I think at this point, the most important thing is the call for issues. You are kindly asked to contribute. We cannot have SEEDIG without input from the community. This is the most important thing we need to do now.

And we also need active participation in the whole process and in the meeting itself. So the second invitation — you are all kindly invited to come to the meeting in April next year and contribute to this discussion on Internet governance issues relevant for our region. It is upon us to decide what is relevant for the region or to try to define what is relevant for the region.

And then, again, we will feed our discussion into EuroDIG, because EuroDIG and SEEDIG will be and are, have been, always connected. We are in no way competing with each other. Southeastern Europe is a part of Europe, so SEEDIG is a part of

the EuroDIG process. We are keeping each other together, not trying to divide in any way Europe.

This is why we are going to participate also in the EuroDIG meeting with messages from SEEDIG and also with some hopefully focused [session] on southeastern Europe.

And we have the EuroDIG here with us now. Welcome, Sandra. We were just talking about EuroDIG.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Sorry, my meeting was slower than I expected.

SORINA TELEANU: Don't worry. I think I would stop here unless Iliya or [Aida] or [Dusan] or anyone else wants to say anything. Anyone? Iliya? [Aida? On SEEDIG. Okay. We can take questions, of course.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Can I maybe just check… The call for ideas, that's already on the EuroDIG website, I think, yeah? So, actually, it's an encouragement for both EuroDIG and for SEEDIG if you go to the eurodig.org website. It's very clear. It's on the homepage. You can go in and submit your ideas, and as Sorina said, it's really easy.

You don't need to send a two-page concept paper. It is just an idea for…The name of an idea and a little description, if you'd like. That's it. That's all we're asking. So think about topics, themes that you're interested in.

Any questions or comments or any ideas you want to suggest? The floor is open, please, including on the Adobe chat room, of course.

SORINA TELEANU: Should I ask questions, then? I have this bad… Yes, please.

SIRANUSH VIRDANYAN: Just a clarification. You said there is a call for proposal, and just brief explanation, is the naming and the phrasing what the person is interested in, or he or she can present it? Thank you.

SORINA TELEANU: Issues to be discussed at the meeting. So, for example, if I propose SEEDIG to discuss about IDNs, it doesn't mean I'm an expert on IDN, but I think that's an issue we need to discuss more because it's important for our region. So, not something you would go and present, but something that should be discussed at the meeting.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: But at the same time, certainly from my experience of preparing for EuroDIG, I think if you want to mention that you would be ready to be a speaker or that you have already speakers in mind, that would be excellent, I think, already.

SIRANUSH VIRDANYAN: Just to summarize, that will be good to clarify, because people may just send what they are interested in, and then we will start…The Steering Committee may start finding out who can present what topics. So if the both sides can be covered — I'm interested in and I can be a part of this discussion as a presenter of that — that will be helpful, I think, for the organizers at the end not to have a headache.

SORINA TELEANU: Sandra, do you want to explain this? Because the [CORE] already has.

SANDRA HOFERICHTER: At EuroDIG, we were always struggling since we invented the concept of submitting ideas and proposals only, and not workshops. We were always struggling, especially with newcomers, who expected, "If I make a proposal, I'm the one who is leading that thing forward and who invites the speaker,"

and so on, and so forth. This was actually [inaudible] EuroDIG concept.

At EuroDIG, we first summarize and collect ideas, then we make a program, and then we reach out to organizing teams which come together. Somehow the IGF took over that system in some parts when they also merged sessions which from the topic are quite close to each other, because otherwise also the IGF would end up with a hundred sessions more than they had.

Now that we are doing a joint call, of course the SEEDIG community is free to organize the program and take out of this call whatever they want, but at the moment the way the call for issues is structured is that you submit an idea, and there will be a field where you can write how would you like to contribute. And contribution can mean "I have written a paper; I have written a thesis; I can be a remote moderator; I do have people in mind which I would propose can speak about this; I can reach out to them."

At EuroDIG — just speaking for EuroDIG now; not sure how you are going to solve this at SEEDIG — we were always struggling with speaker placement. This means the usual suspects submit an idea, and say, "And my CEO, my director, and so on can come and can present." But this is actually… This never led to a very interesting dialogue.

