
ICANN79 | CF – DNS Women: Involving the Community
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – 4:15 to 5:30 SJU

ANDREA GLANDON: Hello and welcome to the DNS Women's Session Involving the Community. My name is Andrea, and I am a participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace. And I will now hand the floor over to Vanda. You may begin.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Okay. Thank you, Andrea. So, again, thank you very much for all that is here with us attending this session. Just a few introductions from Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: A few introductions? I hope you don't expect me to go around the room.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: No, no, yeah.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: One very long set of introductions.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: No, for you, just for you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Hello, ladies and gentle people. I'm Cheryl Langdon-Orr, and yes, you'll find out, Vanda and I have been doing this for a little while. Look, just look up in front of us. We've got Connect, Inspire and Thrive. And whilst this isn't the largest gathering we've ever seen, I think it's an important gathering because what we're going to be doing today is very much along those lines of obviously Connect, but the Inspire and Thrive is going to come from our speakers today.

And I know I'm very excited to hear, particularly the local voice. Thank you, Vanessa, for joining us. And of course, the youth, this next gen, where it's all going to be. Well, let me see. I think I can remember when I was their age, but they need to be looking forward another 20 plus or more years and see where they'll be driving women in technical areas in STEAM, but also specifically in our domain name industry. So, let's get on to it. Back to you, Vanda.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Thank you very much. So, let's start. The next slide, please. So, that's our agenda today. And we have a lot of things that I believe will be very interesting for many of you. So, let's start because we have a local voice. We have a young person with us, the youth moment that we're going to have bring the new generation to start to work with us. A technical presentation for Werner. So, just to show that we are not

against men. We are not, because we are not crazy people, we are just trying to improve the participation of women in that, environment. But all the men are welcome all the time, especially in my age, it's very hard to find a man around.

So, I have no idea to send out this impression. So, anyway, and then we have our sponsor before the cocktail that we certainly will enjoy because also the GEMS, I don't know if all knows what GEMS is. GEMS is a group of, bands that work in the ICANN environment and they will give us a chance to listen to them during our cocktail. So, it's a very good opportunity. And then after, before we go to the cocktail, we're going to have a small ceremony among us to give the certificates to the new chapters that we're going to have from Egypt and India.

So, any time we're going to have more open space for questions and so on. So, let's start. So, the first thing is, I'm a talker, nothing else, but remember the beginning, we were five women, few of them in that time. A little more. And in June 2009 in Sydney, we decided to start something to bring more women to this environment. So, those are the people. Some are not anymore with us. So, they remain, addicted person like Cheryl and myself is still here. We're still here, but the others are not. But we keep in touch with them, but they went to another kind of work.

So, they were not anymore with us, but we keep in touch and we are very pleased to have them in that time and work for so many years now. So, next slide. So, just for the new ones to see, those are just few, that was so dark or whatever. Those are many, many opportunities we had each year, each meeting to connect with the other women and start

to have breakfast, we have just cocktails and we start to have sessions and the projects and the panels, whatever. We went through the COVID time, also continue to have that online and with a lot of panelists around the world. It was very nice. So, those are and we believe, this cocktail will also be very interesting to us. So, till now, we have these 25 events, five continents, almost 400 members. Membership is free.

So, everybody can send a message and we can add into the website and into the data center that we have for that. Okay. So, it's seven chapters, two new today. One survey, we are starting a new survey this year. So, to understand who are doing what around the world in those registered members. And we have already seven projects and they're still working new projects, we can say. So, those are the sponsor we have so far. So, thank you for them, for all the time they really make it more interesting to have those cocktails, those opportunity to engage and discuss and make women more together in this environment.

And this time we'll have .pt. So, .pt will talk with us, .pt is .Portugal. So, they will sponsor us for this cocktail and they will talk a little bit in the end of this session. Okay. So, next one. That is the most important. Updating statistics. So, what we had as an averaging meeting is statistics. We have comparing since that time that we convinced ICANN to start to register gender attending the meetings. So, it was 50, 56 in 56. From 56 to that, the average amount of women was 29%. Not so bad if you compare to the right side, that we, the computer and mathematics worldwide was 28% of women in general.

And in the United States stand, because we are in the United States, so United States stand was just 25%. So, we were not bad as an average

participation of women, but we are growing. That is the most important issue that this group is looking for all the time, growing the participation of women in ICANN meetings and ICANN environment. So, considering Hamburg and now San Juan, we already reached 34%, 33% of participation of women comparing with the other numbers. So, we are growing.

So, that is quite important for the, remember that in Hamburg, we had about 2000 participants. Yeah. So, our participation was huge. So, it's quite important to have that. Go ahead. So, what we are planning quickly, a new survey to keep tracking on women evolution, what they do, what kind of work they have done, the environment they are working for, and the problems they are facing, those kinds of things that are more general information to inform in the next meeting what we have as comparing to the first survey that we have done some years ago. So, new chapters, I said, working on the spending statistics, I'm working with ICANN to improve the information they got.

