COPENHAGEN – IDN - Latin Generation Panel Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 – 13:45 to 15:00 CET
ICANN58 | Copenhagen, Denmark

MIRJANA TASIC: …proposal for Generation Panel to be seated somewhere during the autumn of the last year. So although there were some other groups trying to commence this work, the first time we finished and submitted the proposal for the new Generation Panel was in last three months. The scope of the – this is actually agenda. I will say a few sentences about every [one] of these topics over there so we can go forward.

We started with this GP during the summer 2016, and after we confirmed the new composition of the Generation Panel we started to work during October 2016. We finalized our proposal for Generation Panel and sent it last week to Integration Panel for [its] comments, and we are now waiting the comments from Integration Panel.

What is the scope of our work? We are working on all Latin script codes which are defined by Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 2. We shall take into account only lower case letters. According to the MSR-2, only these Unicode ranges from the Latin script should be taken into account. Some of Latin script codes are not included because they are excluded by MSR-2.

**EN**

A Latin script has the same origin [as] some other scripts using Europe and around Europe like Cyrillic or Greek or Romanian. Latin script was used by missionaries in creating alphabets for languages without scripts all over the world, so we have Latin script used almost in every country in the world. We have prepared in the previous work one list of [455] languages which we found that are using Latin script, although this is not the whole number of the languages but at least this is something for the start.

We shall speak during our work or [taking] into account non-exhaustive list of languages which are classified with EGIDS 1-5, and from this list of languages of [455] we have 300 languages with EGIDS 1-5.

At this moment, we made some kind of table which contains 279 MSR-2 code points for attestation. Those numbers are there just to see how large is the work that should be done, and that's the first thing we have done up to now.

Sorry, I'm a little bit – I'm not very comfortable now. You will understand me.

As you can see on this map which is taken probably from Wikipedia or something like this, there is no country in the world where Latin script is not used. The dark green areas show the countries where Latin script is the sole and main script. On the

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other hand, we have those countries in light green where Latin script is used with some other script. And in the gray areas, Latin script is used with some unofficial languages such as French in Algeria, English in Egypt, and so on, or Pinyin in China which is written in Latin script.

Up to now, our general panel has 11 members and four observers. Why members and why observers? During our effort to compose and to find people who will work with Latin Generation Panel some members have provided all the necessary information that we can compile the tables which will show which kind of expertise and which kind of knowledge we have, so those people got the status of members. All the others are observers because they didn't provide the necessary information about themselves to be put in the proposal for the Generation Panel.

This is a small table which is showing that we have people from different parts of the world speaking different languages. Most of us are speaking somehow English. There are a few English native speakers although. They are necessary. But on the other hand, if we have 445 languages, 300 at the first glance which we shall deal in the first round, we must say there is a lack of people knowing different languages so we must find some pragmatic approach to finish the job after all.

Main lacks of language expertise is with Chinese Pinyin, with native languages in Australia and Oceania, and people from Africa. We have the lack of people of Africa, although I forgot to write this over there, and also the native languages of North and South America people. So that's something which we shall find how to overcome these obstacles.

On the other hand, about diversity of the representatives in Generation Panel, we have almost for every kind of diversity we have one or two people which is represented in this table called "Diversity."

What is our Work Plan? We [are very] happy because a few other Generation Panels has finished their work before us so we got some expertise from their work, and this is the best what we drew from the previous experience of previous Generation Panels. So usually there is a Forum for main steps in developing Label Generation Rules. First one is to develop code point repertoire, second developing code point variants, then after that to develop whole label evaluation rules, to prepare Latin script for public comment, and to finalize LGR document for Latin script and submit it to Integration Panel to ICANN. During most of these steps we shall probably ask for some help from Integration Panel because we feel we shall need it.

Up to now, we had telephone conferences every two weeks and they were prepared somehow with some agenda and some materials ready for discussion. In the future it will be better because we will get [in pace]. It is expected to have a few face-to-face meetings, probably during phase two and phase three because they are the most complicated phase in developing all this stuff. And we also agreed to have some space to share material online so that the cooperation will be easier.

What means developing code point repertoire? As we understood in our proposal, it consists of the following topics: Determine criteria for including code points; analyze each code point in Latin script in MSR-2 to see if it is okay for inclusion; analyze the language using Latin script to attest whether all letters are included in MSR because in some languages using Latin script there are letters or code which are not included in MSR; we have to finalize included and excluded code points; and at the end we have to release this for public comment by Latin GP.