As you, the SEEDIG community, have the dialogue in your title as well, you might be also interested in first collecting ideas, and then see what's on the table, and then reach out to… But this direct proposal speaker placement, it was never…it worked never really out for a dialogue session where you actually want to have more people and [inaudible] value.

Of course, need key participants. You do need the interesting people. You do need the high-level people. That's for sure. And I think you did very well with the first program in Sofia. Many of the sessions were so interactive.

For us, it's a sort of an experiment, too, to make a joint call, to see how that works out, what you may do differently, how you decide to deal with all the things. But at this stage, as we are talking about the joint call for proposals, which is very simple on the website, I would encourage not to think too much about speakers and concrete session proposals. That's the idea behind this online [forum]. Thank you.

[NARINE KHACHATRYAN]: So each idea, each topic, will go to both programs? Am I right in understanding…

SORINA TELEANU: If you look at the form, you have an option to actually select if you want to submit a proposal for SEEDIG, for EuroDIG, or for both. So it's up to you. Of course, you can submit it for both or only for one. It's basically a matter of choice.

[NARINE KHACHATRYAN]: Thank you.

SORINA TELEANU: And thank you, Sandra. I didn't get to say that.

Yes, so basically we are not looking into workshop proposals now. If we have an issue proposed, that doesn't mean that will be a session at the end. We will build a program together once we collect all the issues. I think that's the bottom line. Thank you.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Can you just explain what's the deadline or the timeline you're… When is the deadline for submitting ideas? Will you have a conference call or something? That sort of thing.

SORINA TELEANU: Thanks. That's a good point also. The call, the joint call, is open till the end of December, so there is a lot of time for you to submit your issues. Let's not call them proposals since that

might sound a bit more complicated. Then the plan is for us in the Executive Committee to try to compile all the proposals, and we will then organize a virtual meeting.

We will announce this on the mailing list, to look through the compilation of proposals and try to build a first draft program together, which will then be put out for public comment, and on the basis of the public comment we will build the final program. And then, and only then, the actual looking-into who will speak about what will start. As Sandra explained, we are not looking now at speakers or these kinds of very specific things. That will come at a later stage.

Again, the call is open for still a long period, and I hope we will get many proposals. If anyone has any other questions… Anna, you want to say something? As in not related to SEEDIG?

[ANNA BRADDO]:   Not related to [inaudible]. Not related to topics.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Let's just [inaudible] on SEEDIG.

[ANNA BRADDO]: Yes, on SEEDIG. My question was is Executive Committee of SEEDIG thinking of having its own website, like SEEDIG-dot-whatever?

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Anna. This is one thing we have discussed about. It's not there yet. We are still a young initiative. Our content is now hosted on the EuroDIG website – Sandra, thank you for that. Again, if you go on the EuroDIG website, you will find things there.

Last year we have also used the EuroDIG Wiki, where we have added information about the sessions, and the collaborative space was there, but we could definitely use our own website as we move forward with this process. So it's not a yes or a no at this point. It's a part of the evolving process, I think.

[Aida], Iliya, if either of you…

SIRANUSH VIRDANYAN: I think [Dusan] just sent a note/message remotely.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He says, "Join the list, and by that, join the process of creating agenda and even talk. I want to invite all national IGFs from the

region to participate and bring their message to SEEDIG. Call for issues is open until December."

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: [Dusan], do you want to just put the e-mail address that people need to reach in order to be on the mailing list? I will distribute it after the call, of course. Maybe we can have it on the screen now as well.

On the website, I think It's wonderful to have the EuroDIG website supporting SEEDIG. I think it's great, because it's part of the same family, so in a way it's good to have that direct link, to have SEEDIG embedded in EuroDIG. For the future, of course, Executive Committee has got to decide how it wants to run things.

Any other points, questions on SEEDIG or… Feel free to raise specific questions if you already have in mind certain topics that you think we should capture. Why not mention them now? What are the key issues of interest in your country, in your region, that you think could work in SEEDIG? You're more than welcome to mention them now.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I think you had another question.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Narine, go on.

NARINE KHACHATRYAN: Just a comment, not a question, that over the last years the whole process of EuroDIG was organized in a way that the main work was done not just before the actual forum, but starting from the call for proposals and to the forum. The forum was just the conclusion. That is why you can, if you go to the look at the website, you can look through those workshops. You can see that actually this is not the workshop which reflects all the work which is done. Thank you. Thank you so much.