It was very, they are, they give me even the perspective of that, so they are very keen to help us. So, I'm very excited to have more information about genders, the always statistics related to ICANN, not only statistics on meetings, but also in the whole ICANN, community as a whole. So, we are developing the project of women on the internet, and get the memory of those women working for the internet in the beginning. And we are working two issues to publish that, capacitation data protection, and clear e-book, and the capacitation cyber security e-book. And we are also planning some webinars, maybe about cyber security itself during this year.

So, I believe I'm done. Okay, if you are not a member of DNS Human, so, or enter into our page, and there is a place to register over there, it's free of charge. And if not, send me an email, I can put you in our database. Okay, that's it. So, let's continue with our local voice, that is Dr. Vanessa Quinones. Vanessa, please introduce a little bit yourself. You have time for your presentation. Thank you.

VANESSA QUIÑONES:

Hi, my name is Vanessa Quinones. I am the women owner of TRACKIT LLC, that is a company that provides geo-reference and geo-analysis for Puerto Ricans. We do GIS mainly. We have evolved in the past years. We've been working in different companies as local providers of geographic information technologies. And it's very challenging to be a woman owned company and do a magical science as everybody thinks. So, basically, I am here to show you a small presentation of what we have done in the past years. At the end, you will have a QR code with my contact. So, if you would like to contact me, feel free to contact me, okay?

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Okay, next slide.

VANESSA QUIÑONES:

Well, what I would like you to have, is a message from TRACKIT, from my own. It's not to do technologies because we do technologies. You have to follow your heart, as I mentioned here in the title of the presentation. Follow your heart and change the world one project at a

time. That is very important for us. That is something that we use to decide if we are going to go forward a project or not. Sometimes we get people that want to be a little bit greedy and use the technology to do it. But we are engaging in projects that benefit everybody. We need to live out of money and do projects for a living, but we want to leave something back to Puerto Rico and the places that we go and do projects.

So, for me, this is the more important slide for you to have an idea and a way to do projects that benefit more than a few people. So, I will give you an example that goes right into this subject in ICANN. There's a project that is going on in the U.S. that is called the Broadband Project. It's a combined effort for the president and the house and everybody to put four trillion dollars to improve the communications in the U.S. and the territories. So, we are the ones who are challenging the FCC and the NTIA from Puerto Rico with the broadband office in Puerto Rico.

And it was very tough to do it, but I would like to show you some things that we did to follow in our hearts to benefit Puerto Rico. Next slide, please. This is the situation that I don't know how many of you are from the States, but the ones who are not from the States, maybe I identify with myself in terms of geography, okay? How many of you have been in Manhattan, in New York City, in big cities that has streets and roads and corners and southwest and the first and second? That is not the case in other countries. Even countries with more people, more populated, doesn't have any schemas that goes along with addresses.

So, the rules for the U.S. are that you have one structure, one parcel, one owner. But in Puerto Rico, that is not the case. We have parcels

that have a hundred houses, and if you are going to bring some infrastructure for the parcel, you have to bring infrastructure for everybody, not just for one house. So, the solution that we propose is that you have to go by structure and not by the original schema that the FCC had to put together the analysis and give out the money that Puerto Rico needs to improve broadband communications. So, it was a big thing to do.

Next slide, please. So, this is the original problem that we have when we deal with the United States. And what happens is that, and I will bring some examples, what happens is that the United States Postal Office basically rules the addresses in the U.S. But technologically talking about it and think about it, a postal address is an attribute of a person. Because if you have a P.O Box, you don't have an address in which 911 can reach you when you have an emergency. So, that is an attribute in database schemas that belongs to a person. And a physical address belongs to a place. So, if you want to go and do addresses for the postal addresses, you will not reach people's places.

You will reach people, but not places. So, that happened in Puerto Rico by the time of Hurricane Maria. So, what happened was that lots of people from FEMA and from outside Puerto Rico came to help. And when they get into the addressing system to go and help people, they start looking at P.O Boxes and other stuff that are scarier for the addresses in Puerto Rico. So, that is a big situation here. And it will not be different from the FCC thing. Next slide, please. So, we propose the solution that I addressed two slides ago.

Building a map by structure and not building a map by addresses. And doing comparisons with the FCC broadband program, we found 216,000 places in Puerto Rico that were missing from that map. That is a lot. Next slide, please. The same happened to FEMA. And I need to talk about Maria because Puerto Rican history is divided after Maria and before Maria. FEMA didn't have the information on location. We missed 78,000 structures to get help in Maria because of that misinformation and mapping.

