SEEDIG

South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT: TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

Annual report 2017

Third annual meeting | 24–25 May 2017 | Ohrid
Intersessional work | 2017 cycle

SEEDIG
Ohrid, May 2017

September 2017

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THIS REPORT COVERS THE SEEDIG 2017 CYCLE, WHICH INCLUDES BOTH THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING, AS WELL AS INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED SINCE SEEDIG 2016. A SEEDIG CYCLE RUNS BETWEEN TWO ANNUAL MEETINGS.

We support initiatives as SEEDIG that link regional Internet governance issues with global Internet governance processes through multistakeholder discussions, exchanges, and collaboration. South Eastern Europe is a particularly important region in Europe due to its diverse and multicultural character, which definitely brings a very valuable contribution to the conversation on Internet governance on a global level.

Frédéric Donck, European Regional Bureau, Internet Society

ICANN supports national and regional initiatives promoting the multistakehoder model of dialogue and participation, and among those SEEDIG, the largest of the SEE region. SEEDIG is based on inclusion, openness, bottom-up consensus, and completely community driven, setting itself as a model for the region and beyond. Since its creation, ICANN decided to support and help SEEDIG grow.

Andrea Beccalli, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

IGFSA is proud to be a partner of SEEDIG and to have supported SEEDIG right from the start in 2015 and renewed its contribution in 2016 and 2017. The discussions that have taken place in SEEDIG have shown that there is a need for such a sub-regional platform in the wider European region. This corresponds to one of IGFSA's purposes, that is to 'seek and promote exchange and collaboration with national and regional IGF initiatives'. In this sense, the partnership between SEEDIG and IGFSA is a perfect match!

Markus Kummer, Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA)

The Council of Europe is proud to be one of supporting organisations of SEEDIG. Regional multistakeholder dialogue on the Internet governance cannot be overestimated. This year`s debate referred to a number of important problems including open data policies, cybersecurity problems, internet of things, state of internationalised domain names, fake news and media literacy. As demonstrated by the SEEDIG 2017 messages, the debate has been fruitful. SEEDIG community proves to constitute a meaningful voice on ICT matters in the region.

Patrick Penninckx, Council of Europe

SEEDIG is a successful example of how a young, dynamic, and highly-motivated community of regional stakeholders come together to address common challenges related to the Internet and the digital world. It reflects a true bottom-up spirit that is one of the core features of the multistakeholder model for Internet governance supported by the European Commission.

Cristina Monti, European Commission

The RIPE Network Coordination Centre is very excited to be involved in and support regional Internet governance initiatives such as SEEDIG, and contribute to the dialogue on current Internet governance issues.

Gergana Petrova, RIPE Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)

SEEDIG is of a high importance for the region, as it has effectively managed to engage the community into a very vibrant set of continuous discussions on Internet governance, in accordance with the core IGF principles. Besides organising an excellent annual meeting, it is well known for its intersessional activities. The IGF is very fortunate to have the SEEDIG community as a partner in doing good work on Internet governance.

Chengetai Masango, Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

A. WHAT IS SEEDIG?

The South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG) is a sub-regional IGF initiative dedicated to open, inclusive, and informal dialogue on Internet governance issues among all interested stakeholders in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area (SEE).

The SEEDIG process was launched in a bottom-up manner, in 2014, as a response to a need, as perceived by the regional Internet community, for a platform to facilitate discussions and collaboration on Internet-related issues of relevance for the region.

SEEDIG has the following objectives:

- Raise awareness and promote a better understanding of Internet governance issues among stakeholders from South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area.

- Build and strengthen the capacity of these stakeholders to actively participate in national, regional, and international Internet governance processes.

- Facilitate multistakeholder discussions, exchanges and collaboration on Internet-related issues that are of particular concern for stakeholders in the region.

- Contribute to creating linkages between the Internet governance realities in the region and the pan-European and global Internet governance processes.

SEEDIG aims to function as a process that includes an annual meeting and the related preparatory steps, as well as intersessional activities. This process is planned and run in a bottom-up, open, inclusive, and transparent manner, by the SEEDIG community.

Membership of the **SEEDIG community** is determined by voluntary participation in a designated **public and open mailing list**, and/or by participation in SEEDIG activities. The community, which includes stakeholders from all groups (governments, intergovernmental organisations, private sector, technical community, civil society) and from various countries in the region, is open-ended, and anyone interested is welcome to join at any time.[1]

Coordination of SEEDIG activities is done by an **executive committee**, which is also multistakeholder and regionally diverse.

SEEDIG does not make decisions, but it can influence those who do. The open discussions held at the annual meetings are reflected in key messages, outlining main takeaways, possible goals and proposals for future actions. These messages are then distributed at national, regional, and global level. SEEDIG discussions and messages can, in turn, help inform and influence decision-making processes within governmental entities, national parliaments, companies, regional organisations, etc.

SEEDIG held its first two annual meetings in June 2015, in Sofia, Bulgaria, and in April 2016, in Belgrade, Serbia. Each of the two meetings brought together over 100 participants coming from more than 15 countries from SEE and the neighbouring area.[2]

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[1]   Mailing list: **icann-see[at]rnids.rs** More details about the SEEDIG community and the composition of the mailing list are available at **http://www.seedig.net/seedig-community/**
[2]   Details about the SEEDIG 2015 and 2016 meetings can be found in the meeting reports: **Sofia** and **Belgrade**.

B. SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

Host SEEDIG 2017

Local institutional partners

Gold sponsors

Silver sponsor

Bronze sponsors

Basic sponsor

Supported by

C. SEEDIG 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

SEEDIG 2017 preparatory process

The preparatory process for the SEEDIG 2017, which ran between October 2016 and May 2017, was open to all interested stakeholders, and this was reflected in the growth of the SEEDIG community, in the large number of proposals submitted in response to the call for issues, and in the open-ended nature of the session organising teams. The process was also transparent, as relevant information was made available via the mailing list and published on the SEEDIG website.

The various milestones in this preparatory process are outlined below.

SEEDIG 2017 Milestones	
Oct. – Dec. 2016	**Joint SEEDIG – EuroDIG call for issues** Resulted in **74 proposals** for issues to be discussed at the meeting.
14–15 Jan. 2017	**Online planning meetings** Discussions on the proposed issues and initial planning for SEEDIG 2017. Details in the **summary report of the meetings**.
28 Jan. 2017	**Draft programme outline published** Based on the submitted issues and the discussions held at the planning meetings.
Till 5 Feb. 2017	**Public comment on the draft programme**
Mid Feb. 2017	**Final programme outline published**
21 Feb. 2017	**Briefing for Heads of Missions in Geneva: Digital policy in SEE** Organised by the Permanent Mission of Macedonia to the United Nations in Geneva (host country for SEEDIG 2017) and the Geneva Internet Platform.
Feb. 2017	**Forming organising teams for sessions**
Feb. – May 2017	**Organising teams built the sessions**
April – May 2017	**Survey on Internationalised Domain Names**

Building the sessions

- When defining the sessions, org teams acted in line with the **Programme guidelines** and the **Session principles**.

- Each session was built by an open-ended org team, made up of interested stakeholders (including those who submitted proposals for SEEDIG). Each team was led by one or two focal points, and had dedicated contact points within SEEDIG's executive committee.

- Org teams worked via email exchanges and online meetings.

- Periodic online meetings, with all org teams, were held throughout the preparatory process, to take stock of the progress made and discuss the work ahead.

- Org teams had deadlines for their work.

- For each session, one **online session template** was created, containing the various elements that the org teams were to work on. Teams had three subsequent deadlines to complete work on these elements.

SEEDIG

South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance

Template for session 1 (S1)

1. Initial headline

2. Title
[You can choose to keep the initial headline as the title of your session, or identify a new title.]
    a. **Proposed title (DL: 15 March)**

    b. **Final title (DL: 15 April)**

3. Relevant proposals

Session template, as used by org teams to document their work

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Feedback from participants: Comments on the preparatory process

- I think it was very bottom-up, transparent, and inclusive.
- It was very well planned. I really enjoyed the online meeting. They were very informative.
- It was inclusive, which is the most important aspect.
- The planning was ok. The engagement from some partners was difficult.
- I was extremely satisfied with the organisation.
- For me it was a conference very unique, and I think the planning process was great.

SEEDIG 2017 Programme

Building up on community input, SEEDIG's third annual meeting was planned as a two-day event. The pre-event day (24 May), had a strong capacity development focus, as it included, among others, sessions dedicated to the SEEDIG Youth School and the SEEDIG Meeting Fellowship Programme, a meeting with IGF initiatives from the region, and the now traditional Introduction to Internet governance session, to set the scene for the discussions that were to follow. The second day focused on Internet-related topics that the community identified as most relevant for discussions.

