
COPENHAGEN – SEEDIG meeting (South Eastern Europe Stakholders)

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ANDREA BECCALLI:

Good afternoon, everybody. We should start because it's already 2:10 and we only have one hour. I'll give just a few words briefly. I'll remind you that despite we speak through the microphones, that's only because we have remote participants. And I know that discussion sounds more formal like this, but actually it's meant to be an interactive dialog session and to offer a space to the participants at an ICANN meeting that come from the South East European region to share their views, and in this case make the point around what's coming up in the SEEDIG space and with the next SEEDIG meeting.

My name is Andrea Beccalli. I think I know most if not all of you. I work for ICANN in the engagement part of ICANN and based in Brussels, but I deal mainly with south European countries. I myself am Italian, so I feel way more at home in any of your countries than in Brussels. And actually, Brussels lately is not fancy anymore. Nobody likes it really. But so far I've been working from there, has been good.

So, on SEEDIG. I'm amazed, and I just can't tell you how much I'm amazed because yesterday, I was at an event organized by

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the Portuguese-speaking ccTLDs. Portugal as a country had several colonies, and those colonies now are independent states so they all speak Portuguese. And these countries span across four continents.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]

ANDREA BECCALLI: Pardon?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do you understand them?

ANDREA BECCALLI: Yeah. [inaudible]. They all speak Portuguese, okay? And one of the ideas was to have Portuguese-speaking IGF, and they come out around this idea because they heard about SEEDIG. And I was like, “How did it happen?” And those are countries, I mean there’s Brazil, there’s Portugal, then you have Sao Tome, Cape Verde, Angola, Mozambique, and I was like, “Wow.” It really went all over the place.

So, as I said, I continue to be amazed, but I also am amazed because this is an example of the multi-stakeholder model in action. And the multi-stakeholder model, it is for many of us a

fancy word, but in reality, it means people getting together and working in an inclusive, open manner towards a common goal.

The thing is that to be – I’ll give you an example – you have to show that you are able to involve and include as much people as possible. Therefore, now we are going towards a third SEEDIG event, and it is the moment where – and you can count on the support of ICANN and other institutional partners – we really need to do some outreach and involve as much people as possible in that.

And that reminds me, when I used to be way younger, my hair was way longer and I used to go in clubs, and I had friends working in clubs at the door and they would tell me, “You know, if you come with ten friends we’ll give you free drinks and you get in, and you skip the queue.” Well, we should do the same with SEEDIG in this moment, because we are reaching a point where we have consolidated the process, we have consolidated a good number of people. We have a mailing list which is very active. We have lots of issues on the table.

We – or you actually – are making your name and your process heard well beyond the region, but the real test is the impact that you can make in the region. And I think there are all the requirements for SEEDIG to become the focus point of real

change in the region. In the sphere of Internet Governance, of course, but put in the region as an example worldwide.

And on that, I just want to mention one of the things that we will have for the first time in the next SEEDIG, and it is involving youth, involving students in SEEDIG. As of now, we'll only be able to involve them by having them participate, but the future is to have them involved in the preparatory process of SEEDIG. So, as ICANN, we decided to sponsor a small scholarship for students to participate in the event.

So, I ask you now – and we will go into details of that – I'll ask you now to take this one and reach out to universities and to students as much as you can to involve them, to tell them, “Look, this is something that is relevant to you, not only because most likely you were born in a world where Internet was a given, but because you will be then in charge of this process a few years down the road.”

And with that, I think [rather] mention which is important to make is that we are now into the process of consolidating the structure of SEEDIG, and that's a critical moment. There are some growth pains let's say, because we are going through something that goes a bit more than just an informal group of people across several countries coming together for organizing

an event, into something that is more recognizable, more solid, more sustainable.

And this is the moment where we need even more effort in working, in supporting, in sharing experiences. Because if we have a weak structure, the moments that each one of us decide that the Internet is not important anymore, maybe SEEDIG will probably fade away. And that's something that we don't want to see, and I don't think this is a risk as of today, but we can't discard it completely.

And on that, I think I can close. Yes, those are my three [remarks,] and we will go with Sorina into some more detailed presentation on where do we stand, and then I would like to hear from you. What do you think? How do you see things coming up? And also, I would like to hear your commitment in bringing people in, in making this a very successful, not only SEEDIG event but SEEDIG process and SEEDIG association. So, thank you, and Sorina.