SANDRA HOFERICHTER: I want to raise your attention to one point, which for me as a EuroDIG organizer is quite important, and I think also for the… I consider this very important for the overall Internet governance process, also with regard to the extension of the global Internet Governance Forum.

What we are doing here now to make a joint approach between the sub-regional and the regional IGF goes along with the intersessional work. It's actually the same idea as the intersessional work which was invented from the IGF. We were always trying, but to be honest, we were never really successful

to link the national IGFs with the regional IGFs with the global IGF.

Partly this is a lack of resources and capacity. More travel, more work, more reports. Nobody wants to do this. So we are really looking for an easy way to link those initiatives to each other.

The work the global IGF started with intersessional work, the connecting [and experiencing], was this year. They might look for another topic next year.

This is something we want also try with the SEEDIG people, and then hopefully also with the national IGFs so that on a very common ground we identify a topic which then can be discussed in all the different regions in Europe — on the national level, on the sub-regional level, on a EuroDIG level — and we then come maybe up with a European voice, and go to the global IGF.

There is also thought of establishing a northern IGF for the Baltic or the northern countries, so there might be other sub-regions coming up as well.

I think we have to be very careful. On the one hand, there are limited resources, not only in terms of sponsorships and finances, but also in terms of time and human resource investment. Usually these are the same usual suspects which are doing the nationals, the regionals, and the globals.

So we have to be very careful with that, but still, we want to try and approach where we can better link them to each other. The EuroDIG Open Forum, which takes place during the IGF, is dedicated to that issue.

I know that some of the people just recently organized here a national IGF. We will reach out to you rather soon, because the IGF is just around the corner, but I would like to take that opportunity and invite you already to think about how you from your perspective… This could be sorted out.

The cooperation with SEEDIG is a first approach. I think we will learn from this. After this year, we might draw our conclusion from how that worked out, and hopefully next year we can go the next step in order to really link them, because I think Europe is really exceptional in that case.

We are the region with the most national initiatives around the world. We have more than 20 national initiatives in Europe only. This is almost half of all the national IGFs worldwide. That's really exceptional.

And although we have very great diversity in Europe in terms of language, in terms of culture, digital divide, and so on and so forth, this could be really seen as a strength. We could be, as Europe, on the forefront on developing this joint linkage and approach. Thank you.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you. Anyone else? I don't know if there's anyone who's involved in a national IGF who wants to mention it and make sure they link up with Sandra and Sorina.

Oksana, do you want to make a point? Oksana first, and then…

OKSANA PRYKHODO: Thank you very much, and thank you very much to Sandra for raising equally important issues. We are from Ukrainian IGF, trying to implement all our activity in EuroDIG framework and[inter-global], and the role of service is extremely important in it.

I know that it's very unpleasant activity, and a lot of organizers [inaudible] in service, and I would like to draw your attention to two [surveys], which organized [in the eve] of IGF in Brazil. One is formal, which is [carried] by Marilyn Cade, and another is informal, which organized by Lianna and me.

We would like to propose the same idea for EuroDIG and SEEDIG, because formal survey, you have a form [to report], but maybe, for example, in Marilyn Cade's survey, it was a very direct question. For example, how come you didn't discuss next billion of Internet users? And every national IGF has to answer this question. Maybe [inaudible] propose some formal questions to

national IGF organizers, and then to ask for their [nformation]. Thank you.

LIANNA GALSTYAN: Hello, Lianna Galstyan from ISOC Armenia. We have lately initiated our first IGF back in September this year, and I wanted to say we'll learn and use the framework of EuroDIG. We made the call for issues and voting and everything which is done by Europe [at] EuroDIG.

I'm very thankful to Sandra and to the EuroDIG Secretariat that they kindly agreed to put our national initiative on their website and share in their report as well so that everyone…

Yeah, I agree that Europe in this sense is very exceptional and [inaudible] a regional GSN. Just wanted to say, to highlight, that that our first IGF was very successful, and we are on EuroDIG as well. Thank you.

AUDA MAHMUTOVIC: Auda from Bosina. Our first IGF just happened 20 days ago exactly, actually, on the first of October. I would like to… The whole idea actually started in ICANN LA when we talked with Andrea and Jean-Jacques, because there are some countries that really have to start from the scratch. We could not really that easily join some dialogues without knowing ABCs.

