

# DC on Schools of Internet Governance Annual Report

## Background info about the DC SIG

The Dynamic Coalition of Schools in Internet Governance (SIG) was formed in 2017. It is a group open to all those who are involved with or concerned about SIGs. The mission of the group is two fold; to find common ways to speak of SIG and the programs they offer, and to help schools, both existing and new in their formation and program development.

The work of the group is done in a bottom up manner. Any participant can start a project. The degree to which other participants contribute to the project determines its success and completion. Except for the Toolkit project, which is intend as a started guide, all other projects have been initiated by participants.

The group has a chair, Sandra Hoferichter, and a coordinator, Avri Doria. The website is maintained by Rainer Rodewald. Each project document has additional editors based on the contributions.

## Activities conducted in the past year

2021 was a year when, despite Covid, the DC continued its work, though perhaps at a lower level that some previous years.

- Continuing work on the DC's web site, where information about schools, faculty, and curricula can be posted by the participating schools
- Continued work on the two living documents that the DC maintains;
  - a. one a toolkit on how to start a school
  - b. one a document, still in its early stage of development, on operational advice on running a school.
- A program was run where interviews were done by Glen McKnight with the founders and organizers of many of the existing schools. These interviews can be found at: <https://www.igschools.net/sig/sig/video-interviews/>. The group discussed some of the challenges that were brought up in these interviews.
- Held periodic teleconferences to discuss the progress of ongoing work and to review any suggested changes to documents.

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- The hybrid yearly [meeting](#) was held on Thursday, 9th December, 2021 at the Katowice IGF meeting.

### Activities beyond the IGF

In September of 2021, during the course of European Summer School of Internet Governance (EuroSSIG), a hybrid world tour of existing schools was held, with discussions on the future of SIG. This can be found at : [▶ 15 years Schools on Internet Governance – world tour](#)

### Any outputs produced and/or research/studies conducted.

- Each of our basic documents, the Toolkit and the Operations guide had a minor update.
- A set of [video interviews](#) of founders and managers of schools was produced.

### Updates on internal processes

No major change to work process in 2012. We do most of our work on line using Drive documents, and discuss all suggested changes to documents in periodic online meetings. We were well suited to continue work in our normal manner during the year. The mailing list was updated with new participants as needed.

### Priorities/objectives for the following year

- There are plans to update current SIG documents.
  - a. The Toolkit needs to be updated each year so that it does not become stale. Additionally there are sections of that document that need further work.
  - b. In terms of the Operations Guide, it is currently an annotated outline of the issues an organizer needs to deal with. The Guide needs further work, the kind of work that can only be done by volunteers who have the experience of establishing a program. For example, the Operations Guide needs text that focuses on successful methods for obtaining sustainable funding for schools of Internet Governance, that is finding adequate funding for schools, faculty, and support of the fellows.
- Discuss the establishment of schools that focus special attention to the issues within countries. Most schools have focused on the international and regional scope of governance issues. More programs are needed that look at the issues in terms of their

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national and local effect. The idea was presented of producing curricula and support for specialized schools for parliamentarians and legislators.

- Discuss requirements for detailed specialized curricula on special issues such as: cybersecurity, digital economy, and human rights.
- Discuss the IGF Secretariat curriculum to see how it can best fit into the ongoing work of the DC and determine whether the DC wants to use it as the basis for further work.
- Add to the collection of interviews with originators and leaders of SIGs.
- Further develop the resources for those creating courses on the web site.
- Continue discussions of financing for schools, which is a near universal problem that schools have. There is also concern with funding the work of the DC itself. A real problem with this is that funding sources are precious and rare. Schools are constantly scrambling for resources and cannot afford to have competition for those funding sources by the DC SIG.
- Deal with whatever emergent issues may be revealed during the year that involve education in Internet Governance and especially with spreading access to such education.