So, having the experience of Maria and having the experience of the Census, we put together a challenge for the FCC saying, and look, the Census and FEMA were reactive in nature when they found out this. Now, the FCC had the opportunity to be in front of the problem and solve it right there. What happened was that we got approved the 216,000 new points. And that bring \$900 million to improve the communications in Puerto Rico. So, that's the study that I wanted to share with you. And that goes back to my first slide.

That was, it's not only doing a project. You need to put your heart in the project and then start fighting like crazy if you have to put together evidence that bring back good to your people. And I have a lot of stories that I can tell you about my career. You can reach me over. I'll be glad to talk to you if you like. But we need to move forward not as women. And I have a women-owned company, but I think that being a woman is not a disability. So, I am glad I have the women-owned company certificate. But it's more than that. It's not because we are women. It's not because we are men. We are people that want to help. So, thank you. That is my message for today.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

You can take the contact of Vanessa over there. For us, it was a pleasure. Thank you very much, Vanessa, especially for joining us during your work time here. And we appreciate and we hope you continue to be part of our group after that. Thank you very much, Vanessa. And let's go. Okay. Next one was Natalie Tercova. And she is young and will present herself for us and be part of the new generation. Go ahead.

NATALIE TERCOVA:

Thank you, Vanda. Natalia Tercova speaking. Thank you so much for having me here. It is always a pleasure to be considered young and fresh. So, thank you for this amazing introduction. I think I need this community in my life. It is very nice and empowering. I come from the Czech Republic. I am a research specialist in this interdisciplinary field of media and psychology.

So, my master was in media and psychology. And I kept wondering, how can I bridge these two, as I think they're very important. We have technologies in our daily lives, and they affect us fundamentally in terms of our well-being, for example. So, I'm focusing specifically on this. And I am researching the digital skills, specifically of children and adolescents, and how these digital skills and their ICT usage impact them from the psychological point of view. And I am also interested in the internal governance from the broader spectrum. And I am happy to share with you that I founded recently the IGFNRI in the Czech Republic, which is very nice. And we have an organizational team full of women, and they're amazing.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So, I'd like you to share a little bit about your experience, your research, and your team, that you work with. Because you work especially with kids and teens. So, please, this theoretic methodology that you are applying, share with us a little bit, because it was part of your next presentation, and it was successful. And I think you have to share with everybody.

NATALIE TERCOVA: Of course. Thank you so much. I was waiting if there's going to be any follow-up questions. And this is something I did not mention in the beginning. So, I already joined ICANN78 as a next-gen, as Denny stated. And I'm more than happy to be coming back so soon as an ICANN79 fellow, currently. Back then, my presentation in next-gen covered what I was actually dealing with in terms of the new theoretical approach to measuring those digital skills. And let me tell you, it is a complex model. So, I will try to put it very simply. But what we are trying to see in these relationships between digital skills and the online environment, and the well-being of the children, is what protective and risky factors are in place.

And it is very hard to tell, because it differs from individual to individual. So, if someone tells you that it is the age, that it is the family environment that shapes it all, it is not the case. And specifically, here, because this is DNS for Women, I want to highlight that with more and more research we have, international one and longitudinal one, we know that the gender is not a significant factor related to digital skills. So, we can't say that either boys or girls are better at digital skills. It is

more about the confidence. And let me give you a brief example. When you measure digital skills with self-reported data, meaning you give a survey to the kids, and they should state, I am confident that I can program very well, or I can create this website.

It is usually the boys that state, oh, I'm very good at this. I think I'm very confident. However, females tend to be more like, oh, I'm not quite sure. I think I can't do this very good. Not like my boy colleagues. But once you give them practical tasks, and this is something we now combine. So, we first give them the survey, the status, and then we give them some practical examples. So, show us. Show us how good you are. And it is not only that the girls are at the same level as boys, but sometimes they even outperform them. So, this is something I really want to highlight here, that we should encourage young females and girls in the field to really proceed this STEM education, because gender significant factor. Thank you.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Thank you, Nathalie. And now in our agenda, we have a technical presentation for Werner Staub. Werner, can you introduce a little bit yourself and then go ahead and make your presentation. Thank you.

WERNER STAUB:

Thank you. My name is Werner Staub. I'm kind of a dinosaur in the ICANN world. I've been around for even before.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Like we do, at least.

WERNER STAUB:

Yeah, I work for a non-profit association that runs registration systems, much of it actually for community-based top-level domains. So, this is actually also an area where we actually see a need to do more than the typical registration. And then we also realized that the typical technical solution, even though we introduce it, it's just not going to be paid attention to because the focus is on the old, I should say, non-improved approach. And I think it's very interesting now to do this presentation in this context, because what this technical environment that I'm going to talk about suffers from is an approach on the, I would say, an extremely male way of using technology.