SORINA TELENAU:

Thank you, Andrea. Hello everyone, I'm Sorina Teleanu. I'm working with DiploFoundation and I am a member of the executive committee of SEEDIG. Before I go into this presentation of what SEEDIG is and what we're trying to do and launch a sort of a discussion with you all, can we do a quick

round of introduction so we all get to know each other? Starting from there, please.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hello, my name is [Yashna Halas]. I work for the registrar. It's a British registrar, but obviously, our interest is in South Eastern region, so yes. Just here to find out more of what is this all about. Thank you.

ADELA DANCIU: Hello. I am Adela Danciu and I represent the Association for Technology and Internet Romania.

DUSAN STOJIČEVIĆ: Dušan Stojičević, coming from Serbia and also member of executive committee in SEEDIG.

KRESHNIK GASHI: Hello, my name is Kreshnik Gashi. I am the head of regulatory authority on electronic and postal communication of Kosovo. Actually, I was here for ICANN and I saw that SEEDIG was about South East Europe so I decided to join the meeting.

SERGIU VOLTOVSCII: Good afternoon. My name is Sergiu Voitovschii. I work for the Ministry of ICT of Moldova and I'm Moldova GAC rep.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: My name is [inaudible]. I'm here as a Fellowship, and also I'm one of member of association for Internet promotion [inaudible] Serbia.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE: I'm Chris Buckridge. I work for the RIPE NCC which is the regional Internet registry looking after IP addresses and [inaudible] number resources in a service region which includes South East Europe.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm [inaudible] [Morasca]. I also work for the RIPE NCC.

GRIGORIY SAGIYAN: Grigoriy Sagiyan, Republic of Armenia. I'm the Vice President of Internet Society of Armenia and at the same time the Secretary of Internet Governance Consul of Armenia.

LIANNA GALSTYAN: Lianna Galstyan. I'm also from Armenia and one of the members of the executive committee of SEEDIG. And this is a rare case

when all executive committee members are here in this ICANN meeting. Thank you.

ALEKSANDER ICHOKJAEV: Aleksander Ichokjaev from Macedonia, IP attorney. This is my seventh ICANN meeting, which finally leads to having me here as a representative of national IGF initiative information, hopefully to be ready before this regional IGF initiative that will be held in Ohrid in May.

SASHO DIMITRIJOSKI: My name is Sasho Dimitrijoski from Macedonia, member of executive committee also and Director of Agency for Electronic Communications.

AIDA MAHMUTOVIC: Aida Mahmutović from Bosnia and Herzegovina, a member of SEEDIG executive committee.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Roberto Gaetano, I'm attending the ICANN meetings as Chair of the Board of the Public Interest Registry. I'm here at this session because I'm interested in Internet governance, and in particular what happens in this region. I live in Austria, so we are neighbors.

SORINA TELENAU:

And that's why we have South Eastern Europe and the neighboring area. Welcome everyone, and thank you for the introductions. We have prepared a presentation which basically starts from the beginning explaining SEEDIG a big for those of you who are newcomers to our processes, so I'll try to go through this as quick as possible. But if you have questions on the way, just signal to me and I will stop at any point.

So, we'll start with an intro about SEEDIG. What is SEEDIG? We define it as a sub-regional IGF initiative, so basically a space for discussion on Internet governance and digital policy related issues that people from the region, from what we call South Eastern Europe and the neighboring area consider to be particularly relevant for us. And we have listed a series of objectives which are related to exactly this. Raising awareness, building capacity, fostering dialog and discussion, and maybe shaping policies across the region.

SEEDIG as an IGF initiative functions as we say a sort of a process, which includes several components. The main part of this process is the SEEDIG annual meeting. We started in 2015 with a meeting which was held as a pre-event to the EuroDIG meeting. For those of you who don't know, EuroDIG is the

European Dialog on Internet Governance, the pan European IGF forum let's say.

So, our first meeting was held and we had a lot of support from EuroDIG and other organizations to start our own IGF process. Our second meeting was last year in Belgrade, it was hosted by the ccTLD registry in Serbia. And now we're planning our third annual meeting which will be held on 24-25th May in Ohrid, Macedonia, and it will be hosted by the country's Agency for Electronic Communications, represented by Sasho here.

In addition to the annual meeting – which again is the main part of our process – we are also planning and running some intersessional activities. These are activities that are happening between two annual meetings, and their overall objective is to keep the community engaged. So we don't meet just once a year and then we don't hear from each other until the next meeting.