Sandra, thank you so much for saying that. It is very important to have this collaboration with also national IGFs so that we can kind of work together and go forward to the global level.

Just like Lianna said, our IGF was…I don't want to say surprisingly, but it was surprise. It was very successful. We had all stakeholders. It was held by the auspices of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of course with the support of ICANN Council of Europe and many more. I will be sharing our report in just a few days on the mailing list, so make sure… I know Lianna will also share there, so make sure that you're on the mailing list, and once again, please do collaborate with us regarding SEEDIG. We need your input, and we will need your hands-on help. There's not many of us. Thank you.

ANDREA BECCALLI: I have a couple words from the Bosnia-Herzegovina IGF. As Aida said, we came up with this idea through a meeting [put in] in this environment with the SEE (South East European) group. I was [tremendously] impressed/surprised by the participation, by how many people were asking questions. At one point I thought either people in Bosnia-Herzegovina are very interested in [inaudible] or very friendly and love to ask questions. They're not shy, but maybe a combination of the two.

Even more impressive for these kind of meetings — although here we are pretty balanced — around half of the participants were women. That was a good. And as a direct result from that, I just learned that [inaudible] from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs applied for the fellowship to participate at the next ICANN meeting to join the GAC.

We had a meeting with .ba registry, also with other… It was kind of a small delegation of participants from the Bosnia-Herzegovina IGF that wanted to see the registry. It was a very fruitful meeting, because it's a small registry. They want to scale up. They want to join the European group of ccTLD [CENTR]. They want to be more involved in ICANN. You could see how these effects can really [inaudible] and bring immediate results.

I'm thinking and I'm going through my head on how we can replicate that, and how can be more instrumental in fulfilling this kind of synergies within the region. And no, it doesn't have to be every time at an ICANN meeting which they shuffle around the five continents, but within the region there are the resources, but they are not always networked. Of course, the list is a big one. It's a good [central], but these kind of national events, they can really spur the concrete and immediate results.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you. So, a couple of things. First, if you look on the chat, we have just put in the mailing list address if you want to be added. It's ICANN-SEE (as in South Eastern Europe) at RNIDS.RS, because the mailing list is kindly hosted by our friends in Belgrade. And then Sorina has just posted the link to the call for issues on the EuroDIG website.

I'm just thinking, listening to all this, it would be great if we could have a chat separately, maybe, with Sandra to see how best we can make the links with the national IGF to reinforce the link with the website of EuroDIG in particular, and also make it easier for you to find a good, easy way to communicate with you and not flood you with extra work. So maybe we can have a separate chat, and then communicate through the mailing list on follow-up.

Any other points from anyone on or around SEEDIG? Sandra?

SANDRA HOFERICHTER: Just a small announcement. If you have reports from your national sub-regional IGFs, you are invited to bring them to the EuroDIG booth at IGF, and we will distribute them on your behalf.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Sandra. This reminds me that we also have a report of the first SEEDIG meeting, which is, again, available on the EuroDIG website and also on the IGF website. So if you want to know more about what happened at the meeting and how we actually got there, please have a look at the report. Thank you.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you for that. That's been really helpful. We're getting towards the end of the meeting already. We're supposed to finish at 2:00. There's a few things coming up which I think it would be great to highlight for people, some events coming up. But before we do that, actually, since we started the meeting there's quite a few more people that have come into the room, and I think it would be great if they could introduce themselves so we know who's who. Maybe we can start with Mert at the end, and then we'll go around, and we'll ask everyone to come in and speak on the microphone, say who they are.

MERT SAKA: Hi, everyone. This is Mert Saka. I'm working for ICANN from the Istanbul office, part of the registry services team.

AIDA MAHMUTOVIC:	Hi. Aida Mahutovic from Bosnia and Herzegovina, working for One World Platform, NGO dealing with human rights and Internet, in short.
NARINE KHACHATRYAN:	Narine Khachatryan, Armenia. I'm working for Safer Internet Armenia, public/private initiative.
ANA KAKALASHVILI:	I'm Ana from Georgia. I'm ICANN [fellow] currently, but I work for US government Peace Corps, which is not related, but still…
LIANNA GALSTYAN:	Lianna Galstyan from ISOC Armenia.
[UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE]:	Hello, everybody. My name is [inaudible]. I come from Croatian registry, .hr.
JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL:	Welcome.
UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:	Hi, I'm [Anya], also from Croatia (.hr).