I would sometimes call it the John Wayne approach to internet security. That's unfortunately the dominant thinking in ICANN, and it just doesn't work. I mean, we all know it doesn't work, but in the entire setting, which is again, based on this, I would say, male logic, we cannot admit it. So, we continue to pretend what no reasonable person would say, is that every domain name is trustworthy just because it exists until we have proof of the opposite. And we know this is not true. We cannot, we wouldn't say to a child, get into every car, unless you know that this is actually a really dangerous person, but any car is okay, because it's a functional car, then it should be okay.

And of course, the John Waynes of the world will chase down the bad ones, that of course we know it's not possible, but that's still the attitude that we have here. So, the first slide, the next slide, if you have a look, is the title, we try to make it simple and we'll talk about the simple words. It is not to make it simple to understand, it's because we

do it the other way around, it just makes no sense. And so even I had to kind of take a step back. And the next slide, this is a slide that it's hard to see, but what you're seeing is actually my own Facebook page, and this was a screenshot I did in Hamburg, when Wanda and I were looking at my Facebook page, we should remember that.

And so, I took a screenshot immediately, I removed, I mean, covered some of the areas that they should be shown here. But you will see in the top corner, it's not visible from here, is an ad with a slogan. And just below another ad with exactly the same slogan, that's actually what struck me, just what happens here. And then you see that this ad, the first one has a domain name shown there. And the domain name you find shown there is actually a major brand in Switzerland. It's a tabloid newspaper, maybe not my taste of tabloid newspaper, but really powerful tabloid newspaper. And so basically it says this link, it's a sponsored link that says, tabloid newspaper. Here we have the story, the picture of the person is a star, a TV star in Switzerland. And so, but it's, of course, it's fake.

And then actually, I hovered with the mouse, just, in front of Wanda, I did that hover with the mouse. And then I saw that the link doesn't actually go to that, to that domain that is shown there. So, here we have a first problem, Facebook already falling short and say displaying a domain name, but the link goes somewhere else. Then even the display name, the domain name. And then, we had a look at that domain name, if you go to the next slide, the domain name was one of that kind, which is, it would go somewhere else. And people would be misled. It was a previous slide, this doesn't matter which one it was, but let's say it is the same topic as here.

The domain name goes somewhere else and the domain name has been accepted by Facebook, who could have known better. In this case, we have another scam. It's a postal service scam. We've got a domain name displayed. Now, the app that displays the domain name here does have the capability to make some verifications before making clickable, then nothing is happening. So, basically, they look at what kind of solutions are there to know what this domain name is, and how do we know who these people are? And then in the ICANN world, everyone says, we've got the WHOIS, which is not supposed to be said anymore, because in the last couple of years, we've been involved in the assassination of the word WHOIS.

So, to make sure nobody understands what we're talking about. It's now called RDDS. I mean, try to communicate on that subject. In this specific case, you find that, this domain, this other case, it's also quite old, it's still around, all these cases where these domain names are used for danger stuff, they're still around. They haven't been found. Why haven't they been found? Because the targeting is so good that this enormous inventory of domain names can be used and spread. Sorry. And it can be, of course, the malicious payload is not delivered on that domain name, it will first be redirected.

At the redirect target, there's going to be an analysis of the headers and all kinds of properties, cookies, and whatever could have been to see if this is likely a victim, or at least somebody who cannot report it, or is it maybe it's a security company or law enforcement. So, they, at the same time they get, they complete their database of security companies and law enforcement IP numbers and other to see to be able to filter them out. And if then a request comes in from there, they're

going to see it's about music lessons or weight loss or whatever, but not the malicious payload. And it goes so on a couple of redirects, it's actually an ecosystem that I would call fraud as a service.

It's, building block for fraud is being sold in this ecosystem as a service. And here, what you see bluish here is actually our RDAP. That is just about as much as we're telling. And this is even lucky, there's actually something shown, which is going to the next slide. Here is just a selection of domain names and what actually is available, in the best of case, if you wanted to look up to WHOIS, you may see olympics.com. That is the new domain name of the Olympic Games. You may see that it says WHOIS privacy, com laude. That is about how much we say to the public who are supposed to trust this domain name. And the only thing we're able to say on the dedicated channel is that privacy.

And we have in the middle, the one that I'm going to go to say more about, it's wise. com. That's a bank, a banking system. So, the actual RDAP doesn't work. So, I put WHOIS the same. Yeah, so it doesn't work. But if we just look at that, it actually doesn't say anything either. Next slide, please. And if you look at the website, if you go to that very company, you find it's secure. Then again, this button secure that you actually any fraudulent website is able to display that. There's no, this isn't secure, it doesn't mean anything. Anything is secure. What the fraudulent website would exceed will present the same logo in which it will be shown as a secure. Next slide, please.