One of our intersessional activities which we have started last year in September in partnership with DiploFoundation and the Geneva Internet Platform has two components. The first one is a monthly summary of Internet governance and digital policy developments and activities in the region.

So what we do, every month we look at what happens in the regions, in countries in our region in terms of Internet related things. New laws adopted, hackers arrested, capacity

development initiatives, all sorts of things Internet related.

And we put these into a four-page summary which we publish at the end of the month.

Now, a key part in this initiative is the involvement and contribution of people from the region, because it's a bit difficult for us to know what happens across all the countries in the region, so for this we rely – and we hope to rely a bit more – on you, our community. Which means then that whenever there are things happening in your countries that you think are worthwhile being included in this summary and then distributed across the region and even beyond, just drop us an e-mail. There will be an e-mail address shown later, and we'll make sure that those things appear in the newsletter. Also, when it comes to events, if you are hosting an event in your country or if you know about an event, we will be more than happy to include those in the newsletters.

So, this is the first part of this initiative, and the second part is a monthly meeting. We call it South Eastern European Hub for Internet Governance Briefings. What we do together? Some of us in Belgrade where the in-situ meeting happens and the rest of us online, and we discuss about east regional developments. We look through the summary, we see what has happened over the previous month in the region and try to have a sort of a discussion on this.

And this briefing is held back to back with the Global Internet Governance Briefing hosted by the Geneva Internet Platform in Geneva. So, you are all again kindly invited and asked to contribute to this initiative, both in terms of helping us build the summary and joining our monthly South Eastern European hub which is held every last Tuesday of the month.

What else we do? We have regular online meetings with national IGF initiatives from the region, so we get together online from time to time and discuss about processes, SEEDIG processes, national IGF initiatives processes, how we can support each other, how we can strengthen each other.

Last year, we had a survey on Internet governance in the region, trying to see a bit how the community around our countries see Internet governance, Internet governance processes, issues and challenges, and this year we are planning a similar survey on internationalized domain names to feed into the discussion at the Ohrid meeting.

And we are always open for suggestions, so if anyone can think of another activity that SEEDIG could get engaged into between the annual meetings, any sort of capacity development event or project, you are more than welcome to contact us.

So, who does all these things? First of all, we have the so called SEEDIG community. As Andrea said, we are an open, inclusive

and multi-stakeholder process. So, the SEEDIG community is the one contributing to the planning of whatever SEEDIG processes we are running. This means a multi-stakeholder group of individuals from the region and beyond, and membership to this community is in general terms determined by subscription to a public mailing list.

In February this year, we had 109 members from 25 countries, and you can see on the slide the stakeholder distribution. We have a lot of civil society, some government, some technical community, but not so much academia and private sector. So, this is another area where we need to work a bit more and try to bring these two categories and involve them into SEEDIG. And again, support from you here is welcome as well.

We have an executive committee. You have met all of us here now. Five members from different countries and different stakeholder groups in the region. We were not self-appointed, let's say. The composition of the executive committee was endorsed by the SEEDIG community people on the mailing list.

We have several Supporting Organizations. These are all entities that have been supporting SEEDIG from the start and which are helping us running this process. There are also sponsors to our initiatives and they are bringing us a bit more credibility and sustainability in our region. These are the Council of Europe,

DiploFoundation, European Commission, EuroDIG, ICANN, the Internet Governance Forum Secretariat, the Internet Governance Forum Support Association, Internet Society and RIPE.

In terms of results, again, SEEDIG is not a decision-making body, so things that happen at the annual meeting are just discussions. But these discussions are reflected in key messages which are basically main takeaways, possible goals and proposal for future actions on the topics that are discussed at the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, we prepare a sort of – we call it report, annual report which is then distributed to EuroDIG, the IGF and within the region and beyond the region. And these are basically the messages of SEEDIG.

Our relations with other Internet governance spaces, we are an IGF initiative, so we contribute to activities undertaken by the global Internet Governance Forum. We are building synergies with the European Internet Governance Forum and one example is the joint call for the issues that we are doing together. I have already mentioned about our monthly meetings – or, well, less than monthly with national IGF initiatives. And we are also trying to meet our community in the context of other meetings like we are doing here now at ICANN.

As we've said, we will have our third annual meeting in May, on 24-25th in Ohrid. Our host again is the Agency for Internet Communications, and we have two other institutional partners: the Ministry of Information Society and Administration and the Macedonian Academic Research Network.

How do we build a program for the meeting? Again, as the SEEDIG community is an open and inclusive community, so is the process for building the annual meeting and the program for the annual meeting. This all started with a joint call for issues, topics to be discussed at the meeting which ran between October and December last year. Yes, that's 2017. I am in the future.