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Welcome. We have a few more people on the call that have joined. We've got Daniel, actually also in Dublin, but probably doing another meeting at… Oh, he's sitting…? Sorry, I couldn't see you, Daniel.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]

JEAN-HJACQUES SAHEL: You're doubling up on the chat as well. Good. And Jason [Polis]. Thank you.

There's a few more events which are already planned, which of course you can get more information about from the mailing list. But maybe we can start with Iliya to give us a heads-up? Thank you.

UNDENTIFIED FEMALE: [off mic].

ILIYA BAZLYANKOV: Both. Okay, [4th of] December in Sofia I'm organizing for the fifth year an event called Domain Forum, which is mainly a business side of the domain industry — marketing, new TLDs — but we also have sessions for IGF, ICANN, and the region.

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This year we would like to bring more people from the region to this meeting, so in one week I will be sending to the mailing list an invitation with details, and we also plan a few fellowships for people that cannot afford.

Also, next year I plan to start organizing courses on Internet governance matters, mainly for Bulgaria, but we will also try to involve people from the region.

JEAN-JACQUE SAHEL: Thank you. That was extremely concise for actually a lot of initiatives and a lot of work. So, again, it's the 4th of December for the initial one, and more to follow in and around Sofia. I think Iliya will circulate the details shortly for…

ILIYA BAZLYANKOV: Yes, for the main forum in about a week on the mailing list.

JEAN-JACQUS SAHEL: Thank you very much. And also, I think we should all thank you again for being the official host of the EuroDIG this year in Sofia. Congratulations. That was another great event with… I don't know, Sandra, how many people did we get, 500 or more?

SANDRA HOFERICHTER: We had around 500 registrations, which was lower than last year, but the no-show rate was not as big as in Berlin, so we actually could really compare the number of people in the room with the number of people we had in the room in Berlin. This was such a positive surprise. Thanks to Iliya and his team, who made everything possible to get the people in the room.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Congratulations again, and thank you.

Okay, who else would like to [inaudible]? I know, Sorina, you've got a couple of things in mind. I don't know if our Croatian friends have got already the next Croatia IGF in mind.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, we have, but we are not sure about [inaudible].

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Okay. Just for those on the chat, they're thinking about the next edition. They just don't have specifics about dates.

ANDREA BECCALLI: I was thinking, and before I was discussing with Sorina, that it would be useful if every one of you, of us, once per month or as they can, they send on the list the events they are planning on

the region – not only events that they're organizing, but also events they are planning to attend.

For instance, in next November there will be the RIPE meeting in Romania. I think it's in '16 the 13th of November. I believe some of you will be there. [inaudible] maybe not everybody knows about this meeting would be interested in attending. So use the list about that, and let's see if we can try to compile a once-per-month digest of what's happening in the region.

We are always struggling, even ICANN itself, with the calendar of events and activities. I think, Jean-Jacques, we can share outside our calendar those activities that are global. In this case, it's important if we can feed activities within the list.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you. Okay, that's a really good idea. Anyone else for any other activities? Sorina, do you want to say a couple of words maybe on Romania?

SORINA TELEANU: Just a quick note. We are also planning an Internet governance event in Romania for early next year. We don't really call it an IGF initiative. We are not there yet in terms of building a bottom-up and multi-stakeholder initiative, but we are starting with this event. ICANN is kindly supporting us. If you can join us, if you

want to join us for this thing, you are more than welcome. We will send more details once we have a better idea of when and what exactly will happen. Thank you.

ANA KAKALASHVILI: Same goes here. I'm also in the process of negotiating with Georgia National Communications Regulatory about organizing the first IGF. I think I got very generous support from RIPE NCC and ICANN as well. We'll send you the details later, see how it goes. So far, if you want to give me some advice how to organize it, how to cope with the public entity, please come and give me. I really need that advice. Thanks.

