Croatian IGF 2015 - Final report
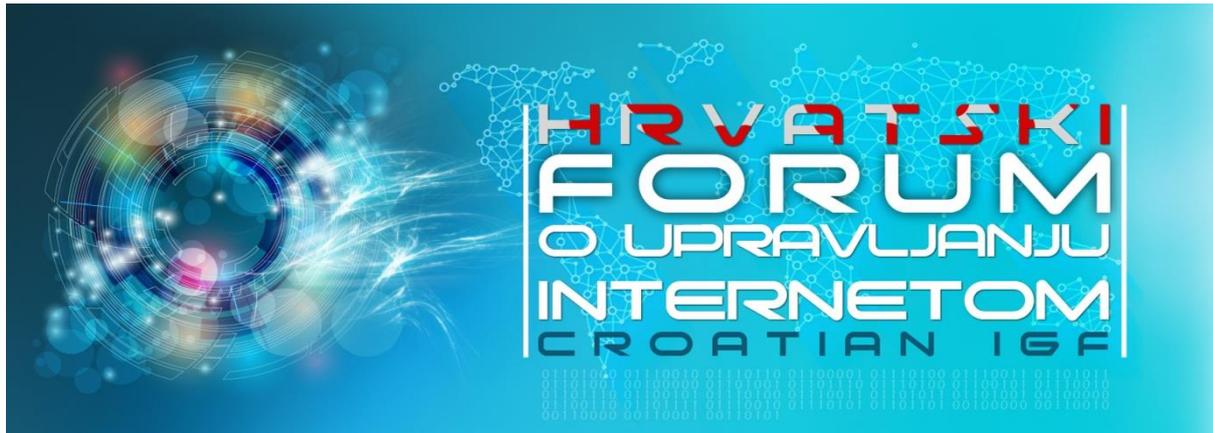
Table of contents

Why CRO-IGF?

In 1991 the Croatian Academic and Research Network (CARNet) was established and the year later it was connected to the Internet. It was the only Croatian Internet connection to the world at that time. Many years passed and today there are many providers of the Internet access service in Croatia and one can say that Internet works just fine in this part of the world. However, the interest among the Croatian stakeholder in the Internet Governance as such had generally been rather low. The Republic of Croatia decided to have a representative at GAC of the ICANN as late as 2013 when the global interest in the Internet Governance raised the awareness of the need of participation in the European and global efforts on preserving a well-functioning, open and free Internet. It became clear that an open dialogue at the national level on the topics of Internet Governance was also needed. The idea of establishing a suitable platform for open and inclusive discussions first emerged within the circles of academia and the government. The industry and the civil society joined in.

Before CRO-IGF and the CRO-IGF preparatory process

In March 2014, just before the historic NETMundial conference, HAKOM, the national regulator for network industries (Post, Railways and Electronic Communications) held the first public consultations in Croatia on the topic of the Internet Governance. More information can be found here: http://www.hakom.hr/default.aspx?id=2592

After the NETMundial conference, in May 2014, at the conference MIPRO in Opatija, Croatia, a workshop on the Internet Governance was held with the representatives from the three major stakeholder groups – the academia, industry and the government. More information on the event can be found here: http://www.hakom.hr/default.aspx?id=3708

The Croatian Forum on Internet Governance was first announced on January 21st 2015, at the "Markets Day" an event organised annually by HAKOM, the Croatian national regulator for network industries. More information on HAKOM can be found here: www.hakom.hr

After the announcement at the Markets Day, the activities on forming the Organising Committee (OC) have been initiated with the goal to connect the key stakeholders who would be interested in participating in the national initiative for setting-up a national forum for open discussions in the area of the Internet governance.

The process lasted for about three month and the Organising Committee consisting of the representatives from the 4 typical stakeholders was formed and held its first meeting on April 14th 2015.