In early January, we had an inventory of proposals, then we held two online planning meetings discussing the proposals with our community, and trying to narrow down all those topics into few of them that should be discussed at the actual meeting in Ohrid.

On the basis on those discussions and the received proposals, we built a draft program outline, which again went out for public comment. We received more comments from the community, and everything was integrated into a final program outline.

Now, we are in the phase where we are actually building the various sessions, and this is done by organizing teams. Organizing teams are composed by any interested individual

from the region and beyond people that want to contribute to shaping the various sessions at SEEDIG. They are open throughout the entire process, so if anyone is interested in joining any of these organizing teams, you should just write us an e-mail and we will introduce you to them.

The sessions and the actual program: on the 24th May we will start – as Andrea mentioned – with the SEEDIG Youth School, and we'll go into this a bit later. And we'll have a meeting for national IGF initiatives in the region together with EuroDIG and the global IGF.

In the afternoon, we'll start the actual discussions with an introductory session into Internet governance and the session on access, digital divide and telecom market regulation. On the second day, we have several other sessions focusing on these topics, human rights online, new challenges, and with sort of an emphasis on the issue of fake news, which seems to gather a lot of attention recently. We also will discuss the Internet of Things, open data, internationalized domain names and cybersecurity.

So again, for all these sessions, we have organizing teams. People from various stakeholder groups, from various countries, actually working on putting together these sessions, thinking about what are the topics that should be discussed, changing the titles because these are not the final titles. So, everything is

done by the community. Us in the executive committee, we are only there to provide support if that support is needed, but we are not the ones deciding how the sessions are to be framed or who is going to speak at the sessions or these kind of things. It is all about the [inaudible] community-driven process.

There is also a speakers' corner with a few presentations on some specific issues. These are very short presentations, between three and five minutes. This is what I have just explained, the open planning process. So again, you are all kindly invited to contribute to this process and just send us an e-mail, and we will be more than happy to put you in contact with your organizing teams.

In terms of capacity development, because one of SEEDIG's objectives is to build the capacity of stakeholders in the region to contribute to Internet governance and digital policy processes, this year we are making one step further and launching two separate initiatives: the SEEDIG Youth School which is kindly supported by ICANN, so thank you ICANN for that.

We are targeting students in undergraduate and master's programs from across the region, and we will bring them together for a half day pre-event at SEEDIG on the 24th of May, and several online preparatory meetings before.

The purpose is to prepare them for actual participation in SEEDIG, so they will be developing some sort of messages to present at the SEEDIG meeting itself as their own contribution. And then we also have a SEEDIG meeting fellowship program, basically being able to support people from the region to participate in terms of travel and accommodation support, but also integrating them into the process, into SEEDIG activities and making them part of these processes. And this initiative is supported by the Internet Society.

The deadline for applications for both the SEEDIG Youth School and the meeting fellowship program is 19 March, so there is not much time left. If you know people who would like to apply for any of the programs, if you would like to apply for any of the programs, please go to our website and do so. seedig.net, that's the website, and you will find everything there.

The last point of this presentation is about the SEEDIG legal structure. I have been talking a lot about SEEDIG, but SEEDIG does not exist as a legal entity. It's basically a group of people who are doing volunteer work to keep this process running. And while this has worked – let's say very well – over the past two years, as Andrea said it needs a bit more sustainability.

The current challenges are listed there when it comes to legal and financial aspects, sustainability and the definition and

implementation of intersessional activities. In order to address these challenges, we have discussed with all of our Supporting Organizations, and the next step would be to give SEEDIG a sort of legal status in the form of building an association, which will be open to anyone interested.

The objective would be to enhance the sustainability and credibility of the initiative and facilitate the planning and execution of the various activities. And this process, the building of the SEEDIG association is undertaken in two phases because of the timeline and the closeness of the third meeting in a few months in Ohrid.

The phase one is this association 0.1 beta, which is to be founded by members of the executive committee and will only include very basic provisions required by the law. And the main aim of this association 0.1 or beta is to facilitate the preparatory process for Ohrid, so basically conclude agreements with our supporting organizations and manage the funds.

At the same time, we are working on a more comprehensive statute for the actual SEEDIG association, association 2.0, which will expand its membership beyond the members of the executive committee. It will go into more details on issues such as governing bodies, decision making processes, roles and responsibilities, everything related to the actual association.