In developing code point repertoires we have all these steps. First to see the criteria for within-script variants; then to define the criteria for cross-script variants, including identification of relevant script for cross-script variants; analyze each code point to determine within-script variant sets; the same thing with cross-script variant sets; review the impact of the variant

analysis of current delegations of TLDs; finalize variant sets reviewing the symmetry, transitivity, and security and stability of the system; coordinate with other relevant Generation Panels for finalizing cross-script variants; and release it for public comment again.

When this part of the task will be fulfilled we have to determine relevant whole-label evaluation rules, to prepare our LGR proposal for public comment – and those are the next steps – finalize the documentation for Latin script, finalize the XML formulation of the proposal, and collect labels to test the proposed LGR. And the final step will be release it for formal public comment by ICANN and finalize after including public comments in the LGR, and that's almost everything.

It was not easy to give some timeline how it will be finished and which timeline, but this is something what we can see at this moment. According to this timeline, our task should be finished during the first half of the next year, although we don't know how many – it is just a draft proposal. We don't know which kind of obstacles we shall find during our work, so it might be a little bit later. For now, it is about 15 months to finalize the project.

Those are two samples what we have done up to now. That's a sample, a piece of table, which consists of 455 languages using Latin script and it is developed using some these two web, these

two sources [stated] over there. It was a pretty large job to do it but I think it could be used easily during our work. We shall see. Did I miss the point, or it is okay?

On the other hand, we have the other table which consists of MSR code points with attestation, and some of these code points have been attested during the previous work. We have to finish it and to make a few more tables with everything which does not fill the criteria to get attested.

Those are some thoughts what we can discuss now: amount of work – do we need extra help? A lack of expertise in some language areas – how to solve them. Should we consider Pinyin or should we not do it? Should we consider during investigating similarity upper and lower case or only lower case? That's a proposal for face-to-face meeting in Belgrade because our manager – he's not here – our Director promised us…

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [Inaudible].

MIRJANA TASIC: Oh, he just left. Okay.

And everything else, what does everyone wants to say? I'm sorry, this presentation was not to the best I can but you have to cope with it.

**SARMAD HUSSAIN:** Okay, so I guess we are opening this for discussion. And one of the things we can do is maybe take one of these at a time and start with that.

So we've had some experience within the Latin GP as far as amount of work is concerned and we have some members here as well as online. So I guess a starting point would be, as Mirjana has suggested, what do the members who have been part of the process so far think, whether it's extra help needed and if it is needed, what kind of help and is it just more volunteers from different parts of the world which are needed and would that be sufficient or do we need to go beyond that? Yes, that would be a question.

**MIRJANA TASIC:** Yes, please.

**SUNDAY FOLAYAN:** Good afternoon everybody. My name is Sunday. I'm from Nigeria, the Chair of the .ng ccTLD. I have a couple of questions if

you don't mind. The first is that I want to know, I feel really like a fish out of water here because I'm sitting amongst distinguished experts on the subject, so it would be nice to know before I throw myself in what's the skill that is required to be here or will it best be that I stay in the listening mode and not say anything?

The second one is that we have three major languages in Nigeria – Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba. And I see that you already have consideration for Yoruba. Nigerians would be very happy to see the three major languages being considered.

The third is, you mentioned that there is somebody who's already working with you on Yoruba. It would be nice to know who and to encourage them to continue to work with you because it would not be nice to see someone start off and drop off somewhere along the line.

Last but not the least, it would be nice to know generally what challenges the group is having with working with Africans. We might be in a position to help to bridge some of those gaps. Thank you.

MIRJANA TASIC:     Sarmad, please. You will give better [answer].

[SARMAD HUSSAIN]:    Would you want to respond [inaudible]?

MATS DUFBERG:    Mats Dufberg, member of the Panel. I guess that what we're seeking are people who have some language expertise. It would be great to have a trained linguist with good knowledge of various African languages, but it would be helpful with people who might not consider themselves to be linguists but at least being aware of the concept of writing and some language knowledge. The more we can cover the better.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:    I want to follow up with a follow-up from Mats here. I think, as per the procedure, what has been advertised as far as expertise is concerned we actually need people in multiple roles. What Mats pointed out that we do need people with some linguistic expertise, that's certainly true. But there are also some additional roles which we need people on. And I think one of the very important role is members of the community which bring in cultural and social expertise of how the writing system is used and for that, I think the linguistic or technical barrier is very low. So we really need people who are from that culture who represent the language and use the language and are willing to contribute and volunteer their time to this panel.