Organising Committee of the CRO-IGF:

Academia:	Private sector/Industry:
Dražen Dragičević, Law Faculty in Zagreb Gordan Gledec, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Zagreb	Adrian Ježina, HUP (Croatian Employers' Association) Milan Živković, Ericsson Nikola Tesla
Government:	**Internet users/Civil Society:**
Leda Lepri, Ministry of Public Administration Krešo Antonović, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure Nataša Glavor, CARNet Zdravko Jukić, HAKOM	Kristijan Zimmer, HROpen

Members of the Organising Committee:

Leda Lepri, Assistant Minister at Ministry of Public Administration
Krešo Antonović, Director, Directorate for Electronic Communications and Postal Services at the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure
Nataša Glavor, Deputy CEO for Service Development, CARNet
Professor Dražen Dragičević, Ph. D., Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb
Professor Gordan Gledec, Ph. D., Member of the Faculty Board, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb
Adrian Ježina, Board Member at VIPnet, President of the ICT Association at Croatian Employers' Association
Milan Živković, Strategy Responsible at Ericsson Nikola Tesla in Zagreb
Kristijan Zimmer, President at HROpen Association
Zdravko Jukić, Council Member, HAKOM, national regulator for network industries

More information on the institutions having representatives in the OC:

Ministry of Public Administration	https://uprava.gov.hr/
Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure	http://www.mppi.hr/default.aspx?id=7397
CARNet – Croatian Academic and Research Network	http://www.carnet.hr/
Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb	https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/en/
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb	https://www.fer.unizg.hr/en
Croatian Employers' Association	http://www.hup.hr/en/
Ericsson Nikola Tesla	http://www.ericsson.hr/homepage
HROpen Association	http://www.open.hr/

At the first meeting of the Organising Committee three themes for the first national forum were selected, the Internet Governance in general, the Domains management and the Network Neutrality.

The Committee agreed to intensify the efforts on spreading the word on the initiative among the stakeholders. The forum was announced at the web pages of the national regulator HAKOM with an invitation for all interested parties to propose additional topics for the event. However, no additional topics had been suggested which also indicated low interest for this theme in Croatia at this point in time: http://www.hakom.hr/default.aspx?id=7074

The Committee dedicated that a webpage with the content from the first forum and with some on-line platform for E-discussions on the Internet Governance topics would be implemented at a later stage.
For the time being, there would be a contact e-mail address for the CRO-IGF where discussion on various topics would be held: cro-igf@carnet.hr

Later on, one of the organisers, HAKOM decided to remove the Network Neutrality topic from the agenda, so the final agenda for the 1st Croatian Internet Governance Forum was rather modest, with just two topics, Domains Management and Internet Governance.

CRO-IGF 2015 Agenda

The first Croatian IGF took place in Zagreb, on May 6th, at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb. It was a one-day event, the agenda was as follows:

Agenda

9:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome Speeches
10:15 – 11:00	Internet Domains Management
11:00 – 11:15	Short break
11:15 – 12:45	Internet Governance
12:45 – 13:30	Networking

After short welcome addresses from the hosts, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing and HAKOM, national regulator for network industries, the forum started with the session on the Internet domains management.

Zdravko Jukić explaining the idea of national IGF.

Professor Gledec giving a short history of Internet in Croatia in his welcome speech.

Internet Domains Management

Issues discussed:
- ccTLD Internet domains management in general
- Internet domains management in Croatia (.hr)
- Comparison of approaches to domains management in the region

People:
- Nataša Glavor, Deputy CEO at CARNet, as presenter and co-moderator
- prof. dr. sc. Gordan Gledec, Board Member at FER, as co-moderator

Discussions and key messages:

The introductory presentation was given by Nataša Glavor, Deputy CEO at CARNet. Themes covered in the presentation were ccTLD governance in Croatia, plans for future development especially in relation with the countries in the region and countries with similar number of citizens and similar level of economic development. The session that followed the presentation had two moderators, Nataša Glavor from CARNet and professor Gledec from FER and it was held in the form of open discussion with all the participants of the forum. The topics opened during discussion covered various areas from involving dnssec into the Internet domain operations in Croatia to the remedies against abusive registrations of domain names.

Nataša Glavor and Gordan Gledec in the Q&A on Domains Management

Nataša Glavor, presenting Domains Management in Croatia

Internet Governance (IG)

Introductory presentations

People:
- Andrea Beccalli, Engagement Manager at ICANN, introductory presentation
- mr. sc. Mislav Hebel, senior specialist at HAKOM, introductory presentation

There were two introductory presentations before the panel discussion. The first one was given by mr. sc. Mislav Hebel, Senior Specialist from HAKOM, who gave an overview of the global Internet Governance eco-system and also pointed out the actual discussions related to IANA transition, ICANN accountability enhancements and IGF mandate extension among others. In the second presentation, the guest from ICANN Brussels office, Andrea Becalli, Engagement Manager, presented the ICANN's point of view concerning the actual discussions.