There is a team working now on this statute, some of the people are here in the room, and thank you once again for the support in this regard. The plan is to be able to finalize the first version by mid-April if I'm not wrong, and then go into public comment before Ohrid. And in Ohrid, we will be discussing hopefully this with the whole community. This is it about the association, and the next step would be discussion with everyone in the room.

So, questions, comments, concerns, complaints? Yes. Nothing? You all think this is a great and amazing process and you have nothing to contribute, nothing to complain about?

GRIGORIY SAGIYAN:

Maybe it's not a question but remark, could you please describe what you mean when you say South Eastern Europe countries and neighboring countries? So, what kind of community we have?

SORINA TELENAU:

You're asking us about defining the region? Well, our region is, let's say, a bit complicated from a political point of view, so we do not define South Eastern Europe. That's why in all our documents you will see South Eastern Europe and the neighboring area. So, when it comes to individual persons, if they consider themselves part of this region, they are welcome

to contribute. If not, they are welcome to stay away. We cannot tell a country, “You are part of South Eastern Europe or not,” because you know what that means politically speaking. I hope that helps. Chris, you wanted to say something.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE:

I was really just going to jump in and maybe sort of provide RIPE NCC’s perspective on this, and I think it probably comes down a little bit relating to the community question as well. RIPE NCC, we’re based in – well, I’m based in Amsterdam. We have staff from all over the service region. We have staff in Moscow, we have staff in Dubai. So, we’re sort of active throughout that service region.

But I think smaller, sort of sub-regional, sort of smaller region events like this, we find it really valuable to be involved in that, because it’s really important opportunity for us to meet with people who we wouldn’t necessarily see at other, bigger events. But I think it also – and the last two SEEDIG events have sort of shown – it gives an opportunity to be a bit more freeform, experimental and try out some ideas, both in terms of the format but also in terms of the topics that are of interest to people in a certain region.

I think that’s something where it’s not necessary to just sort of define, “Okay, these countries make up South East Europe,

these countries are Western Europe” or whatever the definition is. Topics of interest I think is a much vaguer definition, but it is useful to have a number of these sort of these sort of sub-regional events around the service region where people can come together and have an opportunity to discuss them.

And I think internationalized domain names is one thing that SEEDIG has been useful for, where perhaps EuroDIG – which is I guess one level up the hierarchy in terms of regional Internet governance events – doesn’t have quite the same focus on those IDN issues, so it’s useful to have a SEEDIG event where that can be a bit more an area of focus.

But yes, I think as I say, RIPE NCC’S been really supportive of this and will continue to be supportive, and have found SEEDIG to be a really useful Internet governance event. So, thank you to Sorina and Dusan and the whole team for putting it together every year.

SORINA TELENAU:

Thank you, Chris, and t yes to RIPE for supporting us from the start again.

Okay, let us discuss a bit. Those of you who attended our previous meetings, any feedback after those meetings? Things that went well, things that were awful and you would like to

change? Suggestions for our meeting in Ohrid, suggestions for intersessional activities? How can we bring those stakeholder groups that are not very well represented in our processes? How can we strengthen the process, and how can we become more relevant and more effective?

Any comments, questions, suggestions are welcome. This was the purpose of this meeting, to try to have a discussion with you, the community members, instead of only us speaking. Liana?

LIANA GALSTYAN:

Liana Galastyan speaking. Just for the record, we have also two remote participants, Anja Gengo from IGF Secretariat and Oksana Prykhodko from Ukraine, and a comment to RIPE's – to Chris' comment maybe to say that there is no hierarchy between the national, sub-regional and regional IGFs.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE:

Yes, I misspoke.

SORINA TELENAU:

I don't know what to say more to encourage you to take the floors, so I will start coming with [mics at you] which is not very pleasant. Andrea?

ANDREA BECCALLI:

I will have to hear from you, because I saw the breakdown of percentage of participation, and I think if you can go back, the private sector [that you go] is only 7%. So, I'd like really to hear from you how you think you can involve more of the private sector to the SEEDIG event and participate and then to bring them in, and in that, if we can support as ICANN – I can tell you I had this discussion yesterday with one of the participants about telecom operators and how much telecom operators now are finally realizing that this space of the Internet is the space where they actually will have or will have not a future.

So, I was personally impacted by a meeting that we had two weeks ago, the Mobile World Congress with a very senior representative of Telefonica, a large telecom operator. The CEO of ICANN was there, and he was very blunt and he said, “We lost the battle with the Internet giants. We won't be able to get this battle [on] again, so we are investing now in the Internet. We are investing in Internet of Things, in 5G, in providing services over that.”