That's a second role in addition to linguistics. The third role is we do always want people who are familiar with, for example, Unicode encoding standard and DNS IDNA 2008 standards, so some people who are probably a little more technical in nature than just linguistics.

And then finally a role we are always looking for and appreciating is people from that region who are also well-versed or, if not well-versed, familiar with the policy and especially ICANN processes and how all this comes together at ICANN. So we're really looking for a wide variety of roles. I think everybody can contribute. If I really talk from a linguistic perspective, my own perspective, I think the way I've been trained, anybody who speaks the language is an expert of the language as far as you're a native speaker.

So if you are a native speaker and you are enthusiastic about it, that's really a good criteria to start with. Obviously if there are additional expertise, I think that's of course very useful in addition.

And there are many, many, African languages which are written in Latin script and they use Latin script in a very diverse way, and that's the expertise which this panel is really looking for – how is Latin script used to write the local and indigenous languages of Africa? And I think we would welcome members, as Mirjana

pointed out, to represent African languages or languages from Africa using Latin script on this panel. So we're really looking for volunteers in that direction. And any support in that case would be very useful.

Similarly, we're also asking for support for other regions including, as Mirjana pointed out, in South America as well as Asia Pacific. So those are areas we are looking for more people to join this panel as we go forward with our work.

[YAOVI ATOHOUN]: Thank you. My name is [Yaovi] and I'm now ICANN staff but before joining ICANN staff I was also interested in IDN sessions in ICANN. So I want just to thank our colleagues from AfriNIC, Sunday and his colleague, because since we mentioned the need to have people in the Latin Panel, we have seen the interest and contribution.

And he mentioned some languages, so this is one of the recommendation from we had a workshop in Congo in 2015 for IDN as a support from Africa GSC. But the result is that after this workshop we didn't see people really participating, so the skill is we can have an expert but a person should be really ready to contribute. Sometimes we have very high people but they don't have time to contribute, so I think Sarmad mentioned many

things and the skill is good, but people may not have the skill but they may have time to contribute.

We are targeting regional languages. You mentioned some languages which are spoken within many countries in Africa. And so any volunteer who can help to reach more to people like in Rwanda, they have their language is also [regionalized as a] second language, so I was trying to get somebody from this country. So any person that can contribute, especially for regional languages in Africa, is important. It's what I want to mention. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:     There's a question in the chat room – a few questions and comment [so I'll take]. I'll take the first one first.

The question is from Dennis Tan. And the question is: "Could you elaborate on the Pinyin – should we consider it?" Question: "Is it about Pinyin specifically or is this an open question for all non-Latin scripts that use Latin to transliterate their languages, e.g. Japanese, Romaji, Russian, etc.?"

MIRJANA TASIC:     Sorry, I must ask someone who is in a better position to understand all this linguistic stuff to answer this question. I am

not qualified to say anything about it. This question just raised please?

ASMUS FREYTAG: I'm Asmus Freytag from the Integration Panel. If the Latin Generation Panel were to propose an LGR, we would review it. And if you included the transliteration schemes, we would want to know that such transliterations were actually used in a setting where they're relevant for domain names.

There are many, many, many different transliterations, but people don't necessarily use them for writing domain names. And if, for instance, you decide that Pinyin is an exception because you can find Pinyin-based domain names somewhere, then that would be appropriate to include. But if you cannot find such evidence, we might end up being somewhat skeptical if you proposed that for an LGR.

So it depends. If I may, I was going to make some comments on some items I noted during the presentation, if that is appropriate.

One thing that you brought out very clearly is how the Latin Panel faces an almost unique challenge in the really wide diversity of usage, and there is a tension between reaching a level of perfection and getting the job done. I want to say that in

the procedure which is our governing document for the whole process, there is a very definite process goal of creating the work in an expeditious way. That means if you have many, many languages that are possibly used for some communities where you have difficulty getting information and it's not clear that they use it for everyday writing or whatever, you do not have the luxury to say we need to wait for more information on all of them. So you must at some level finish.