Now, what we're demonstrating here is possible. And here's actually where I think we would need help from the interdisciplinary field, from those who want to just solve it just with technical solutions. There are

ways to make statements about domain names and to create an ecosystem where statements are being made, such as a statement that a certain party knows a certain other party. The demo here is just, it's used, it's based on DNSSEC statements. And this also is the opportunity to provide links. One of the links goes to a company number, which is actually in this case, one that exists in this specific company.

It has a company number that is, can be looked up internationally on the legal entity identifier network. If you go to the next slide. And this is the page of that legal entity identifier as displayed by Bloomberg. So, Bloomberg is a data company, and this is the thing that's been introduced by the financial regulators. It's available. There're all kinds of information. And in the case of Bloomberg, even the website, so basically the link can be made. So, we know that this website matches, it's been verified, it's been checked. Next slide, please. But the problem here, we need to develop something that is new, some way of expressing things.

We need to kind of develop a language to say useful things. But here suddenly, I don't find any partners to speak about this in the typical technical discussion. So, that's actually my call for action. Who would be interested in working on a couple of statements that can be building blocks, that will be used in an ecosystem to create, to actually say not who is bad, but what can be said about trustworthiness of those who do care to show and demonstrate their trustworthiness. That's it. Thank you.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Thank you, Werner. It was very interesting. We have a question for you.

FARZANEH BADIEI:

Hi, my name is Farzaneh Badiei from non-commercial stakeholder group. I just wanted to bring a very different perspective. WHOIS was never for identification of domain name registrants. It was about contactability. This is a cause that at NCSG, because we want to protect human rights and privacy, anonymity matters for us. A lot of women are more prone to doxing on the internet. However, when they register a domain name, for 20 years, we put that data out there for everybody to see and subjected them to doxing. Privacy of domain name registrants' matter.

WHOIS was never about identification, despite the misleading name. And also, it was also a protocol. It really wasn't about--, it was a protocol. So, this is why we changed the name to now the RDDS. And now we are going to call it RDAP, because the protocol changed. And I think that we need to, when we discuss about women's issue in DNS, we should also talk about their privacy, their human rights. And I just totally disagree with how you framed this presentation. Thank you, Werner.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Yeah, you have the floor to answer, if you want to.

WERNER STAUB:

No, certainly. Now, I think that is, I expressed myself badly in this case, if that caused this impression. This is not about forcing people to put private information there. This company, Whys.com, is not a private

matter. This company is a company. They're accepting money from people. Their interaction with people is a risk to people. So, people should know who they are. The International Olympic Committee is not a private thing. It's a major undertaking.

So, people should know who they're dealing with. It is not somebody's private information. It has nothing to do. So, we have to make a distinction between domain names that need to show who they are, whether this goes over the WHOIS or somewhere else, doesn't matter. But some domain names that we are asking people to trust, we should give people the ability to check or count on intermediaries to check if they're trustworthy. So, actually, I'm pretty much talking about rights and, and safety here.

There's nothing to do with the other thing, which of course, which I didn't mean to confuse this, which is a private person's domain name. The private address has no business being displayed on any public resource. And the address or email address has no business being there. But that does not mean that we can have intermediaries, for instance, who can show that this person is accountable, that they have been identified by someone. I'm sorry?

FARZANEH BADIEI:

We should not use who is for that purpose. It's the contactability that matters. We will use other alternatives because of these explanations. And first of all, like being able to actually distinguish between business. So, there are female businesses, female business owners, that they don't want their private personal information out there in WHOIS. And

we have done that before to them. And fortunately, because of GDPR, we don't do that anymore.

So, I'm sorry, I'm going on about this. And I know that you have this session. But it is very important to have a more balanced conversation. And WHOIS and now RDAP is never, ever about identifying who owns a domain name. It's about contactability. If something happens on the Internet, if phishing happens, and we want to do something. But thank you very much. I'm sorry, I just want to say that.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Thank you. But just for you know, we have done in the past, in the DNS woman, a very long debate on privacy and on data protection issue. So, we can show you then later on. It's in YouTube and all the ICANN information about our project on that. Thank you. Let's continue. So, yeah, very quickly.

LORI SCHULMAN:

Very quick comment. I appreciate Farzaneh's intervention, because I think she's totally right about women on the Internet, women's safety, doxing, etc. But I do think that what Werner has described is something that the business community could very much support some type of accreditation system, which isn't necessarily WHOIS. So, to that point, Farzaneh, this is the fifth time this week I am agreeing with you, just noted, we're celebrating. But Werner, my husband, Klaus Stoll has written extensively on this, on the issue of accreditation and a trustworthy Internet and a trust-based Internet.