I would think that these are issues that for the private sector actors in your region will be also interesting to discuss and to bring to the table. Please.

GRIGORIY SAGIYAN: We have a representative from private sector. Personally, I'm representing private sector also as a company which is registering domain names. But I don't think that telecom operators are active in domain business, because their main direction is not the registration of domain names and providing hosting. For that, there is absolutely other players.

If you want to see them, I recommend – if somebody has such facility – to visit Rust in West Germany, and there is a conference, World Hosting Days. It will start at 25 of March until 29 of March. There, you will find domain name registrars from private sector, hosting service providers, datacenter providers. So, all who are in this business. But telecom operators are not in this business.

ANDREA BECCALLI: We don't want only people in this business. SEEDIG is not an ICANN meeting. SEEDIG is an event –

GRIGORIY SAGIYAN: What about private companies?

ANDREA BECCALLI: My point was that this is a discussion that goes well beyond the DNS and the registry and registrars business. It's a discussion

about the governance of the Internet. We have players that now are coming to the table, and I think they should come to the table. But again, that's my suggestion.

DUSAN STOJIČEVIĆ:

Basically, the first question is, who is technical community here? And the answer is that those people are hosting companies, registrars and registries. So, they're declaring themselves as technical community. So, it's not clear, a clear line between technical community between and private sector, because half of those people in technical community are private companies.

So, this is where we need to be, let's say, precise. So yes, telcos are seeing Internet right now a different way than it was several years ago. Yes, we can say that they will come. Yes, we can say that they have a different world. This world is under ITU, but I think that now we can talk a little bit different with them because they understand Internet now differently. Especially services on the Internet.

SORINA TELENAU:

Thank you, Dusan. One thing I forgot to mention earlier when I presented the meeting we have in Ohrid, the SEEDIG meeting will be held back to back with the regulatory event. And Sasho, if you can say a few words, that's basically a part of our attempt to

bring more of the regulators and the private sector into SEEDIG. So, Sasho, please.

SASHO DIMITRIJOSKI: Yes, because I come from both worlds. The only way to have those huge telecom operators is to [have] them is a conference like we are organizing. So, it is a regulatory conference on which they are coming, but in the middle of that regulatory conference we organize the SEEDIG. And it was the main idea how to bring all of them – not just big telecom operators but also the government, the ministries.

Sorina also didn't mention that we are organizing joint sessions, so it's parallel. We are starting in the morning with separate meetings. Regulatory conference is starting, and separately SEEDIG, but in the afternoon we organizing joint sessions and we are doing it just with one reason: to join and to have all of them together in one table and to discuss all those important topics. Otherwise, I don't see that if we organize separate IGF conference that they will be interested to come and to participate.

SORINA TELENAU: So, this is one small step we're trying to make towards bringing the private sector more into our processes. Dusan?

DUSAN STOJIČEVIĆ: Ambush.

SORINA TELENAU: Sorry? Sort of, yes. But it was planned. Anyone else? Do we still have time in this meeting? Questions, comments, concerns, complaints? Rotten tomatoes? Please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible] speaking. First, one question regarding this youth and fellowship program for conference. Can be a little bit postponed. I think it is only two weeks, and it is two days after ICANN meeting, so maybe to get at least ten days more, for example.

ANDREA BECCALLI: I support that, because –

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: To attract more people. That is the idea. We have some project that we should keep – two events with student. One on [law] faculty, second [in] faculty of political science. And that is an opportunity generally to invite them to participate in Internet policy and Internet processes in general, so maybe to invite

them to participate to SEEDIG youth [inaudible]. That is one thing.

Second thing, what is strange for me, I was working in Siberian registry couple of years, and I'd say I partook process in seven or six, seven or eight years now. And I like engineer brain, I try to make a picture for me. And we have IGF process like from United Nations [inaudible] United Nations is supporting IGF in the [development].

We also have ICANN and domain industry, and conferences like this, like the other conferences regarding – and also, they have interest to connect ICANN and IGF and support SEEDIG, but we don't – I also cannot see exactly how to find way to connect interest of our domain [at a] national level industry and ministries and government to participate in one meeting and support continual process.