This year, SEEDIG was held in conjunction with the **International Regulatory Conference (IRC) 2017**. The event, organised by the Agency for Electronic Communications of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (also the host for SEEDIG), traditionally attracts electronic communications regulatory authorities and the telecom industry from the region.

The decision to organise SEEDIG and the IRC together was taken with the aim to build synergies between the Internet governance and telecom communities and bring them together to discuss topics of common interest. As such, SEEDIG sessions on the afternoon of 24 May and on 25 May were planned as joint sessions, and featured in the programme of both events.

Digital development: Turning challenges into opportunities[3] 24 – 25 May | Ohrid	
Pre-event | 24 May	
08.30 – 13.00	**SEEDIG Youth School**
09.00 – 11.30	**SEEDIG Meeting Fellowship Programme**
11.30 – 13.00	**Meeting of IGF initiatives**
13.00 – 14.00	**Lunch**
14.00 – 15.30	**(S1) Internet governance: A puzzle or a Tower of Babel?**
15.30 – 16.00	**Coffee break**
16.00 – 17.30	**(S2) Need for speed: Broadband challenges, issues, and trends**
17.30 – 18.30	**SEEDIG Association: discussion**

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[3]   SEEDIG's website contains **details about each session, including descriptions, key participants, messages, etc**.

Main event	25 May	
09.00 – 09.30	**Opening & Welcoming remarks**
09.30 – 11.00	**(S3) True or false? Guess! Fake news, misinformation and the role of media literacy**
11.00 – 11.30	**Speakers' corner & Coffee break**
11.30 – 13.00	**(S4) How can the Internet of Things develop and be implemented in the right way?**
13.00 – 14.00	**Lunch break**
14.00 – 14.30	**Open data: Overview of policies and initiatives in SEE**
14.30 – 15.30	**(S5) Internationalised domain names (IDNs): Status and perspectives in SEE**
15.30 – 16.00	**Speakers' corner & Coffee break**
16.00 – 17.30	**(S6) Cybersecurity: national and regional priorities and cooperation**
17.30	**Conclusions & Wrap-up**

Sasho Dimitrijoski, Director of the Agency for Electronic Communications (host of SEEDIG 2017) and member of SEEDIG's executive committee, welcoming participants in Ohrid

Welcoming remarks

The SEEDIG 2017 meeting was officially opened, on 25 May, by Minister Marta Arsovska-Tomovska, Ministry of Information Society and Administration of the host country. The Minister's intervention was followed by an overview of SEEDIG's history, given by Sorina Teleanu, Digital Policy Senior Researcher at DiploFoundation and member of SEEDIG's executive committee. In addition, introductory words about SEEDIG were given during the opening of the IRC, by Sasho Dimitrijoski, Director of the Agency for Electronic Communications (host of SEEDIG 2017) and member of SEEDIG's executive committee.

It is a privilege that my country is hosting the third annual meeting of SEEDIG. [...] Open, inclusive, collaborative, and transparent dialogue on Internet governance issues is important now more than ever before. [...] We all have shared responsibilities to design the technical, political, and economic aspects of Internet governance, and, thus, to govern the Internet in a way that it is meaningful and responsible.

There is no general Internet law, and neither an Internet constitution. There is only an open Internet governance model based on bottom-up and collaborative policy and standards developing processes, involving all stakeholders. That is why I am supportive of this initiative and this gathering. Under the same roof, we have both people from theory and practice, both policy makers and followers, both innovators and adopters, both students and experienced professionals, meaning that this meeting is promising both provocative and meaningful discussions on the various Internet governance aspects.

Marta Arsovska-Tomovska, Minister of Information Society and Administration (local institutional partner of SEEDIG 2017)

Minister Marta Arsovska-Tomovska opening the SEEDIG 2017 meeting

Today's dynamic, rapidly changing digital environment not only requires awareness, education, and predictability in the technical sector, but it has reflections in many dimensions of our society, including with regard to people's wellbeing.
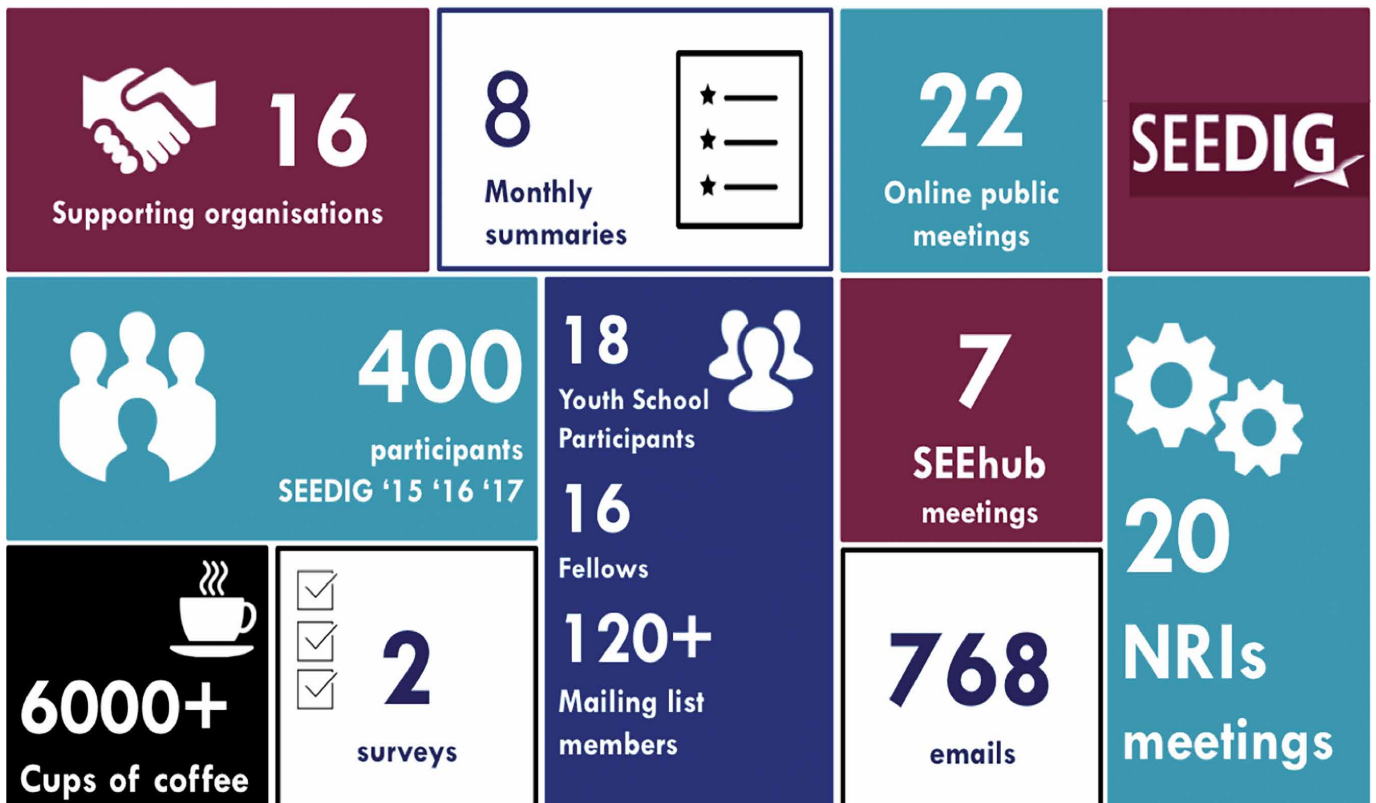
Governments and regulatory authorities should not be the sole responsible for defining appropriate policies that respond to this fast-evolving digital ecosystem. That is why we have to bring together policy makers, regulators, private companies, the technical community, and the end users, to discuss, share, and shape good practices for how we use digital technologies, and how we influence their evolution.

SEEDIG is a place where this can happen. A platform designed by and for the Internet community in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area, as a space where they can not only talk about Internet-related challenges and opportunities, but also develop messages to help inform policy-making processes across and beyond the region.

Sasho Dimitrijoski, Agency for Electronic Communications (host of SEEDIG 2017) and
SEEDIG executive committee

This is how SEEDIG has been growing over the past three years. This is thanks to you, the community which has seen value in this initiative, has been contributing, has been working on shaping the programme for this meeting, is advising us on what kind of intersessional activities SEEDIG can do. We thank you for that and we hope you will stay engaged. We hope you will also reach out to others and help strengthen this community and make SEEDIG grow even faster than it has done.

Sorina Teleanu, SEEDIG executive committee

16 Supporting organisations

8 Monthly summaries

22 Online public meetings

SEEDIG

400 participants SEEDIG '15 '16 '17

18 Youth School Participants
16 Fellows
120+ Mailing list members

7 SEEhub meetings

20 NRIs meetings

6000+ Cups of coffee

2 surveys

768 emails

(S1) Internet governance: A puzzle or a Tower of Babel?