I was thinking that if you worked on a method where you ranked all languages by a combination of, not [exclusively a factor], but a combination of the level of use in terms of the degree of use – are they a government language or they're taught in schools or whatever – on one hand and the size of the user community at the other hand and maybe literacy rate as well factored in and then proceeded moving down the list, you would have the advantage of at each point if time constraints force you to quit the process, you have made sure you have captured as many users as possible that use the Latin script in the highest degree possible.

I'm sure you can easily move through the well-known languages that have large user communities from the industrial countries and get those out of the way, but as you move into the next level, that kind of process going by ranking allows you to capture as many of the ones you have to look at case by case as

your timeframe permits. Going by code point, you can end up in a situation where you spend a lot of time looking and researching very marginal cases that really don't necessarily strongly contribute to the end result but you can spend a lot of time with it.

That would be my overall worry reading your proposed Work Plan. The other part of the Work Plan that I've noticed that I would personally be concerned about is, unlike many other scripts, it is not necessarily clear in the Latin script that it is one that really heavily needs to deal with the issue of variants.

For the Chinese script we know variants are clearly built into the writing system. In the Latin case it is not so clear that this is an overwhelming feature, yet I saw in your proposal document something like half a year, 38 weeks was sketched out for doing this analysis and that seemed to me excessive is the word I was going to use, potentially. So maybe you want to have a look.

The key task to do is looking at what the Cyrillic Panel has done because they have to find variants towards Latin, and that is under review or soon going to be under review. It might be nice for the Latin Panel to quickly look at that set and build an opinion whether they agree with it or not and then take up any additional questions like in-script variants and deal with them in a second pass. Because having the ability to react to what the

Cyrillic Panel is just doing is, I think, very important. That was my thought on variants.

And finally, I had a very small question. I was looking here at a document I created at one point and I wanted to verify, what was the number of code points that you had in your presentation of what you thought was the Latin repertoire in MSR-2? Did I read two [inaudible]?

[MIRJANA TASIC]: [Inaudible].

ASMUS FREYTAG: The number of code points you think? Is [it] 279? Because I have a list here of 326 so I wanted to make sure we're not disagreeing.

[MIRJANA TASIC]: [Inaudible].

ASMUS FREYTAG: Yes.

[MIRJANA TASIC]: [Inaudible] suspicious about the number.

**EN**

ASMUS FREYTAG: Mine is machine generated from the MSR. It has a script tag on all the code points, and I machine generated a subset from that and that comes at 326.

[MIRJANA TASIC]: How much did you say? [326]?

ASMUS FREYTAG: 326 including the combining marks, but those are 21 so it's not enough to account for the difference.

[MIRJANA TASIC]: [Inaudible].

ASMUS FREYTAG: So it would be good – at one point I think, Sarmad, didn't I send that list that we generated to you to pass on so it can be used for cross-checking? You may want to retransmit it in that case. So I will have more comments later but I'm going to…

[MOHAMMED]: [Mohammed] [inaudible] from Nigeria. [Driving] from what my colleague said about wanting to know who was serving in this group before, [he] want to know who the person is so we can continue to encourage him to be part of this meeting. So I don't

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know [that you have the name with you but can you] let us know who the person is from Nigeria – the one that is covering Yoruba.

Again, Yoruba are various spoken not only in Nigeria. It's spoken in other countries in Africa – Republic of Benin, Togo, and some other countries. Even Housa [is] spoken wide. It spoken in Togo, Cameroon, Ghana, Sudan, Brazil. So the size of those who speak Housa in Africa, [even beyond], is really large. I think, of course, the Igbo language too, I'm sure Cameroon speak Igbo too.

So I want to know who that person is who is working with this particular group so we can…

MARJANA TASIC:     You mean the person who is in our presentation?

[MOHAMMED ?]:     Yes.

MARJANA TASIC:     We got one guy from – this is the guy. Or lady. I'm not sure. He or she speaks only French.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:     [Sarah].

MARJANA TASIC: [Sarah].

[MOHAMMED ?]: Is it Dr. Tunde Adegbola?

MARJANA TASIC: No. Actually we didn't met him or her yet. We just got – Sarmad found her somewhere and she promised us to help with the African languages, but she's not a regular during our telephone conferencing because she doesn't speak English.

[MOHAMMED ?]: Okay.