This is not question of conference. ICANN has conference three times per year, but [center] has one workshop meeting by month, and it is nonstop process discussing some important issue. When you come here, you can see that these sessions are only continuation of something that they started two or three years ago, and they don't start to talk about it once again. No, they just [inaudible] steps between meetings. And we should organize the process that should be continual process on, let's

say, month by month on regional level. Not only one conference in a year.

SORINA TELENAU: Thank you. Do you want to comment to this? Go.

ALEKSANDER ICHOKJAEV: Remark. This is exactly what we hope will happen as a small try, modest try, to put them all together, face to face. But what I'm trying to ask now, I'm currently on the webpage of SEEDIG and it says registered participants, 12 in total. Let's not sleep on the year that everyone will register 15 days before the event. Let's discuss this a bit. And I agree with the proposal of possibility to extend, if there is possibility, technical and in all other aspects, organizational, etc.

LIANA GALSTYAN: I would encourage not to discuss this but to spread the word about this opportunity in your respective communities. And if I may, we have a question. Do you want to reply? We have a question from Oksana: "What will be the role of National IG initiatives in the region in SEEDIG? And does SEEDIG executive committee plan to participate in national IGFs?"

SORINA TELENAU:

Okay, I'll try to take the questions and the comments one by one. On the deadline for the call for applications for the youth and Fellowship program, I guess we could consider extending it. Maybe with a week, but not more, because then we also need to plan the process and we need to prepare people in advance. So, that will take also a bit of time. Not to count also the time for the actual review of the applications.

On the second comment, how do we do when it comes to engaging stakeholders more, especially governments, and as it was said before the private sector? And keeping them around in these processes, that's the main challenge we're having. So, we should all try to look into this.

And I think it mostly works on the basis of personal contacts. You know people, you tell them, "Hey, there is this thing happening. Try to contribute." And people come more because they trust you than the process they have heard once in, I don't know, a public session. When it comes to governments, we have this year the support of the regulatory authority which is the host, and we also have the support of the country's ministry of information society. If I'm not wrong, that's the name.

What that means is that they would be able to extend invitations to similar authorities and ministries in the region and try to bring them into this event at least, and then we will try to keep them

engaged into the process. And a similar attempt will be done with members of the parliament or parliaments in the region, because I don't think we have seen many members of parliaments in these kind of IG processes.

So, that would be another, let's say, governmental stakeholder group we should be reaching out to, because at the end of the day, those are the people that are writing the laws which are – or are not – applicable to the Internet.

On the question from remote on what we do with national initiatives at SEEDIG, well, there is the joint meeting on the 24th May, so we will be discussing about national processes, about how they can contribute to SEEDIG, about how SEEDIG can support them, and again EuroDIG and the global IGF will be there as well. Liana, there was a second part of the question, but I don't think I remember it.

LIANNA GALSTYAN: [inaudible]

SORINA TELENAU: Again, SEEDIG does not exist as a legal structure, which means we don't really have funds to travel to these kind of events. Whenever we can because of our other – well, our main – jobs

we do and we also go there on behalf of SEEDIG. So, we are trying, but not maybe as consistent as it should happen.

On the number of registrations, yes, that is the real number, so hopefully there will be more, but we have seen this in the previous year as well. People wait until the last 15 days, actually. [Ucha]?

[UCHA SETURI]:

Small question about Fellowship program and [inaudible] dates because [inaudible] participants also, from my side and from IGF Georgia. I have a few questions from our society, from volunteers also. They're interested to go there, and the [inaudible] at least maybe five or six participants and they're interested to get answers from [here about the] Fellowship because we also have some suggestions from other donors to help traveling and so on.

So, my question is related, but answers about from SEEDIG Fellowship, and if it's possible to get it as soon as possible to look for other fundings to go on SEEDIG. Answers, we send applications on fellowship funding, and we need answers as soon as possible.

SORINA TELENAU:

I must admit, I think I'm a bit lost.

[UCHA SETURI]: Okay, you have opportunities to fund how many people from my country? One, two?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They already applied.

[UCHA SETURI]: Yes.

SORINA TELENAU: Oh. Yes, that cannot be done.

[UCHA SETURI]: To find other, maybe Council of Europe, maybe European Union, to find other guys who can give money for traveling, accommodations, etc.

SORINA TELENAU: Okay. Well, unfortunately, that cannot happen until the deadline, and if we also extend the deadline, it will take at least one more week. Yes, but maybe they have a sort of a deadline for other processes.

[UCHA SETURI]: [inaudible] asking give them information about this right now.

SORINA TELENAU: Maybe they should start applying through those other donors, and then if they get funding from both sources, they only choose one. That could be an alternative, but we cannot say at this point, because that will be unfair to those applying later. Andrea?