Session teaser

Internet became an integral part of our daily lives. Yet, some European areas are under-connected or uncon-
nected, facing many issues related to security, rights, and freedoms. Who shapes the Internet of today, and
how do we move forward to meet better conditions?
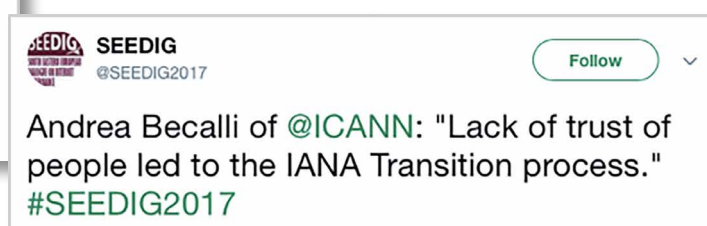
Reflecting the discussions
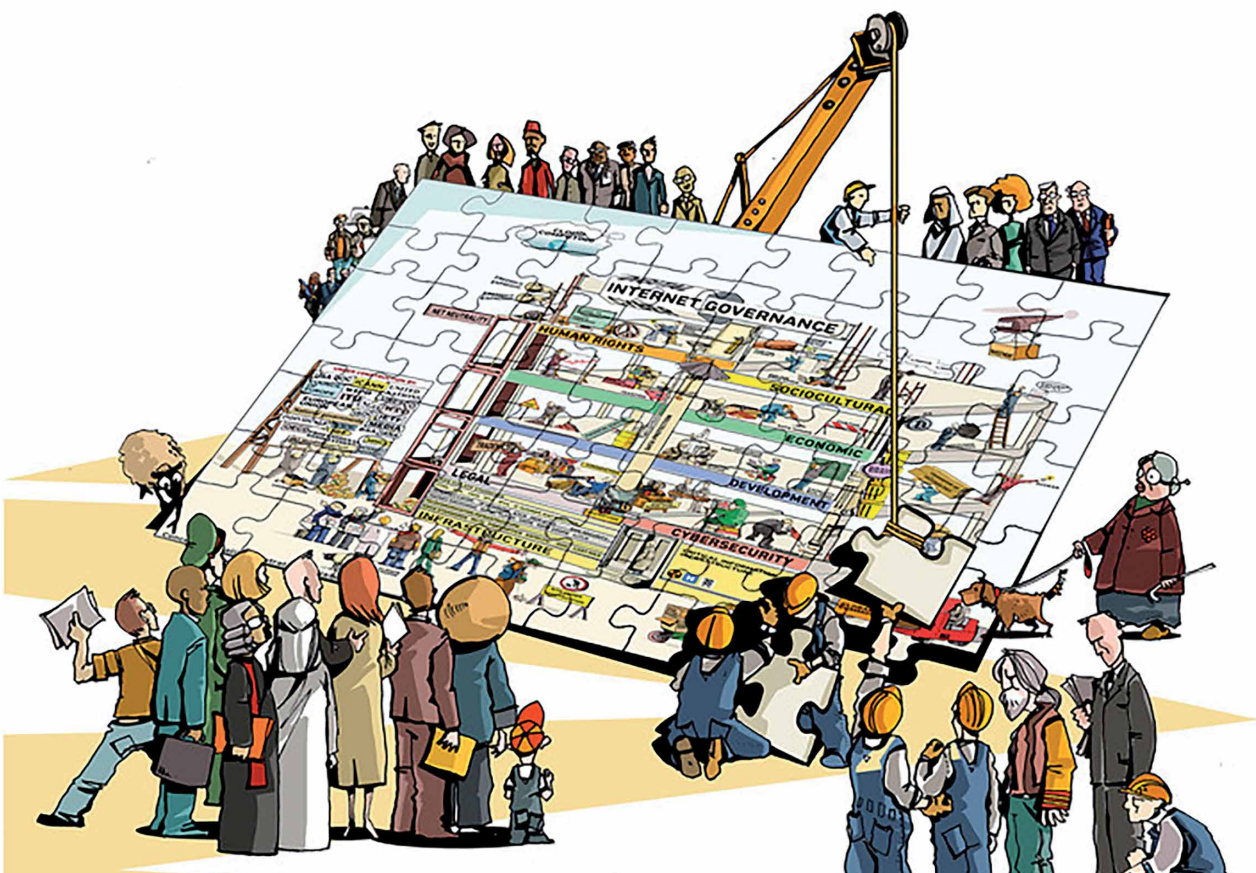
Internet governance puzzle

Marija Blagojević
@SMILEandBU

Follow

Trust is our future, Internet governance
future.
IG: A puzzle or a Tower of Babel?

Key messages

- The discussion around Internet governance is one around trust, and global efforts should be made to restore it.

- An analysis of the Internet governance initiatives is necessary, with the aim of creating common actions for (re)gaining the trust of end users.

- Preserving the openness and network neutrality of the Internet is important.

- Global efforts with multistakeholder and open community models of governance contribute to (re)gaining trust.

- Norms and regulations imply a long process and consultations, while technology is fast developing. This is one of the reasons why it is necessary to act jointly, in sense that all relevant actors need to work together to create a safer and trustworthy online environment.

- Barriers to Internet governance should be dealt with in order to reflect the value of the Internet, by modernising rules, legislation, and policies.

ApTI Romania
@ApTI_ro
Following

Cristina Monti,EC:"Steps have been taken in terms of trust at global level;European level - technology is fast, regulation slow".#seedig2017

SEEDIG
@SEEDIG2017
Follow

Andrea Becalli of @ICANN: "Lack of trust of people led to the IANA Transition process." #SEEDIG2017

Key participants discussing trust in and on the Internet

(S2) Need for speed: Broadband challenges, issues and trends

Teaser

Today, investments in high-capacity broadband network infrastructures are desirable for economic growth and necessary for high-bandwidth demanding services. With its 2020 Digital Agenda for Europe, the European Commission has set out targets for ultra-fast broadband coverage and take-up. The Commission has even traced the path for Gigabits networks and 5G deployments. It seems that without a commercial interest for investment in rural areas, the digital gap between them and urban areas is growing bigger and bigger. There are many challenges among all parties about how to achieve these goals and how to make sure that these ultra-fast networks are available to all users: policy makers, operators, service providers, etc. The provision of bandwidth-demanding services based on the principles of best effort and open Internet seems to be a desirable scenario for the service providers. On the other side, operators are looking for equal playing field with over-the-top players, and are demanding old telecom rules to be reevaluated in order to reflect new market conditions.

Reflecting the discussions

Questions raised during the session:

- Are EU broadband targets attainable for SEE countries?
- Which programmes and incentives might be relevant for NGA deployment?
- How could regulatory incentives promote NGA infrastructure investments?
- How to reduce administrative barriers and increase public awareness about social and economic bene-fits stemming from the deployment of high-speed networks?
- Which are the preconditions for boosting the high capacity network investments?
- What is the economic impact of digital services, provided over the top of the networks by national, regional, and global providers in the SEE countries?

Participants contributing to the discussions on broadband challenges in SEE

Key messages

- Online services create demand for access and they need to be promoted.

- Competition is important when it comes to broadband deployment, but the government must also create suitable market conditions.

- Access speeds need to be defined (more) clearly.

Domen Savič @savicdomen — Follow

Telecoms should invest into digital literacy because knowledge creates a demand for services/higher access speeds #SEEDIG2017 brilliant!