He has a lot of writings in this area. So, I really would like to connect you with Klaus and to say that on the business community, particularly, we agree. And I know that my organization, INTA, would be very serious in engaging with accreditation programs that are workable. And in terms of women, I'm very proud of my organization, because our president, our two chiefs, and myself, I mean, the top leadership of my organization is female-based. And I just want to shout that out, because it's not always the case in business. But I'm very proud to represent an organization with an incredibly high standard and vast bench of women leaders.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Okay, thank you, Laurie. Now we have the opportunity to listen to our sponsor. That is Luisa Ribeiro Lopes, that is the chair of the PT board, DOT Portugal.

LUISA RIBEIRO LOPES:

Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to share with you the work that .PT is doing to reduce, or try to reduce, the gender digital gap in Portugal. Before we dive into our projects, I must extend a special thanks to Vanda Scartezini, a dear friend, and a great woman in the NS world. My name is Luisa Ribeiro Lopes, and I proudly serve as chair of the board of .PT, the registry of Portugal top-level domain. And I'm working a lot in gender equality, especially in digital gender equality.

I'm doing my PhD now in this area. So, next slide, please. The other one. Okay. About .PT, we operate as a private non-profit association

with a multi-stakeholder model. About our founders, represent the government, companies, consumers, and academia, with over 20 entities from diverse sectors contributing to our advisory board. Our dedicated team of 30 qualified professionals operates within a flexible and hybrid work system. Our systems are strategically placed in four different data centers across Portugal, with more than 200 .PT points of business globally using Anycast technology. As of the end of February, we boast more than 1.8 million domains registered under .PT.

Our commitment goes behind statistics. We provide parallel services, including Trustmark certification for websites, security features like the DNSSEC and registry log service, and a platform for security web checking. And we continue to show our registrants and our registrar for the benefits of registering under .PT. Behind our core task as registry, we actively promote security and trust, boost national internet using, and play a crucial role in training and digital inclusion of individuals and organizations. There is a lot of projects we have. About gender equality, recognizing the need of diversity in the digital landscape, .PT and of course myself have dedicated time to try to explain why are so few women studies and working in digital.

We need to inspire girls and women to pursue digital careers. I like the achievements of women in this field. We are not invisible. .PT embraces this challenge by supporting various projects in Portugal. Today, I'm delighted to show two impactful initiatives. ENGENHEIRAS POR DIA is Engineers for a Day, promotes engineering and technology subjects among students in primary and secondary education. The project aims to debunk stereotypes and increase the participation of girls and

women in ICT subjects. The project having reached over 10,000 young people through more than 400 activities since 2017.

The other project is the Alliance for Equality in ICTs, began in 2020, strives to enhance gender equality and foster a culture of diversity and inclusion in companies, public organizations and NGOs. With almost 60 entities collaborating, we are making strides in promoting gender equality in our organizations. Lastly, our headquarter is not just an office. It is a community space where various initiatives and events take place, focusing on science, technology, higher education, education and of course digital gender equality. For example, on next Friday, March 18th, International Women's Day, we are proud to host an event sponsored by the Portuguese government addressing the underrepresentation of women in digital science, technology and health.

Closing, I express my gratitude once again for this opportunity. If we can contribute to having just one more woman attending this ICANN meeting, we are inching closer to our purpose. Together, let us continue to strive for a digital world that is inclusive, diverse and empowers all. Thank you so much and I leave you with a small video about .PT. Can you put it in the next slide, please? The other one? Oops, that's not there. Sorry, it's a nice video.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

You can email it for us. We have the address. We have the address, thank you.

LUISA RIBEIRO LOPES: Thank you.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Well, I'm quite impressed to see .Portugal proportionally with much more names of domains than Brazil. Yeah, because we have about five million in .PR, but we have 230 million of people.

LUISA RIBEIRO LOPES: We have 10 million, so.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: We are a little behind. Thank you very much, Luisa. I appreciate and congratulations for your work. Thank you very much. So, any questions around for the people in general before we start the celebration of our new chapter? Please.

HOUDA CHIH: Thank you. Thank you for giving me the mic. So, hello everyone. My name is--.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: More-close, please. More-close.

HOUDA CHIH: Hello, everyone. Thank you for giving me the mic. My name is Houda Chihi, I'm from Tunisia. The question is, what are the requirements to state a new chapter like I see in Egypt and in India?

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Yeah, we have some ideas and obligations for the chapter. The chapter is supposed to do grassroots work in their countries, in their regions, depends. So, bring more women for that. Collaborate with the work we have done, like, the new survey helps to encourage members to participate and bring more information for all our websites. It's all about to engage more women in that environment at the DNS. That's our focus on that. Okay. Thank you. I already gave you so many times. So, you need to be more quickly.