AIDA MAHMUTOVIC: I don't know if [Dusan] is still with us, but next year Belgrade will be the hot spot for IG events. They're preparing several, like [inaudible] Original Internet Forum, and [DIDS], and something like that. So maybe [Dusan] can just write it down or share it on the list.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: We'll give [Dusan] the time to go back to his keyboard.

As we've all been saying, and Andrea just now, the mailing list is the way to keep each other updated on what's coming up, but

also to make suggestions. If you have specific ideas in mind for certain sessions at your IGF, but you don't know which speakers to look for, that's the place to ask. Ask the mailing list.

Or if you're on a mailing list, and you see an event coming up, and you think you could be a speaker, or you would be interested in attending or speaking, do mention it.

Okay, any other points?

LIANNA GALSTYAN: [inaudible].

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Yeah, please.

LIANNA GALSTYAN: Taking the chance of your suggestion since I will be in IGF and making a workshop for just national and regional initiatives, I will use this chance, and send you the questionnaire which Oksana mentioned, which is not a formal one, but in regards if you're a national initiative in IGF, if you'd be so kind to fill it in, we will analyze that and use that in our workshop. Thank you.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you very much. Yes, Sorina, please.

SORINA TELEANU: Quick point. I keep on remembering things about… Back to the [inaudible] discussion, just to say thank you again to EuroDIG and ICANN for being I think our main supporters for the South Eastern European initiative. We have also managed to get support from the Council of Europe, European Commission, and the IGF Secretariat, so they are also supporters of SEEDIG in formal manner, but they are also backing us up. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [Dusan] asks if there's someone from Serbia in the room so that they could help.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: It will be too much to type for [him].

MIRJANA TASIC: Sorry, I have no information about those initiatives going in Serbia. I only know that [DIDS] is planned for every year. All the other things… I'm not coping with this kind of stuff, you know, so that's why I'm not informed.

Probably some things are going on. I'm sorry our manager over IDS is not here. He's probably informed about all this stuff. I only know that the regular things which we have every year is the IDS.

Maybe in the scope [DIDS] will be something like it was last year. Probably it was planned in the same way for the next year, but that's all I can say in this moment.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: From what I know, it's going to be now the sixth annual Serbia Domain Days conference, and it should be around the tenth of March, I believe, and probably a two-day event again, like this year. It was an extremely successful event – I think I've mentioned it before – with I think 300 participants, I think 3,000 people watching online. It was all video-streamed. It was very successful, lot of really good session. It was packed. Lot of press attention as well. It was very impressive.

I have to say, I do a lot of events; it was fantastically well put-together. So I think it will be a great conference. I think many of us can learn from our IDS organizes it, so it should be a really good event. And of course, they're also now proposing to be the host for SEEDIG, which is wonderful, but it would be a month and something later.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: In April.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: In April? So it's a month and a half later. Aida, do you know more? You mentioned a regional Internet forum.

AIDA MAHMUTOVIC: If you'll remember, last year… Some of us were there, and there was regional Internet forum, so not Internet governance, Internet forum, and the plan was to kind of move around a little bit in the region.

I think that this year — [Dusan] can maybe just say yes or no — that this year it should be happening again. But if you join the list, [Dusan] will tell you more about it on the list. Right, [Dusan]?

I think there's also something happening in Macedonia, because I know we have some event before SEEDIG, right, Sorina? Was it Macedonia?

SORINA TELEANU: I think Jean-Jacques might know more about that, but that was a one-time event.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: There was an idea for a Macedonia event, I think. Alexander's gone, unfortunately, but….

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [inaudible].

AIDA MAHMUTOVIC: [inaudible] will be the host of RIPE South East Europe. It's just after the SEEDIG in April.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: So we will all be touring southeastern Europe continuously from conference to conference by the look of it. This is getting too successful. Thank you.

Any other things that we could flag up that we've mentioned? No?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Okay, go on. Go on, please.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: We often don't do that, but I really have to recognize and appreciate the tremendous work and tenacity that I see in this region. If I tried to do something similar with the western part of Europe, forget about it. I don't know. I was trying to figure out why was the reason why.

Probably the southern Europe or [inaudible] in the northern Europe. I don't know. But even from the last IGF in Bosnia and Herzegovina, so such an interest and a willingness to join this process, to learn, to share that is very rare in the western part of Europe.