ApTI Romania @ApTI_ro — Following

Conclusion of the session about broadband access: provide the service and people will come! #SEEDIG2017

ApTI Romania @ApTI_ro — Following

Bogdan Manolea (ApTI): "Net neutrality is vital, affects us all as citizens, in terms of human rights and freedom of expression" #SEEDIG2017
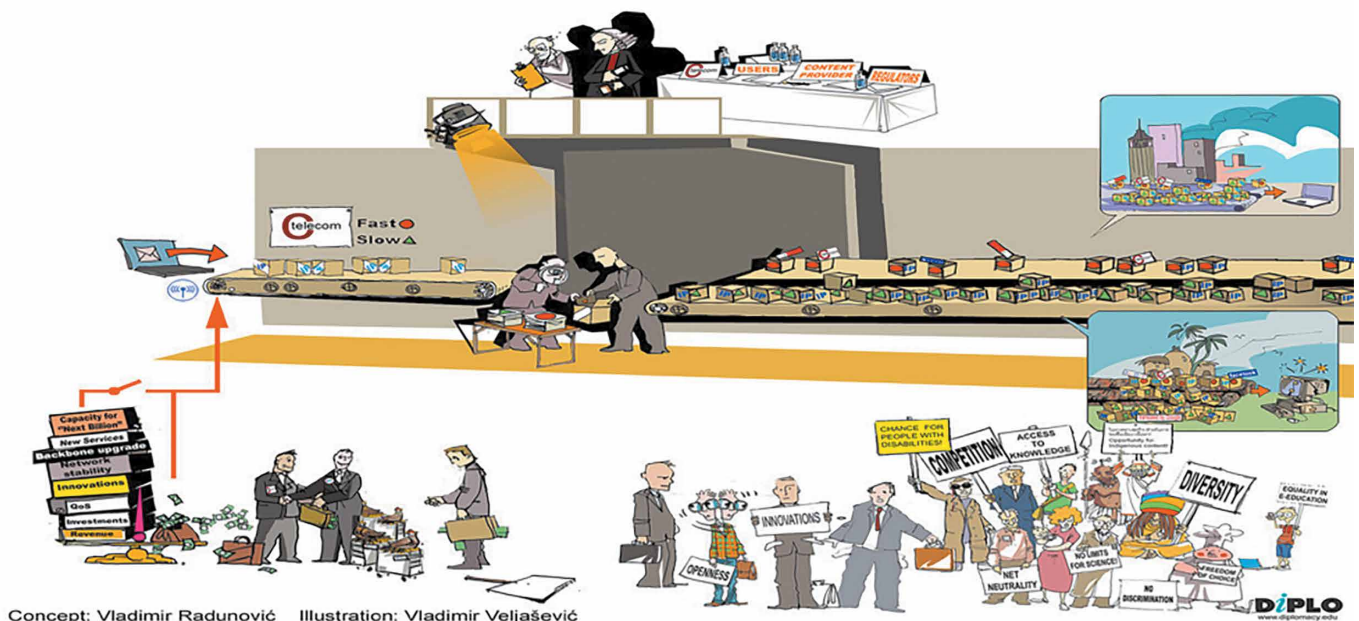
Concept: Vladimir Radunović   Illustration: Vladimir Veljašević

Net neutrality

Teaser

Fake news or old propaganda, the world had been always confronted by lies, challenged by truth, and asked for the ability to distinguish opinions from facts. How does technology impact on the possibility to deceive lies? Is media literacy enough to fight against the amplifying power of algorithms? Do we need to rethink media literacy? And if yes, how?

Reflecting the discussions

'Dogs paid to protest': fake news flooding Romania and fuelling euroscepticism blamed on Russia

PUBLISHED : Sunday, 02 April, 2017, 1:07pm
UPDATED : Sunday, 02 April, 2017, 10:21pm

COMMENT: 1

How easy (or difficult) is it to identify fake news?

SEEDIG @SEEDIG2017 · May 25
Lively debate at #SEEDIG2017 on various aspects of fake news; monetizing, political propaganda, digital literacy. Join the discussion!

Key messages

- New technologies bring more actors to reporting, thus democratising conversation, which is happening horizontally.

- We should differentiate between propaganda and fake news. The first is about having a centre of power, which creates the vibrations that vibe the most. While the latter is related to entrepreneurs working with technology to deliver a message of the day following the bazaar mentality.

- We also need to distinguish between fake news and unprofessional journalism, as we tend to overuse the term 'fake news'.

- We are living in the age of 'fast food media' that create short and not contextualised messages, and do not contribute to educating people, but rather the opposite. Media literacy can play a significant role in addressing this challenge.

- Media literacy consists of digital skills, critical thinking, and communication skills. However, it is not solely about education, but even more about the socio-economic environment.

Moderators introducing the session

(S4) How can the Internet of Things develop and be implemented in the right way?

Teaser

The Internet of Things (IoT) can bring numerous improvements to our lives. But it can definitely create numerous new problems and dangers. What are the benefits? What are the problems? And how can we mitigate as many of the problems as possible in order to be able to benefit the most from its capabilities?

Reflecting the discussions

Andrix Green
@andrixgreen
Follow

Does IoT help reduce the poverty level between different categories of individuals? #seedig2017

2:14 PM - 25 May 2017

Domen Savič
@savicdomen
Follow

Imagine #wannacry in a smart city. #seedig2017

1:53 PM - 25 May 2017

Key participants emphasising the positive side of IoT

Discussing IoT-related security and privacy concerns

SEEDIG
@SEEDIG2017
Follow

"Evaluation by trusted organizations of #IoT products, enforcement of regular security assessments can help creating more trust."#SEEDIG2017

2:24 PM - 25 May 2017

hvale vale
@froatosebe
Follow

There are many cheap chip put in objects very unsafe and with no accountability mechanisms #IoT genderit.org/feminist-talk/ ... #SEEDIG2017

1:49 PM - 25 May 2017

Key messages

- The IoT makes life easier, but in order to properly implement IoT solutions, we have to understand the society's needs. We must think global and act local.

- The IoT bring benefits to people (jobs, easier access to information and other opportunities), businesses (innovation, competition, better products, faster trade), and governments (better public services, better and faster interaction with citizens). IoT technologies are important components of a smart city development, and they are also transforming the agriculture industry and enabling farmers to contend with the enormous challenges they face.

- The IoT promises an exciting era of innovation, but also raises significant privacy and security concerns. We can list the threats of IoT under three broad categories: privacy, security, and safety.

- The IoT cloud storage architecture provides additional risks with respect to privacy, security, and safety. There is a need for alternative technical, e.g. architectural solutions that would provide more privacy, security, and safety for users.

- IoT security is an issue, but we have to balance this with the trends in technology. We have to pay attention not only to the data itself, but also to those who own and use it.

- We should understand that sharing data is the basis of science evolution and the key of human evolution – and IoT makes it nowadays even moreso true. We definitely have to pay attention to privacy, but not at the risk of stopping the IoT evolution. Data can be protected, but people will always find a way to misuse it.
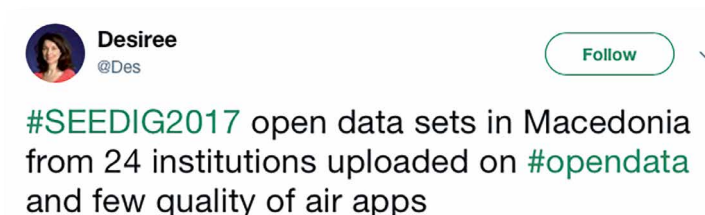

Wrapping up the session with the key messages

Teaser

Open data in five countries from SEE.

Key messages

- It is necessary to involve non-state actors in the process of opening data, because they are intended users of open data and can provide experiences and new ideas on how to make open data beneficial to all its users.

- Public institutions become more efficient, transparent, and accountable to citizens by using open data platforms. Moreover, they should assist citizens in understanding how they can make use of open data for their benefit.

- Challenges and lessons learned from open data experiences include centralised architectures for open data portals, visible licensing for the use of published datasets, and unstandardised structure of related datasets.

- Key elements of open data include free culture, Internet freedom, and the right to privacy.

- Open data initiatives should be led by the people, especially by young entrepreneurs and students, not only by the government.

SEEDIG
@SEEDIG2017

Follow

Ownership, visible licensing, non-standardized datasets among challenges of national #OpenData government initiatives. #SEEDIG2017

4:01 PM - 25 May 2017

Desiree
@Des

Follow

#SEEDIG2017 open data sets in Macedonia from 24 institutions uploaded on #opendata and few quality of air apps

(S5) Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs): Status and perspectives in the SEE
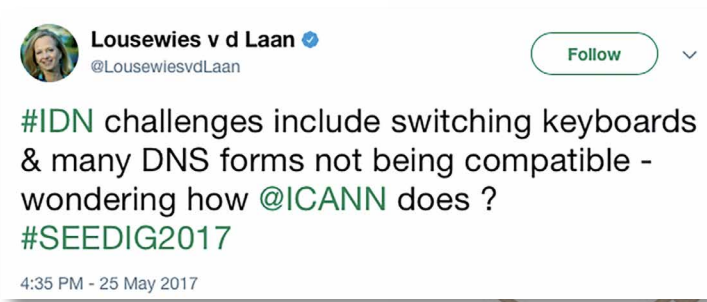
Teaser

The state of IDNs in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area.