FARZANEH BADIEI: Yeah, I will. So, I went to RSAC meeting and I saw only male sitting on a stage having a meeting with the Board. I went to a SSAC meeting and I saw three women sitting in the room and everybody else was male. And they actually said that they have this problem. So, they want to be more diverse. So, I think that as women in DNS, we should also spread the word about these communities that we all can join and, become a member or understand what their work is and contribute to the diversity of our own community first. Thank you.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: We have done that for many years, many years. I myself have been part of a SSAC, for instance. But anyway, yeah, I will give you the floor. So, it's really about, people that want to participate. It's also this side of the problem. We can invite people, but they need to, grab the opportunity and do the work. That is very difficult sometimes. Go ahead, please.

KATHLEEN SCOGGIN: Hi, I'm Kathleen Scoggin. I'm an ICANN79 fellow. Great to be here with all of you today. I think that this space is so incredibly valuable, but we also need to continue to challenge what we do within the space and what we use the time for. And I think playing off of what Farzi said, it's really important to include women's technical ideas because they are so often pushed to the wayside. And I think it's just important to note in this session that the one technical person that spoke was a man.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: That is just to show the problem we face. But when you raise the brain here, who else is an engineer? I, myself, am an engineer.

KATHLEEN SCOGGIN: So, let's have them present.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: So, that was the issue around that in our time, for instance, certainly others in my age, I was the only one in the class, the only one in the company, the only one in every place. But nowadays, we have more and more women, but also, we are seeing, that I showed last time, some dropping on women participating in the STEMs. So, the number of women join engineer, join mathematics and physics and so on, is dropping. Dropping. We had a very huge curve, everybody going to this area. And then, suddenly, they decide it's not their focus anymore. I don't know what is the issue, but anyway, maybe we need to make a

survey about that, but not us, around the world, to understand that. Please.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Vanda. Amrita, for the record, there are two things here, and there are two ways to look at it. One, yes, we need women to come and speak on technology, and for the next DNS Women, you could suggest people, because it's all about a topic. And the second thing is, if you want women to go up, you also have to have the men in the room to lead to it, to acknowledge to it. But I think if you want women to come and talk about technology things, we need to perhaps think earlier what we want them to come and think, and I'm sure we'll get many.

Perhaps many times, women in many places, just what Farzi was saying, is perhaps women are hesitant to get into those specialized SSAC, RSAC. If we have people who try to get some mentorship there, they may not be at that level, but at least encourage. What we can do is spread the message, these are the requirements, and have some mentorship, because not everyone can step up to the game. Some are very specialized, but that's what we can do, as in just try to create the road easier and spread the word. I think that would be good. Thank you.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Thank you, Amrita. Cheryl?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thanks. Just on those particularly specialized ones that were just mentioned, those two advisory committees are of the smallest by their very nature, because, of course, there is only so many that can get into the root zone, let's face it. So that's a very odd example for us to be holding up as something to be overly critical of. But just to keep the context in some facts of recent history at least, and I think still current history, we certainly have had less women than we would like, but women in SSAC for a very, very long time.

There are some amazing technologists in SSAC with outstanding world-renowned reputations. And as far as I can remember, at least for the last, I'm going to say, six years and currently, part of the leadership team, in other words, a vice chair or chair, has been female. So, they are small numbers, not large enough, I will admit, but we are not considering the proportion there doing too badly. Can we do better? Absolutely. But am I about to get a blunt butter knife and take to my wrists? No. Thank you.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Thank you. Now we have an opportunity to give the certificates to our colleagues that have been helping the DNS women and start the new chapters around the world. So, I will call them by alphabetic order, Amrita. Please, let's applaud Amrita for that. So, let's take a picture.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: It's not a picture. It doesn't happen.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Just a small picture of that. Amrita, please.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Just one moment for those chapters and any others that are aspiring chapters. The comments that were going around earlier about STEAM and STEM, like what an opportunity you have. All right, not tomorrow, it's a little bit short notice on International Women's Day, but next year or the International Day of Girls in ICT, do something locally that encourages perhaps the existing STEM activities that are going on in your locality. But why not start something fresh if there's not something already there? And it doesn't have to be big.

Sometimes from little things, bigger things can grow, but that's a perfect example of not huge effort and possibly a fair amount of reward. I think if we could get the teachers, for example, to understand why it's important to do not just veggie science, as I like to call, but actual real science that leads people not just to make pretty colored flowers and potato-run batteries, but something that's going to take into a little bit more engineering ends of the spectrum. That's some challenges every chapter could take up. Thanks.