MARJANA TASIC: So Sarmad, please.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: We can share the name offline with [Yaovi], and I guess he can pass that on to you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [I'll send] the link. You have volunteers so people are not really [they are volunteer not participating] really. So if you go to the community wiki, you'll see names there but there are people

who are not active really [is my answer]. The community wiki you have the Latin Panel there. The name of volunteer people [who] volunteer themself but they are not really active. So the Latin Panel, if you go to that ICANN community wiki you will see some names here there on that page but they are not really active.

MIRJANA TASIC:             Thank you. We have some comments and questions online, and after that [inaudible].

BIYI OLADIPO:              Sorry. Before we leave this matter I think one of the reasons – sorry, my name is Biyi Oladipo. I'm also from Nigeria – I think one of the reasons why this is interesting to us is that we as an organization, that's the .ng registry as an organization are looking at supporting someone who already works on IDN for the Internet. It's someone that is known and we're looking at supporting him to develop that for the Nigerian registry, which is the three major languages, work on the three major languages to see how people can use such languages on the Internet, register domain names, to do different things, around Internet resources. So that's why it's interesting to us and that's why we're here. And we're saying if there's someone, that if it's

someone that we know that is already working on it, maybe it's something that we can also put our own support behind.

MARJANA TASIC: Actually I know only we have only this one name, and it will be publicly available when our Generation Panel will be seated but it doesn't mean nothing special because everyone could join later. We are very open to accept any help we can get from anywhere because we are really a small group and there is a lot of job to be done so everybody is welcome.

We have a few questions from the community from the chat.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Okay. There's a comment. They've put in their initials "NPK." They're asking: "Could you clarify what the terms 'label' and 'code point' refer to? When you say you [all] be developing whole label evaluation rules, what do you mean?" That's [a] first set of questions. So maybe we can start with this and then there's another comment after that.

MIRJANA TASIC: Who will be happy to answer this question? Please, Mats.

**EN**

MATS DUFBERG: Yes. A code point is a Unicode character. So in Latin script it's a character. But it's Unicode code, and it could be a mark which is not a character by itself. It must be combined.

Label is the thing between the dots in the domain name. And what was the third? Whole label evaluation rules? Yes. Sometimes code points cannot be anywhere in the label. They must be restricted to certain positions. For example, marks cannot be initial. It must be after another code point that they belong to and then these whole label evaluation rules define those restrictions and is part of the LGR format.

MIRJANA TASIC: Thank you. I hope that we have responded to the question.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: There's a comment by Bill Jouris. He says, "Please assure the first speaker that he's not the only one here who is not a linguist, distinguished or otherwise." So Bill Jouris is a member of the panel.

[SUNDAY FOLAYAN]: I feel very much better. Thank you. Thank you, Bill.

MIRJANA TASIC: [Matthias] has a comment.

[MATTHIAS BRENZINGER]: I have more like a question just to discuss. I don't know if you come from the ccTLD community in Africa, but some of you do, right? And maybe that could be something for us to use to try to reach out to the ccTLDs in Africa and ask them for help to find people who are willing to volunteer to contribute. And maybe if we get one contact with one ccTLD, maybe it's easier to find other contact with other ccTLDs.

[SUNDAY FOLAYAN]: [I think] that's the easiest strategy to use in Africa and there is also an umbrella organization of African ccTLDs called the AFTLD. So I think it's a very good strategy. I will take the request back to AFTLD. The AFTLD manager is actually present in this meeting and [he] would be very, very excited to do that.

We also have annually the African DNS Forum, and the next one is going to happen in July and this could be a major issue that can be tabled at the African DNS Forum.

MIRJANA TASIC: Thank you very much for the suggestions. Yes, we really need to find the way to reach the people, the right people.

Please, I forgot your name. [Dimitry]. I forgot you completely.

**EN**

[DMITRY KOHMANYUK]:   Okay, great. That's okay. [Dimitry] from Ukraine. I've been to another panel, a Cyrillic panel together with other people and I would just say I would like you to just go on with your wishes and as long as you speak your language and you can speak English I think the persistence is the most [valuable] quality.

Speaking of [other issues], I would just explain what I would like to do. I would like to be the observer [or] the member of the panel, depending on the procedures. [Well, I mean] I can speak English, and I can read and write Ukrainian Russian. And you may not know that, but actually Ukrainian language usually uses Cyrillic alphabet but they also have been using Latin alphabet. There've been many books published and I'm not sure they'll be applicable for the panel, but I'd like to bring that expertise because that's the one interest I have developed over the last couple of years – completely unrelated to ICANN activities, of course. Thanks and that's it.