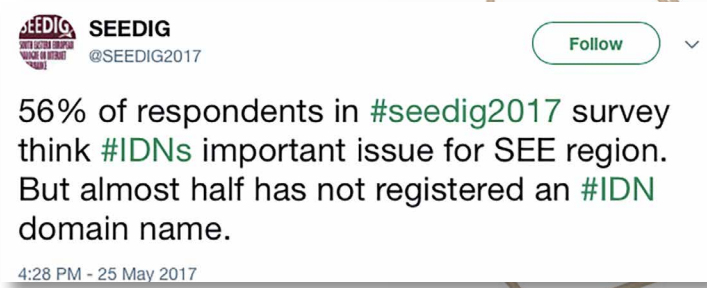**Reflecting the discussions**

Desiree
@Des
Follow

#SEEDIG2017 #idns main struggle of adopting IDNs is unsolved technical issues #universal-acceptance

Lousewies v d Laan ✔
@LousewiesvdLaan
Follow

#IDN challenges include switching keyboards & many DNS forms not being compatible - wondering how @ICANN does ? #SEEDIG2017
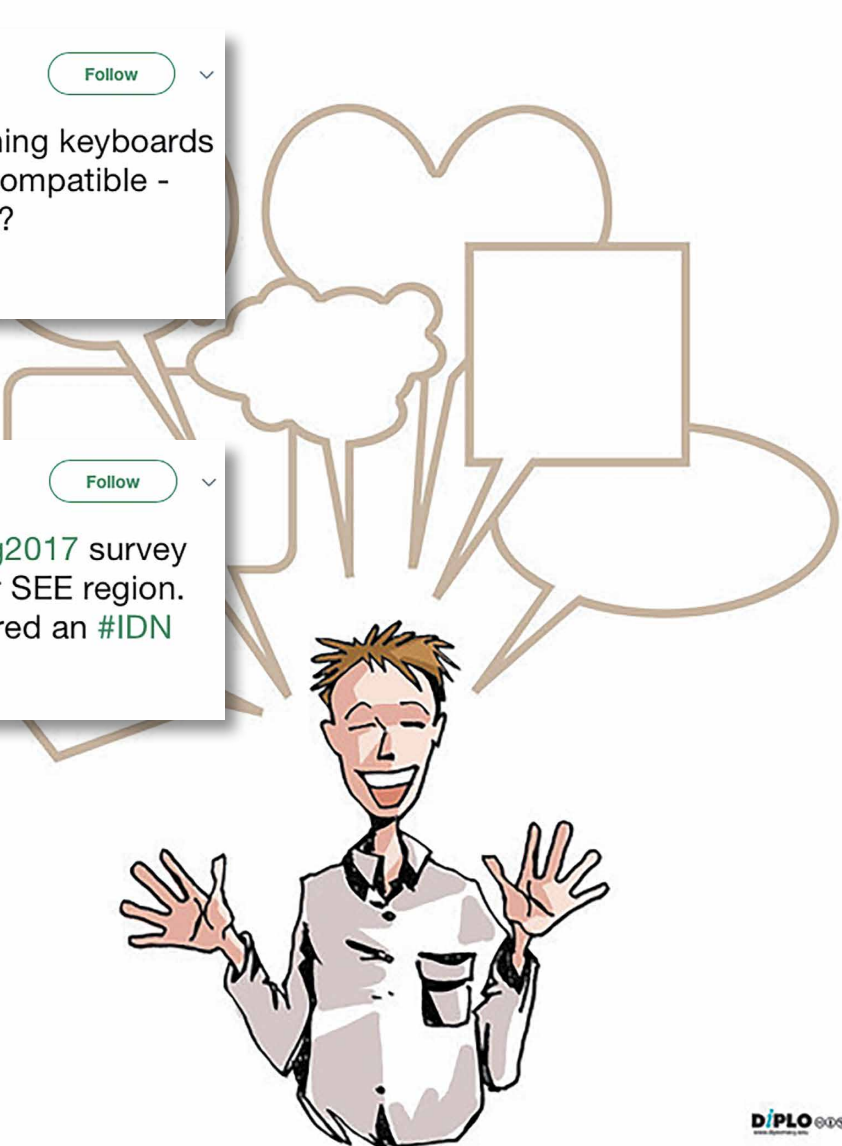
4:35 PM - 25 May 2017

SEEDIG
@SEEDIG2017
Follow

56% of respondents in #seedig2017 survey think #IDNs important issue for SEE region. But almost half has not registered an #IDN domain name.

4:28 PM - 25 May 2017

Multilingualism

Key messages

- IDNs contribute to a more inclusive Internet, by promoting multilingualism and reaching different communities, especially in the SEE region which is so rich in alphabets and scripts.

- IDNs also present an important challenge: how to promote universal acceptance while keeping a functional Internet?

- Despite the advantages of IDNs, the market seems to not be ready for it. One of the barriers is lack of awareness within the region, especially when it comes to seeing the importance of IDNs.

- The next action step is to start implementing measures to popularise IDNs in the region, by involving all stakeholders.

SEEDIG
@SEEDIG2017

Follow

Other regions can learn from SEE technical experience in solving issues related to #IDNs. Keep working on universal acceptance. #SEEDIG2017

4:25 PM - 25 May 2017

Lousewies v d Laan ✓
@LousewiesvdLaan

Follow

Should your #IDN be linked to the Latin TLD? #SEEDIG2017 opinions divided.
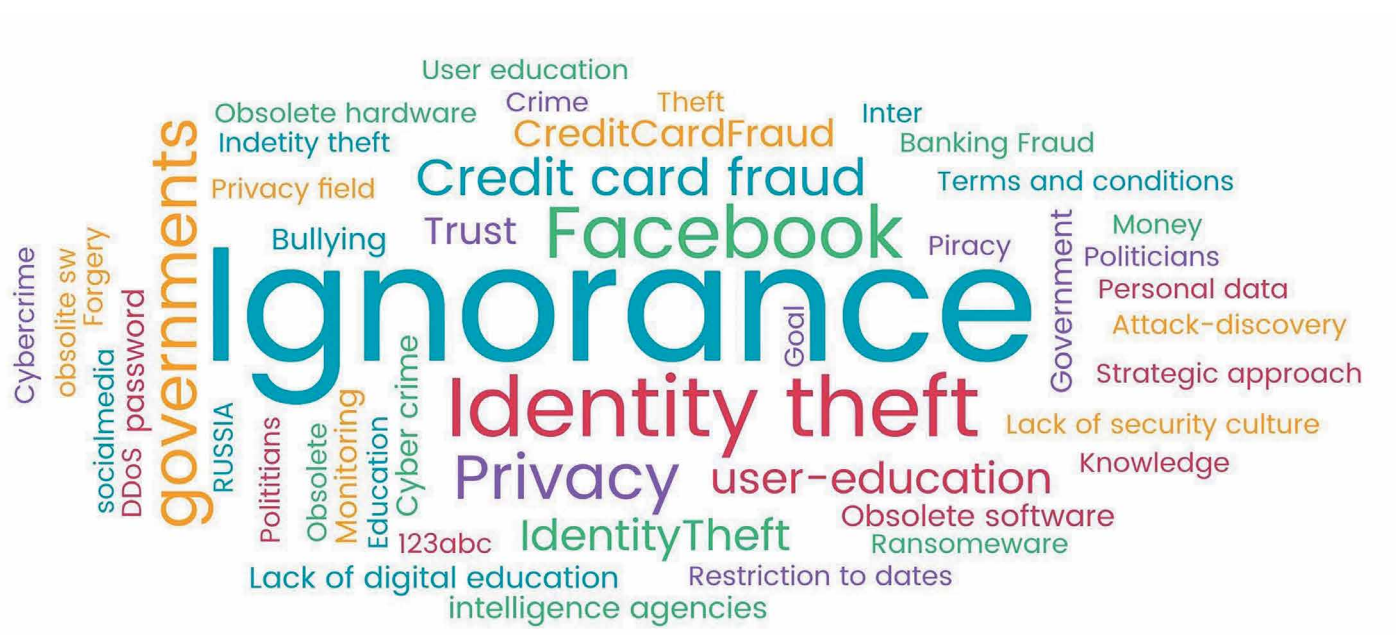
4:36 PM - 25 May 2017

Presenting the results of the SEEDIG-conducted survey on IDNs in SEE

Teaser

Is cybersecurity on the national agendas? What are the cybersecurity priorities, and what should be? Are there implementable action plans and a multistakeholder processes? What is the level of regional cooperation (and why is it low)?

Reflecting the discussions

Key messages

- Cybersecurity is a complex area. It related firstly to the vulnerabilities of an operating system; but even if vulnerabilities are known, not many users pay attention to them or to the need to update their systems. Users are, usually, the weakest link. And 'ignorance seems to be our new best friend!'.

ApTI Romania
@ApTI_ro
Following

Wordcloud of cybersecurity problems in the SEE region as they were pointed out by participants at #SEEDIG2017. Ignorance is the ennemy.

- The software industry should be more responsible when it comes to embedding security features into their products. But the human factor is equally important.

- The most important words that we should keep in mind when it comes to cybersecurity are education, awareness, and a good security strategy.

- Cybersecurity laws and strategies are adopted completely different from one country to another, unfortunately. One solution to this challenge might rest in engaging different stakeholders in high level discussions, asking them to synchronise their policies.