ANDREA BECCALLI: We have one minute more, so I think it's time to close. I really ask you to – to this point, to put as much as you can your effort in spreading the word about SEEDIG and inviting. I'm looking at you for instance, that you have contacts within governments, inviting members of parliament to participate. Because I think that they don't have many chances to be exposed to these kinds of issues and these questions otherwise, and I'm sure they would see the value.

Sorina said that personal contact is very important because those are issues that, yes, are being discussed, but the format is quite new. There are few people who are aware of this format. So, first you will make the first introduction, but I'm sure they would stick because the potentiality and the quality of the discussion is top level.

And as ICANN, we will do our most to promote. We will include it in our newsletters, we'll include it in our ICANN calendar, but we don't have the reach in the region that you have. So, that's something that you have really to look at. And then participate into the preparation of the sessions. If you know experts nationally that are dealing with these things in academic world for instance, tell them to join. The preparation of the session is completely open, it's completely bottom-up.

And one last thing, I [will support the] extension of the deadline, because March 19 is my birthday and I don't want anyone rushing on an application the day of my birthday.

SORINA TELENAU:

Noted, Andrea. Thank you. Yes, again, kind request to please spread the word. And if you need additional information from us, we even have prepared a briefing note for governments and embassies and parliaments so we can share that with you if you want to use it for your own contacts. Just drop us an e-mail. You have the e-mail address on that brochure, and we will welcome any kind of support suggestion from your side.

And we hope you will join us for the next monthly briefing at the end of this month, and in Ohrid in May, and subscribe to the list. You have all the details on the small brochure. Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: One small reply. I'm not sure that IGF [started] because some persons agree that we should invite the United Nations to organize IGF. So, I'm not sure that our private connections and the knowledge of people will help to improve SEEDIG good enough without ICANN and EuroDIG and authorities like this to push and help us in parallel. So, I'd like to get their support more.

SORINA TELENAU: The thing is we –

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Not only financially. It is not – it at least may be the least problem. But support in the other way.

SORINA TELENAU: We actually have that support, and that's how SEEDIG started, with support from these external organizations. We have the UN IGF supporting us, we have EuroDIG, ICANN, RIPE, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and they do spread the word. But as Andrea said, it's more on us in the region to actually bring those people.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: To motivate government and domain name industry structure to participate in SEEDIG. That is it.

SORINA TELENAU: Yes. They are also doing that. For example, the Council of Europe is sending invites and notes to governments represented on the Council of Europe. So, efforts are done from there as well, but we cannot expect them to fix our problems.

Wolf, before we end, would you like to say a few words as one of our supporters? Since you joined late?

WOLF LUDWIG: Well, thanks. Sorry for being late. I was in another meeting that took much longer than foreseen, therefore I arrived here at the last moment. I'm pleased to see so many people here at the SEEDIG coordination meeting here, and I'm following the odd process at SEEDIG with high interest, and I am always touched and pleased how well it develops again and again.

So, it's on the best track. It has a very exciting program already. Looks everything promising, and as it looks like, it seems to me to become the next highlight. And it's a perfect step in between, before the next EuroDIG, beginning of June in Tallinn. We have now the consolidated program. We now contact some people to become focal points, and many of them are confirmed by now.

And then we make the first briefings with the session focal points of the new program, and then the creation of org teams. So, we are not as far as SEEDIG is for now, but I think we are for EuroDIG on a good way as well. And, well, there will be in between a lot of national IGFs as well, so we have the different level national IGFs, sub-regional IGFs, regional IGFs, and then at the end of December, we will have the global IGF in Europe in Geneva, and we will try to keep some kind of dynamic from all the levels up to the next global IGF in Europe.

And, well, congrats to the executive committee of SEEDIG. You are doing a great job, and I'm looking forward to be at SEEDIG soon.

SORINA TELENAU: Thank you, Wolf, and to EuroDIG as well. Some final remarks, Andrea? You want to say something?

ANDREA BECCALLI: Thank you, Sorina. Thank you for all the work that you do, and thank you to all the executive committee members. And I hope to see you all more. We are getting to the last mile, so we [run,] push, and then we will celebrate. I'm sure that's something that is very dear to an Italian is the way that the South Eastern

European know how to celebrate. The Belgian, they don't know how to. So, looking forward. Thank you.

SORINA TELENAU: Ending on a positive note. Thanks, Andrea. And thanks, everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]