MIRJANA TASIC:   Thank you, [Dimitry]. You are welcome to the panel. We have some kind of procedure. We shall give you some instructions how to apply for a panel. You are welcome. Thank you.

Asmus please.

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ASMUS FREYTAG: Just to switch subjects, I was just glancing over the slide here again and you mentioned the question of upper and lower case similarity, and we have discussed this issue in the Integration Panel and the Cyrillic Panel also has discussed that. And at the moment the general consensus seems to be that the appropriate task is to focus on the lower case only. And I think until such point when some other members of the community are very strongly requesting otherwise, we might take that as the operational default and I would pass that on to the Latin Generation Panel.

But there is always the case that you come up with really strong arguments why not but the way is if you look at lower case, then that's expected. If you want to look at upper case you have to make a case for that. You have to argue for that. You have to justify why you're doing this just to give you an idea.

Also, in terms of similarities, required for the LGR is to take a position on cross-script homoglyph statements made by the Armenian and the Cyrillic Panel. Those are on the table. We would expect the Latin Generation Panel to provide a timely response to those evaluation – maybe not a final one, but at least a preliminary one. And the task that is also required, there are a few Latin characters that are absolutely identical in

appearance and if all of those are included, you will have to have some kind of variant mechanism to deal with them.

However, what is not required is to create a complete accounting of all slight similarities or medium similarities or looks alike if you look at it across the room type things. That information is interesting but it does not require for an LGR and if it takes up significant resources and delays the project, that would be unfortunate. If it is something that naturally emerges on the side of the discussions, the Cyrillic Panel has included such information as an informative appendix. It is fine to do that. I'm not going to recommend you stop all work on it but just prioritize it accordingly.

MIRJANA TASIC:     Thank you, Asmus. There is another question in the chat.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:     A comment and a question by NPK. The comment is that she says, "Thank you to the responses." And the question is, "Could you give an example of code point variants? What are variant sets?"

MIRJANA TASIC:     Mats, please could you?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Again, to repeat, the questions are: "Could you give an example of code point variants? What are variant sets?"

MATS DUFBERG: Here we have variants between Cyrillic and Latin, which we have talked about and Asmus talked about. So the Latin Letter "a" and the Cyrillic letter which I don't know the name of…

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [Also "a"].

MATS DUFBERG: [Also "a"], they are identical. So to make sure that you cannot create labels that, for example, consist of a number of "a"s in the TLD of "a"s of Cyrillic and "a"s of Latin, then you have to have a mechanism to say that these two are not two different labels, that those are the same. Those are variants. [With that] variant set, so variant set are code points that in this way counts as the same and should be handled in a special way so that you don't risk this confusion that otherwise could be created.

MIRJANA TASIC: Asmus please.

ASMUS FREYTAG: I just wanted to give an example from the set of code points that the MSR-2 defines for Latin. There are two code points that have exactly the same appearance. They are 01DD and 0259. And if you allow both in the repertoire, then you have to take some measure to make sure that if one is used in a label, the other one cannot be used in an otherwise identical label because otherwise you could not distinguish the two labels even though they have different code points.

And so those two code points – 01DD and 0259 – would, if both included, have to form a variant set for each other. There is just no alternative in this particular case. The Latin Generation Panel will have to look at whether both are needed. You may decide one is not needed. And if both are needed, the Panel will have to decide on the nature of the variant set, whether one simply prevents the other from being registered or whether both need to be registered to the same applicant. Given the facts of the writing system, I suspect the former solution will be the one appropriate in this particular case but that's a decision for the Latin Generation Panel not for anybody else. But that's the kind of stuff that needs to be discussed in terms of variants.

MIRJANA TASIC: Thank you, Asmus. Please – your name I forgot.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:    No problem. [Inaudible]. I want to come back to your comment a few minutes ago about participation in the panel. You said people can join later. Why not join now?

MIRJANA TASIC:    Okay. They can join now. Sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:    Okay.

MIRJANA TASIC:    They have to send a few papers saying what are they doing, how – yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:    For example?

MIRJANA TASIC:    For example, Sarmad will explain. We have to know who is willing to join and what [is his] expertise, yes. Sorry. Language is not the best [one].

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:    So it's still a good time for people, African for example, to join?