Session starting with a live quiz

Speakers' corner

Short presentations on specific Internet governance issues and initiatives were included in the SEEDIG 2017 programme, within the speakers' corner format.

SEE regional IoT and other capacity building activities

The idea of the talk was to present current and past community self-organised and bottom up annual activities and conferences that place in the SEE region, like Descon and Balccon. Both contribute to the technical capacity and community building efforts and understanding of new technologies. Descon has a special focus on the Internet of Things, and is of multidisciplinary nature.

New generic top-level domains (new gTLDs)

About ICANN's New gTLD Program and the opportunities new gTLDs offer.

How to cripple the Internet in five simple copyright reform steps

Geoblocking? Link tax? Content monitoring? Internet intermediary liability? The presentation looked at how a new copyright proposal for the EU could disrupt the digital environment. In September 2016, the European Commission published an alarming copyright reform proposal. The new provisions would severely impact the digital development, the user's rights, the education and research sectors.

Mobile security and pen testing

Smart mobile phones are everywhere with us, however, we are not aware how vulnerable and easy is to exploit them. For this reason, this presentation provided hands-on pen testing technique on how to identify the malicious code in your phone. Among tech tips, an application was presented which guides and briefs users on how to protect themselves and at the same time be aware of their privacy and security settings. The application is Security Guru – Awareness Wizard.

Conclusions and wrap-up

It is already a tradition at SEEDIG to conclude the annual meeting with an informal closing session. At SEEDIG 2017, this session included several parts:

1. Final remarks from supporting organisations

We take great pride in supporting SEEDIG. It was a great pleasure being here, hearing all the discussions, and being part of the discussions.

Ceren Unal, Internet Society

SEEDIG is, by far, the most advanced bottom-up, completely open, transparent, cross-national discussion about Internet issues. You should be proud of it. You should appreciate what you created and feel the ownership and make SEEDIG grow even bigger and larger.

Andrea Beccalli, ICANN

The region has enormous potential and many creative people. History wasn't very generous towards the region, but I think that we have a new chance, all countries and all people in the region to develop something new in the digital field. And I would like to invite you to continue with these efforts.

Jovan Kurbalija, DiploFoundation

It has been a great pleasure for us to be here and also for RIPE NCC to support Internet governance discussions in the region.

Gergana Petrova, RIPE NCC

I think that SEEDIG has been growing stronger and stronger with each year and has done a very good job within the region. SEE voices and perspectives are very important in discussions on Internet governance issues.

Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat

Closing session with SEEDIG supporting organisations

> *The third SEEDIG was, as you all realised, a plain success. Thanks to the host and congrats to the ex.com. You once again did a great job. Please keep in mind that the end of SEEDIG is the start of a next step. And one of these steps is EuroDIG. And I guess I will see many of you in Tallinn. The process goes on and the dialogue goes on.*
>
> Wolf Ludwig, EuroDIG

> *I think SEEDIG shows it is a worthwhile initiative to support. We love to support talents, and you are obviously one.*
>
> Desiree Miloshevic, Afilias

2. Diploma awarding ceremony for participants in the Youth School and the Fellowship Programme

3. Most tweets during the meeting

Participants in the Youth School and Meeting Fellowship Programme took part in a 'Twitter competition' during the two days of the meeting. A prize was offered to the person who had most interactions on Twitter during the event.

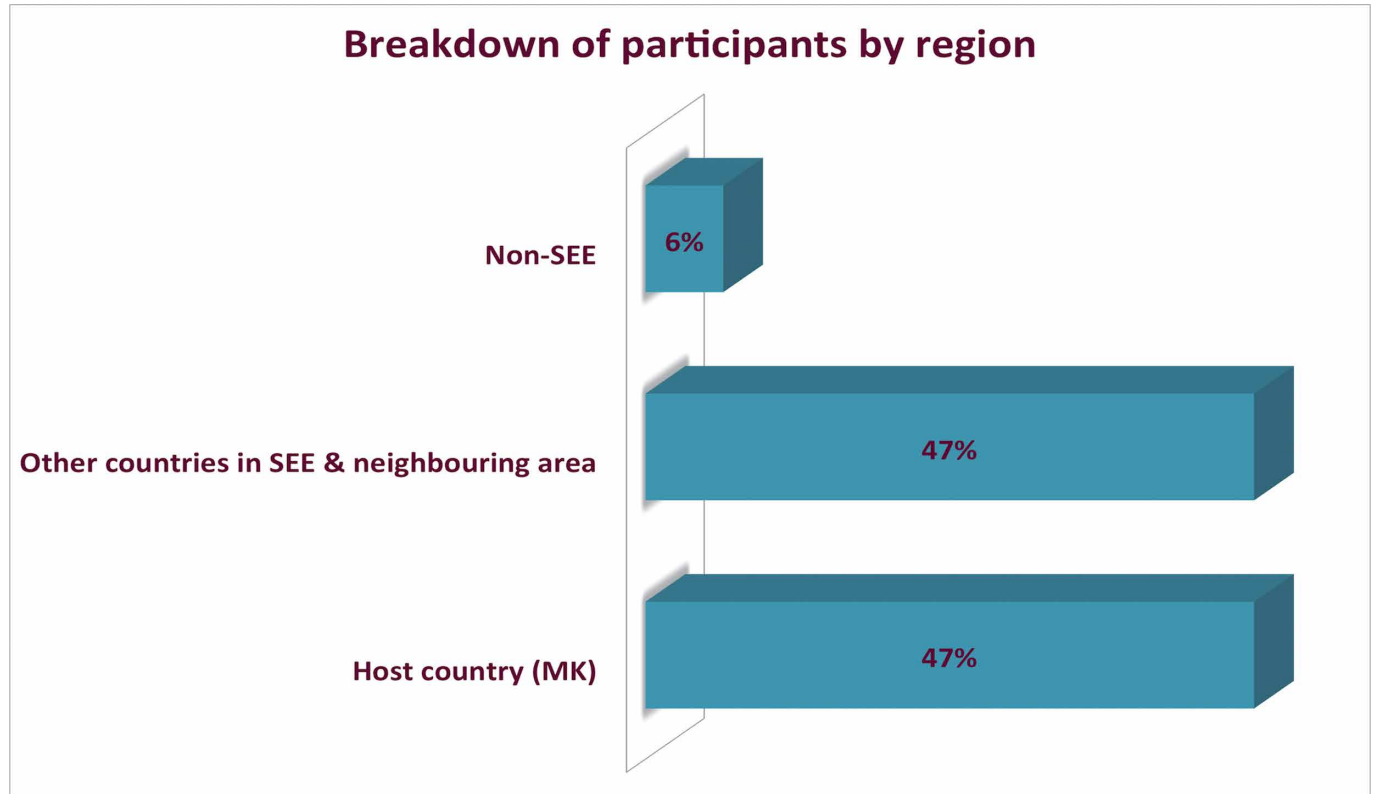## 4. Announcement of the launch of the Macedonian Internet Governance Forum

5. Thanking all those who contributed to SEEDIG 2017

Marking the end of SEEDIG 2017
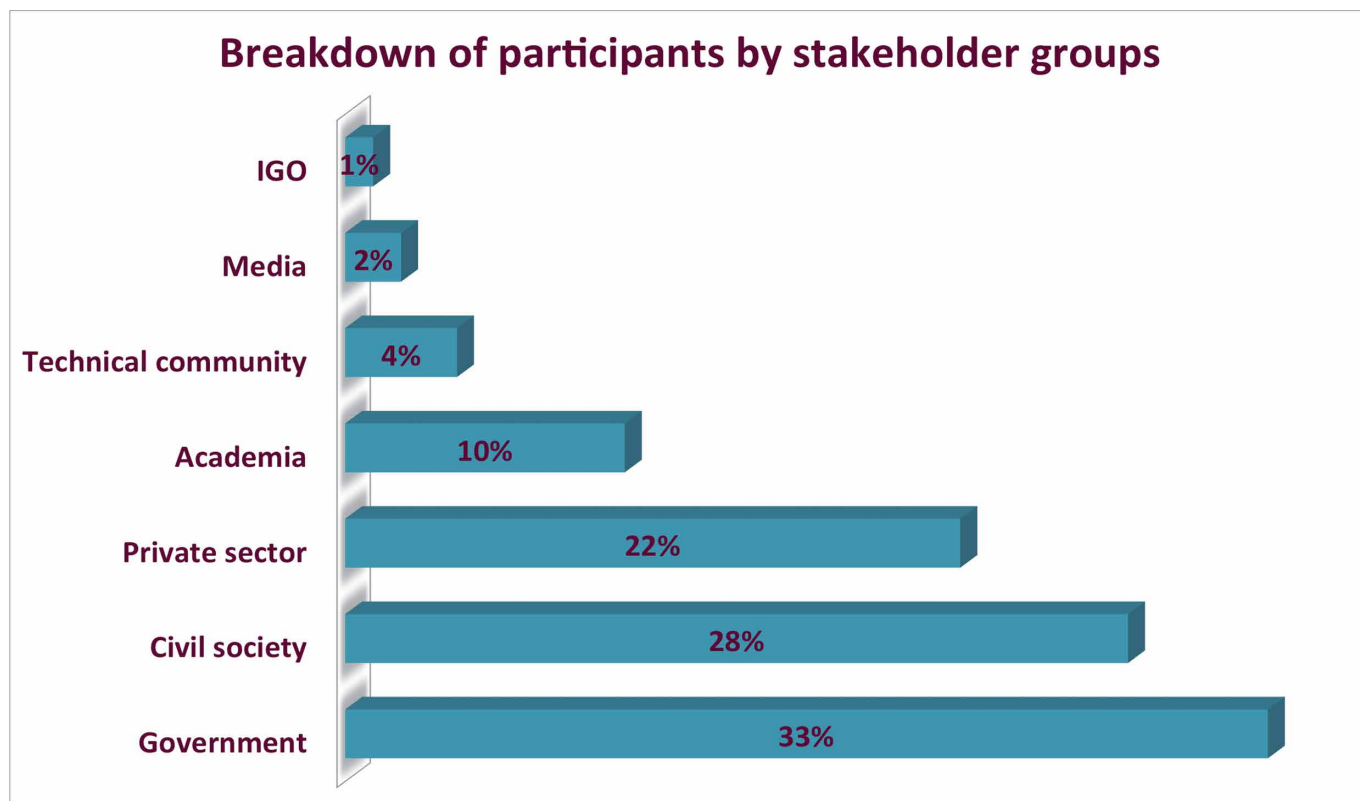
Attendance statistics