NATALIE TERCOVA: Thank you. I just wanted to chip in and state that in collaboration with my great female colleague, Firoz, who is currently a NextGen here in ICANN. We are doing a collaborative event on the day in Girls in ICT Day, so this is the 25th of April, and we want to also do this to bridge her perspective from Kenya, as she has her NGO, She Goes Digital, when they're actually trying to promote the education of women in STEM, and

to also bridge it with my European perspective. So, I'm more than happy to share later an invitation with all of you, as this might be of your interest.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Vanda, I think we've got a next speaker. You'll have to come back and tell us all about that event.

LORI SCHULMAN: Yes, I just want to follow up by saying I think that discussion is very much worth having from a tech perspective, but also from the legal perspective. There are many women with tech and engineering backgrounds for whom perhaps they're not heading toward a hard science career, but then they can combine it with a legal career, because what I'm also seeing in some meetings that I lead is I'm one of the very few lawyers who work on DNS issues, and the feedback that I get is that it's so difficult, and you understand the tech, and I said, yeah, because you can't advocate, in my view, particularly in this atmosphere, and again, Farzi, I think we're going to agree, you can't--

FARZANEH BADIEI: [Inaudible 01:09:06].

LORI SCHULMAN: Yeah, six, it's really important when you're advocating for policy that you understand the technical processes behind the policy, and this is something that I feel there is a real deficit across the board, but even

more so among women, that when we're in these environments, the practitioners who seem to have a greater grasp on the tech who are also lawyers tend to be male, so I think it's very important for female lawyers to understand in this field, it's not soft law, not at all, that there is a big technical component to this, so in thinking about opportunities for women, it's combining the technical with the legal, because that's where the heart of the policy goes, and I want to address Vanda's point about we don't know why we're seeing less women in tech, this has been a discussion that's been going on in the tech community now, I think almost 10 years.

They've seen this trend over the last 10 years, and I know that the UN has some robust studies on why, I won't get into the reasons why, but I have sat in some webinars that have been sponsored by WSIS and ITF. WSIS particularly tends to focus on these topics, so for those who are not part of the public part of the WSIS, you might think about that in terms of learning more about why we're getting this disconnect, and I'll follow up with this, at least now we know COVID, that women, particularly professional women who have taken the time to meet that extra level of education during the last four years, have had intense childcare issues that have forced them away from more technical endeavors and kept them at home.

Now childcare, caring for a child is the most important thing you can do in the world, in my view, but what I don't, and I don't have children, I didn't raise children, but I do believe this, I feel like I should almost caveat that, that until the male-dominated work psyche gets it out of its head that childcare is secondary or tertiary or even lower down on that list, I don't see that we will ever get the gains, because not only is not

being a woman a disability, being a mother is certainly not a disability, or a caretaker, in my case, it's caring for elderly parents, and I have had to cut down on my engagement, I wasn't in Hamburg.

I had parent care that I was managing, so does that then detract from my ability to input it at ICANN, I'll say absolutely yes, because I wasn't physically here, so I think that these bigger societal issues are where we need to push, it's great to talk about technical expertise and knowledge, but until we get to the point that caring for our children, our children, male and female children, is the primary focus, and not something second or less than, we're still going to be where we are.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Yes?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

Yes, hi, thank you. Regarding what you were mentioning, there's a specific investigation I worked on here locally, and there's a difference in terms of the hours invested, non-paid work, women versus men, 16 hours for men, 32 for women, so right there, out of the bat, you see the difference, it's a huge gap. So perhaps a way in which we could potentially address this issue, socially speaking, with the aid of the different agencies and instrumentalities regarding this matter, would be to make technology and the language second nature from the beginning.

If you talk and you teach a language from the early ages and the early stages, and you make it second nature, you will equal, you will balance

it out. So, what's happening right now is that I'm an educator, we get people going to universities and they have huge deficiencies, but women, I'm not a technological person, but I will do technology. And once I learn it, hell, I will give you hell. Because I've seen how I face projects in which I'm the person that doesn't know about technology, and I learn about it, I instruct myself, and I find someone to teach me what I don't know. And at the end of it, I'm the one dealing with it and leading the pathway. So, how is it that this man that are supposed to be experts end up retiring from the project and I end up pushing through and making it happen without being the expert?

The reason is that I have the discipline to teach myself, but it would have been easier if I would have had the language taught to me as part of my basic education. And then we face the battles at the same level. And then it's a matter of deciding later on in life what do you want to specialize on, but you already know the language.

NATALIE TERCOVA: That's true. Coding for kids is a good thing.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Thank you. Thank you. So, any other questions? So, we can close that. Any questions from the audience? Thank you very much for participating. And, well, remember in the terrace, we're going to have the cocktail in a few minutes. So, we can start going there. And we're going to have the band to talk with us and also to play for us. And thanks to the .Portugal to sponsor our cocktail. Thank you. Yeah, thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you. You can stop the recording.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]