**EN**

MIRJANA TASIC:          It's okay.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:       Okay.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:         Just to make sure that it's understood, the membership is open and it will remain open from what I understand from what Mirjana just said until the work is completed. But it's better for people to join earlier than later – now if possible. And the process is very simple, that you just need to write a very short e-mail to idnprogram@icann.org, attach your CV or resume, and just write your intention to join the Latin Generation Panel. And as soon as that request is received, we process that request and then we confirm the membership. Thank you.

MIRJANA TASIC:          Please.

ADEBUNMI AKINBO:        I don't know [probably] it's too early, but I think it would be okay if we have this information that need to go out and we [still pass them in a cycle of closed circle]. I don't know if this panel already has its own hashtag or a [handle] to actually reach out to the public. Because ICANN works in such a way [and manner]

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that a lot of people actually follow the ICANN hashtag. And following the ICANN hashtag and placing the IDN in one of the hashtags would actually give you enough publicity for [those who may even] have the skills. In some hashtag you could even put it that you are actually looking for people with skills apart from other people who may compensate for other [loopholes] that the panel would actually need.

If you don't mind since it's open membership, though, I would like to volunteer to help with the social media [handle] and probably all of the informations you want to give to me we can discuss about that so we can put it to the public before the end of the day. Thank you.

MIRJANA TASIC:          I have no idea what to say about it because…

[SARMAD HUSSAIN]:          [Inaudible].

[YAOVI ATOHOUN]:          Okay. I think we can work on that later. I just want to thank you because we need to talk more. We have sent many information about many public calls even to the African mailing list, many

**EN**

calls. But as you said, using a [handle hashtag] also may help to reach to more people, and I think after the call we can discuss.

[And we are] trying also to have more people maybe during the next [AIS] the program [inaudible] and also in the Latin [chair] we are discussing about [all this]. We had the workshop in Congo. I can tell you after that workshop nothing is really happening. People sometimes they volunteer just to join the group but no action. So what we really need, the people who are ready to contribute, but we'll discuss after this session. Thank you.

MIRJANA TASIC:     I have to ask Asmus. Sorry, if I understood you correctly, you are proposing that we first make this variance between scripts not to be late and to [left] at the [status] of the code points for the later work? Did I catch it properly? I just want to put it correct it in my head.

ASMUS FREYTAG:     Yes. To amplify on that, as it happens the Armenian LGR has already been in the deferred state so it is on the record, and the Cyrillic LGR is going to also go public. And at that point it would be good for the Latin Generation Panel to respond in real time to that particular set. It can be basically advanced because the

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area where these scripts overlap tend to be the kind of basic repertoire, not the extended repertoire. So there's really no question that anything the Cyrillic Panel has identified as a potential cross-script variant will effectively be part of the Latin repertoire, no matter the details of what you later do.

So that's something that you can basically just make sure you don't postpone just because it comes into your Work Plan somewhere later. And the second part of your question was about – you had two parts.

MIRJANA TASIC: No. I just asked do you expect us to give these variants…

ASMUS FREYTAG: Feedback soon? Yes.

MIRJANA TASIC: Sooner than any others. I mean, our plan was first to evaluate every code point, but it will last at least six months or whatever. It is a long – we need a [lot of period]…

ASMUS FREYTAG: In order to review, they did a list and they have a set number of things. And you can have an opinion based on that [in] review

**EN**

opinion [and] you do not need to first spend six months to do your work in order to do that.


MIRJANA TASIC: Yes. On evaluating every code point.


ASMUS FREYTAG: And interestingly enough that the way the procedure works, you're supposed to work on what is called the "Inclusion Principle." That is, each code point needs a reason to be included. There is no "exclusion principle." It is entirely okay if you never look at any particular code point from the MSR. There's no requirement that you look at code points. There's a requirement that you look at languages to make sure that what they need is included.


MIRJANA TASIC: That they are using [inaudible].


ASMUS FREYTAG: So that's why I had given you the recommendation – go and rank your languages based on all the factors to capture the widest used ones first. Take the first one on the list, put a check mark at all the code points it uses. Take the next language on the list, see whether it adds a code point. If so, make some more

check marks, and go down the list. And as you do this, you may encounter some languages that do not add to the repertoire because they're already covered. At that point, you make a check mark against the language and you move on.