The SEEDIG 2017 meeting was attended by 169 in situ participants, coming from a total of 24 countries: 15 countries that could be considered as part of South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area (representing 94% of all participants), and 9 countries from beyond the region (4% of all participants).

Breakdown of participants by region

Region	Percentage
Non-SEE	6%
Other countries in SEE & neighbouring area	47%
Host country (MK)	47%

Regional participation at SEEDIG 2017

The countries that were represented at SEEDIG 2017 and could be considered as part of South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area are: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo[4], Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

All stakeholder groups were represented at the meeting.

Breakdown of participants by stakeholder groups

IGO	1%
Media	2%
Technical community	4%
Academia	10%
Private sector	22%
Civil society	28%
Government	33%

In terms of gender representation, 53% of all participants were male, and 47% female. Among all participants, 19% were youth.

Breakdown of participants by gender

|	
Female	47%
Male	53%

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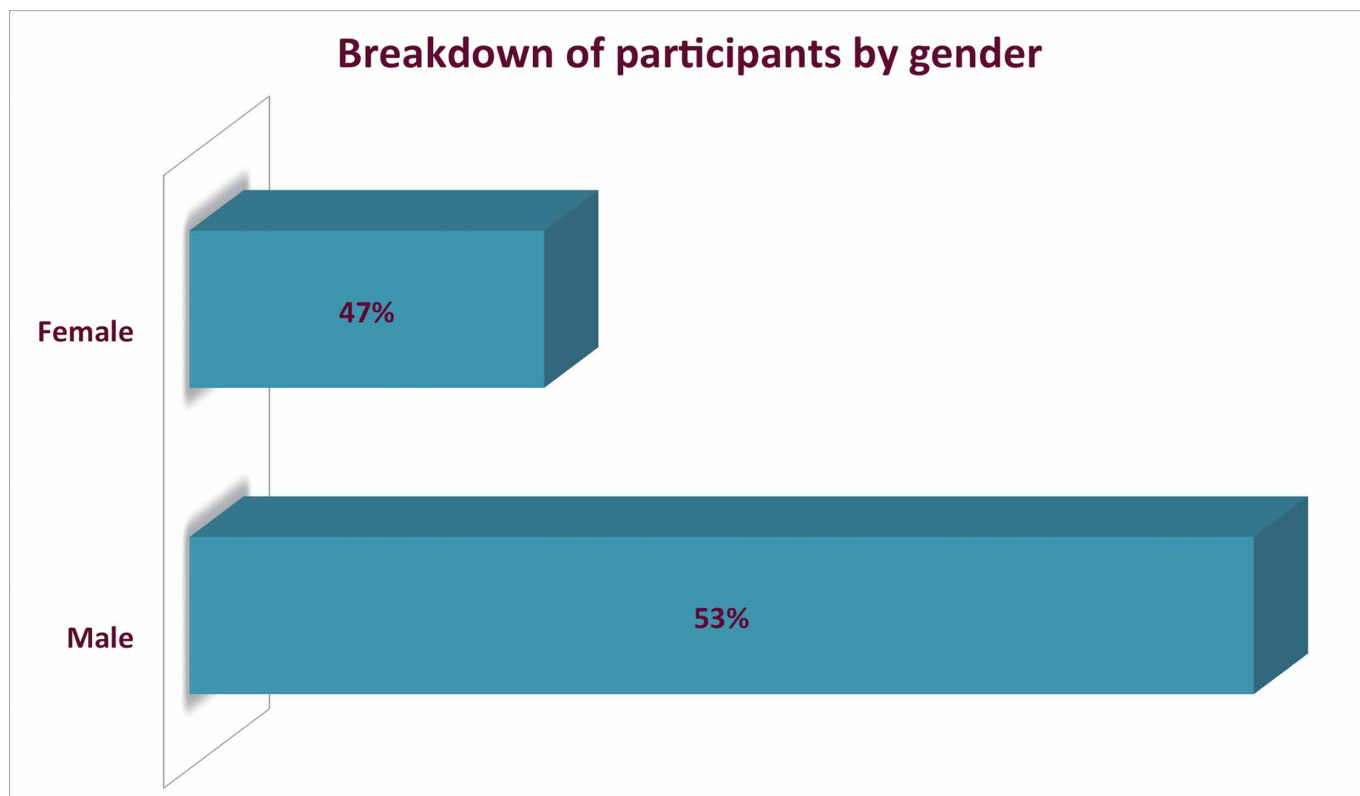
4   This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Feedback from participants

An online evaluation survey was made available to participants who wanted to share their impressions, degree of satisfaction and views on how SEEDIG 2017 went, whether it should continue, and how it could improve. Below are some visualisations of the survey results:
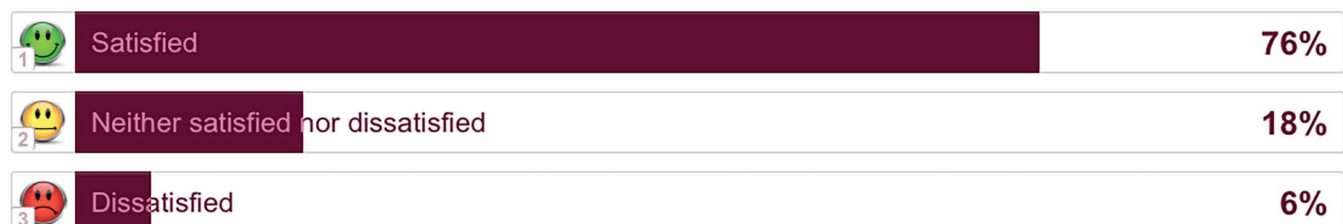
Relevance of the overall theme of SEEDIG 2017 to the current Internet-related challenges in SEE and the neighbouring area

1	Satisfied	82%
2	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18%
3	Dissatisfied	0%
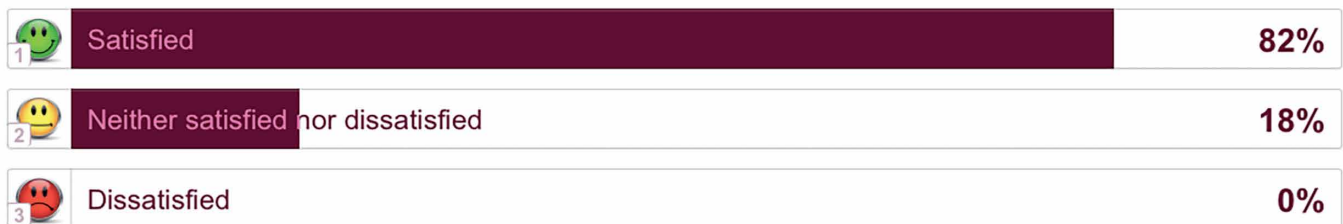
Relevance of the sessions to the current Internet-related challenges in SEE and the neighbouring area

1	Satisfied	85%
2	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15%
3	Dissatisfied	0%

Content and format of the sessions

1	Satisfied	76%
2	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18%
3	Dissatisfied	6%

Logistics (venue, room set-up, technical arrangements, catering, etc.)

|		
Satisfied		84%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		13%
Dissatisfied		3%

Session interactivity (degree of inclusion of all participants into discussions, in addition to panellists/resource persons)

Satisfied		58%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		30%
Dissatisfied		12%

Has SEEDIG 2017 contributed to enhancing your understanding of various Internet governance and digital policy issues?