Andrea Becalli, giving ICANN perspective

Mislav Hebel from HAKOM presenting IG

Panel discussion

Issues discussed:
- What is Internet Governance?
- What does the global Internet Governance system look like?
- What are the main topics discussed currently at the global stage?
- How can Croatia contribute to the processes?

People:
- Panellists:
  - Krešo Antonović, Director, Directorate for Electronic Communications and Postal Services at the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure
  - dr. sc. Marko Jurić, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb
  - Hrvoje Hadžić, Innovation Management & Business Development Manager at Ericsson Nikola Tesla
  - Zdravko Jukić, Council Member at HAKOM and Croatian representative at the GAC
- Andrea Beccalli, Engagement Manager at ICANN, presenter
- mr. sc. Mislav Hebel, senior specialist at HAKOM, introductory presentation
- dr. sc. Ana Katalinić Mucalo, senior specialist at HAKOM, as moderator

Krešo Antonović, Zdravko Jukić, Hrvoje Hadžić
and Marko Jurić in the panel on IG (from left to right)

Ana Katalinić Mucalo, moderator of the IG panel

Discussions and key messages:

After the introductory presentation there was a panel discussion led by dr. sc. Ana Katalinić Mucalo, Senior Specialist from HAKOM. Krešo Antonović from the Ministry stressed the importance of preserving the need for the governments to be able to fulfil their public responsibilities concerning the Internet Governance, while the overall system of governance must be designed to preserve the open and free character of the Internet. Hrvoje Hadžić, as representative from the industry and private sector, stressed the importance of preserving the Internet as platform for innovation. Dr. sc. Marko Jurić, as representative from academia, welcomed the establishing of an open forum for discussions on Internet Governance and pointed out the interesting development concerning the Data Retention Directive being declared to be invalid by the Court of Justice of the European Union, and the possible consequences it may have on the EU Member States. Zdravko Jukić from HAKOM shared his experience from the global IGF forum in Istanbul 2015 and expressed his wish that the

Croatian forum would also develop in the future in a way that would include more topics and enable all interested parties to take part, express their ideas and concerns, so that those ideas and positions can be used when a country position is formed and presented in various international fora.

All participants expressed their support for the multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance and having an open forum for discussions as an important element of such a model. Several participants in the panel stated that there should be more topics and parallel sessions in the future events. All agreed that more intensive participation from the civil society and the Internet users are important and that additional efforts are needed to achieve that.

Participation

There were 41 participants at the forum. The distribution was rather even among the Government, Private sector and Academia, while we would need to get more participation from the civil society and Internet users in the future events. The sessions were held in Croatian, except the presentation given by our guest Mr. Andrea Beccalli, Stakeholder Engagement Manager from ICANN.

Conclusions

Main conclusions of the forum were that we in Croatia have to further support and develop our national dialogue on the Internet, Internet Governance and the Cyber Space in general. We support the multistakeholder model as a good model for open and inclusive participation. However, as the forum was informal, no outcome documents were produced. It was just left to each participant to take home what she/he has heard.

Feedback from the participants

Hrvoje Hadžić, industry/private sector:
From the forum meeting it was obvious that there are number of questions and uncertainties regarding the development of Internet in general and Internet in Croatia. Personally for me, although heavily involved in ICT, some of the presentations were quite helpful in understanding current state of the Internet in Croatia.
Broader involvement of users and key stakeholders would help faster adoption of internet technologies. Additionally it has been seen that there are specific situations that need to be somehow officially addressed by the key stakeholders (through forum or similar concept).
Too bad that more people were not involved, especially entrepreneurs. Perhaps invitations through HGK would be helpful.
Time was also too short, as number of topics was left unaddressed.

Milan Živković, industry/private sector:
Valuable initiative for gathering all stakeholders on national level. Very useful and welcoming from the industry side.

Tihomir Katulić, academia:
The first Croatian Internet Governance Forum has managed to bring the various national stakeholders to the same table to discuss the future of the Internet.
There was an enthusiastic response from the private and public sector with the exception of the civil society groups. More effort should be made to spread information about IGF goals and its mission among the civil society groups to facilitate better future response.
All in all, the first IGF Croatia was a success and I look forward to the next.

More information and contact

The Croatian multistakeholder community can be contacted directly through the following e-mail address: cro-igf@carnet.hr

More information on CRO-IGF can also be requested from zdravko.jukic@hakom.hr

Zagreb, August 10th 2015.