That way, if at the end you have 50 code points you've never looked at, that's entirely okay. You don't need to spend time because you may end up looking at some code points and find that it's used by some obscure language here and [it doesn't obscure] languages there. Well they all fail the criteria for being supported and you have spent time evaluating. And you have such a big task you really need to optimize in my view. That's my personal view on this.

MIRJANA TASIC:     I agree with it but in the panel we didn't discuss how shall we proceed. Our first task was to just to try to compose the proposal and to have panel seated. And we have some topics which we have to discuss, but those suggestions from you are very valuable because we can optimize our work.

Mats please?

MATS DUFBERG:     I think we have only five minutes left.

MIRJANA TASIC:             Oh, sorry.

MATS DUFBERG:             And if we should cover any more of these issues here, we have to do it now.

MIRJANA TASIC:             Yeah I'm sorry. That's my fault.

Okay. But we discussed almost all [inaudible].

MATS DUFBERG:             So what is most burning?

MIRJANA TASIC:             Last one. Last one is just a proposal to have a face-to-face meeting in Belgrade during the spring. It is the best time to visit Belgrade – April or May – because National Registry of Serbia has provided some funds to organize the meeting in the proper space and all these things which are necessary for our meeting to function. And that's what we provided, but the costs for hotels and travel costs should be provided by someone else. That we can look to Sarmad, IDN, ICANN, whatever.

Sorry, I was not speaking in the mic.

I just mentioned this over there for all of you to think about it and we can discuss it during our next meeting.

Yes, please?

[MATS DUFBERG]: I think it's a good idea. It could then happen maybe in May or end of May so there's some time to make it possible for people to get funds for traveling. I suggest that you send a question out to the list and request everyone to answer yes or no if they agree to the idea and if they have the possibilities to join. And I guess that it will be up to each person to seek funding [from] employer or someone else.

MIRJANA TASIC: I don't know. We have to discuss it with Sarmad. Maybe IDN project has some funds for this purpose. I'm not sure.

Please, Sarmad?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Yes, we do have limited funding available. And how we've done it before is that, based on the funding available, we notify the Chair about how many people we can support for travel and we take the Chair's recommendation on [inaudible].

So in other panels what has been done is that the Chair sends a call to the members on who would be interested to participate and based on the responses received, if the responses are more than the funding available, then the Chair or a committee which the Chair can make decides on who to fund through the limited funds available through ICANN. So we will communicate to the Chair on how much support is available. There is certainly some support available. And then it's up to the panel to decide how to use those funds.

MIRJANA TASIC:     Yeah. We are on the top of the hour so I think it was very helpful – I mean, it helped me at least – to try to Chair one meeting [inaudible].

Sarmad has something to say. Someone is asking something. We have another question in chat.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:     Okay, so before we close, there is [this question] by NPK: "Who are observers and who are volunteers for the Latin GP? And please also define Maximal Starting Repertoire." So those are the couple of questions in the chat room.

MIRJANA TASIC:     Okay at the beginning of my presentation I explained who are members and who are observers. Observer can be anyone who is interested in the work of our panel. And to become a member someone has to send his letter of interest, something like this, that someone wants to contribute to the work of the Latin Panel. And on the other hand, he or she has to provide a short biography to explain what his or her expertise is – how can someone help Latin Panel? I think that's all.

[SARMAD HUSSAIN]:     And MSR.

MIRJANA TASIC:     MSR will explain Mats. He is better in it than me.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:     We can request one of the IP members to perhaps explain what MSR is.

ASMUS FREYTAG:     MSR stands for Maximal Starting Repertoire and it's essentially the sandbox in which the entire work of the Generation Panels can take place.

MIRJANA TASIC: Okay. Thank you every – sorry, Sarmad has something. No, no more…

SARMAD HUSSAIN: [Inaudible].

MIRJANA TASIC: Yeah. Sorry, the time is over. We have to close because someone is probably waiting for the same room. Thank you very much, everybody, to be part of this meeting. I am [again has to ask you to] say that I'm very grateful to you. You survived my chairing. That's it.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You were very good.

MIRJANA TASIC: No, I was not. I was so unsatisfied what I have done but the first time is like [inaudible].

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you all for joining us. For those of you who are not members, please do consider volunteering for the panel. We do need all the help and support from all regions of the world here

so please consider that and thank you for those who joined us online. We will now be closing the session. Thank you. Bye-bye.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**