I think that there is all the potential to become actually a leadership, [inaudible] leadership, position for the rest of western Europe, which is struggling on older and really [entrenched] ways of doing policies. So I really congratulate, and I look forward to do more and support you.

Oksana, please.

OKSANA PRYDHOKO: Maybe we can develop a global involvement strategy for our region [inaudible] initiative, because [inaudible] is everything on the ICANN website.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: I'm not sure what you meant by a global engagement strategy.

OKSANA PRYDHOKO: You have, for example, the Middle East regional [inaudible] [core] strategy, and we would like to go have [inaudible] eastern Europe or European [core] strategy [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Finally.   There is also a European coordination meeting tomorrow, which is a pan-European meeting, and you are all kindly invited to join that also since we are always talking about linkages between southeastern Europe and the wider Europe. It would be good to have you there also. And yes, you have a question?

[MIRJANA TASIC]:   Mirjana, for the record, from Serbia, I will strongly support this initiative which was proposed by a Ukrainian representative here — the lady from Ukraine; I cannot remember by am — because in our region, at least it is my feeling I am dealing with Internet for 25 years or a little bit more. The problem is the people don't know how to start and how to collect people who are interested in something.

I was a more technical person, so I know what I was doing on the technical level, but when some social problems are coming to be solved, and it is obvious that our society is changing first, hearing the Internet environment – maybe tomorrow it will be somewhere else – it is very good to have some guidelines on how to start engaging people in some initiatives.

I'm sorry, I feel it like a problem because I am a technical person, and it would be good if some kind of initiative starts. Thank you.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL:

I'm taking all these things in. It's pretty important feedback for us. You [inaudible] it. I'm memorizing it. Let the boss work.

I think a couple of years ago now we tried to do a European strategy, and the feedback from western European countries mainly was awful. It was like, "We don't need that. We're grown enough that we know how to do things. We're already engaged, and by the way, you are troublemakers. Basically, just forget about it."

We listened to them. That's our job. We're engagement, and to engage you have to listen. Otherwise that's not engagement. I do still think that what you mentioned makes sense, and what [Dusan] was saying there, not for the different problems that we have in the region.

There is a different condition from microeconomic indicators to the size of the DNS industry to the numbers of Internet penetration and so forth. So we can do something specific to the region that in a way is similar to other initiatives that ICANN has in other less-developed regions. We have a Latin America strategy. We have an Africa strategy.

Maybe what we can do is… You can find those strategies on the ICANN website. They are more specific. They are actually helping those countries in developing a DNS industry. We had DNS forums, we had a training session organized in Cairo that was a few months ago, just to explain if you want to become a registrar what you have to do – how to set up a business to become a registrar. So we can try to do things like that specific to region. I'm willing to do something similar.

Unfortunately, we have to leave the room, apparently, because there's another meeting. What I would suggest to take… I've taken lots of notes, and I will circulate them. There's a couple of action points which you will see. On this last idea from Oksana which seems to get some interest, what we could do is organize just a specific call about this maybe later in November or in December.

What we could do is I could get one of our colleagues from one of the other regions, from either Latin America or Africa, just to give us an illustration, a presentation, of what they have done in those regions in terms of stakeholder engagement strategy, so you can see the sort of things they have done. We can circulate the documents in advance, of course, and then for you to all discuss what could work, and then maybe on the mailing list we could start preparing an agenda for that call as well. Does that seem like a good way forward?

MIRJANA TASIC: I want to stress your attention to something which is specific to southeastern Europe. It is not the way of thinking of people, because we had our history, and this history has a huge impact on our way of thinking. People are not free enough to think, and that's another problem. But I think we could try to help people to change the way of thinking, although the people cannot communicate properly. That's another problem. And all these things will take years to change, but we have to start with it somehow. Thank you.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you. It's good. We are going to change the world little by little. So I will circulate the notes, and please let's on the mailing list exchange more ideas about how we could develop a strategy. I will circulate, just for information, documents on the other regional engagement strategies so you get an idea for the sort of things we have, and then we can make sure we start thinking about how to tailor it to southeastern Europe.

Thank you all very, very much. This has been the best-attended meeting so far, and you're all wonderful. Thank you.

ANDREA BECCALLI: Let's take a picture, post it on the wall.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Yes. And again, tomorrow at 5:30…

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]