Average: 3.18

0	1	2	3	4

Not at all   To some extent   Significantly
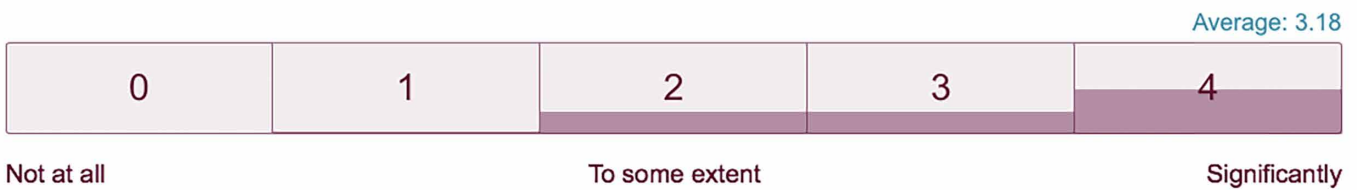
Have the various SEEDIG 2017 sessions shared experiences and best practices, and/or discussed possible solutions that you think could assist you in addressing Internet-related challenges faced by your organisation/community/country?

Average: 3.00

0	1	2	3	4

Not at all   To some extent   Significantly
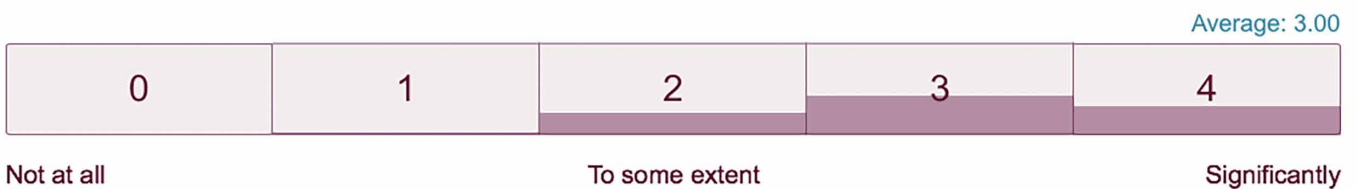
Have you found useful the extension of the SEEDIG meeting to a two-day event?

Yes		88%
Not sure		12%
No		0%

Do you find value in SEEDIG, as a sub-regional IGF initiative, and would you like to see it continue over the next years?

Yes		91%
No		9%

What worked well at SEEDIG 2017?
(thoughts from participants, extracted from the evaluation survey)

- Most sessions and participation from attendees.
- The fact that it was interactive made the event even more interesting.
- The organisation was flawless and everyone was so approachable.
- Lots of innovative idea. Constructive dialogue.
- The organisation was irreproachable. Also, speakers were well prepared and involved in the event.
- Networking went really well and the event was really informative.
- It was very fruitful and satisfying content-wise, almost all participants were knowledgeable and interesting.
- Bringing a lot of people together to discuss and share their opinions and thoughts.
- Use of real-time survey within the cybersecurity session was inspirational.
- I was impressed by everyone's dedication and involvement in order to organise a successful event and exceed expectations of participants.
- The debate held on the Youth School was to interesting and helped me to improve my knowledge about privacy and security, seen in different aspects. On the other hand, every topic discussed during the sessions was extremely informative and well thought-out.
- Everything worked well. It was very well organised.

What worked less well at SEEDIG 2017?
(thoughts from participants, extracted from the evaluation survey)

- Remote participation (almost no remote participants, but that is not SEEDIG's fault).
- Some of the sessions weren't very interactive or did not adequately engage the audience.
- Long sessions.
- Consistency with the schedule (i.e. starting sessions as planned).
- There is no need for coffee break speakers corner. After all those sessions and discussions, I think that everyone would like to take a break, and mingle with the rest of the conference participants.

How could SEEDIG become more relevant and attractive?
(thoughts from participants, extracted from the evaluation survey)

- By encouraging young people, by including high level government representatives, by dealing with sensitive issues.
- Inviting more stakeholders to participate.
- Try to engage more Internet business partners.
- For next year I suggest you encourage youth to do some research for Internet governance and the sessions to be held and applicability in their country. By researching they will be more aware and attentive.
- Have some more interactive activities during the main event (i.e. world cafe).
- Be more practical than theoretical.
- I think there should be some debate between Youth School and Fellows, which I believe will make the meeting more lively and interesting.
- I think SEEDIG should promote itself more, because not enough people are familiar with SEEDIG's work. In my opinion, SEEDIG should have an ambassador in every state to spread the work and idea of SEEDIG.
- More of what is already done, and I am sure time will tell.

Suggestions for intersessional activities
(thoughts from participants, extracted from the evaluation survey)

- Social media channels should be updating followers on intersessional activities, so it is not perceived as an annual one-off event. More surveys can be conducted and results better disseminated.
- Capacity building webinars would be useful. Maybe a survey can be conducted to see which topics the community is most engaged in and start one.
- Webinars and online meetings, retrospective and on future plans.
- Local roundtables.
- Meetings of smaller groups on particular issues.
- Research and studies – (online) meetings between academia members (but not only), dedicated to presenting and discussing research proposals that could be relevant for the SEEDIG community.
- Youth School participants and fellows must keep cooperation with SEEDIG.

D. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

SEEDIG Youth School

Mission and objectives

The School is a youth-focused SEEDIG initiative whose mission is to offer undergraduate and master students from countries in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area a space to learn, network, exchange views, and prepare to participate in Internet governance processes.

Objectives:

- Raise awareness among students about Internet governance and digital policy issues

- Develop their capacities to contribute to Internet governance and digital policy debates and processes at national, regional, and global level

- Encourage and empower them to become active part of the SEEDIG community and contribute to SEEDIG activities

Sponsor

Thanks to financial support from ICANN, travel and/or accommodation costs were covered for the selected participants.

Participants

- **17 undergraduate and master students from Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine.**

The selection of the **17 participants** (out of a total of 47 applications) was made in line with the **criteria and process** published on the SEEDIG website at the time of the launch of the call for applications. In short, during the evaluation of applications, attention was paid to the applicant's motivations, as well as to the need to achieve a diversity of participants, in terms of countries represented, fields of study, and interests.

Content

The SEEDIG Youth School was a comprehensive initiative, including several components. These components were planned by an open-ended team of volunteers which included community members, SEEDIG executive committee members, and ICANN.

1.   Quiz on Internet governance

A quiz was prepared and distributed to selected participants, in order to determine their level of knowledge of Internet governance issues. The quiz was anonymous, and its results were used to prepare the programme for the Youth School.

2.   Online preparatory meetings

Three online preparatory meetings were held in the run-up to the SEEDIG 2017 annual event:

- **M1 – Introductory meeting.** Youth School participants and the org team got to know each other. It also included an overview of SEEDIG and the Youth School itself.

- **M2 – Introduction to Internet governance.** Representatives of DiploFoundation, the Internet Society, ICANN, the IGF Secretariat, and RIPE NCC attended this meeting and talked to students about IG in general, and about the role of their organisations in the IG ecosystem. In advance of this meeting, students were presented with a list of Internet governance related resources, to help them prepare for the discussions.

- **M3 – Overview of the face-to-face session in Ohrid.** The org team presented the content and format of the half-day session that students were to have in Ohrid.

## 3. Ohrid session – Privacy vs Security debate

When students applied for the Youth School, they were asked what topics they were mostly interested in. Most of them chose human rights online and cybersecurity. The Ohrid session was built around these two topics, in the form of a **Privacy vs Security** debate.

How it worked?

Before traveling to Ohrid, students were informed about the debate and given the opportunity to prepare in advance. They were divided into two teams – team Privacy and team Security – and were presented with the Apple-FBI case from 2016. A list of resources about the case was made available to students, and they were informed that, in Ohrid, they should try to frame the debate within a European context.

In Ohrid, the half-day Youth School session (on 24 May) was structured as follows:

- **Youth School introduction** (SEEDIG, ICANN, students, mentors, organising team)

- **Topics overview:**

  o Online privacy: Bogdan Manolea, Association for Technology and Internet (Romania)

  o Cybersecurity: Vladimir Radunović, DiploFoundation (Serbia)

  o The two expert advisors also acted as mentors for the two teams, with the aim to boost the discussions and assist students with their preparations.

- **Teams prepare for the debate.**

- **Privacy vs. Security debate**, followed by conclusions focused on potential solutions and how those solutions connect to the mission of SEEDIG.
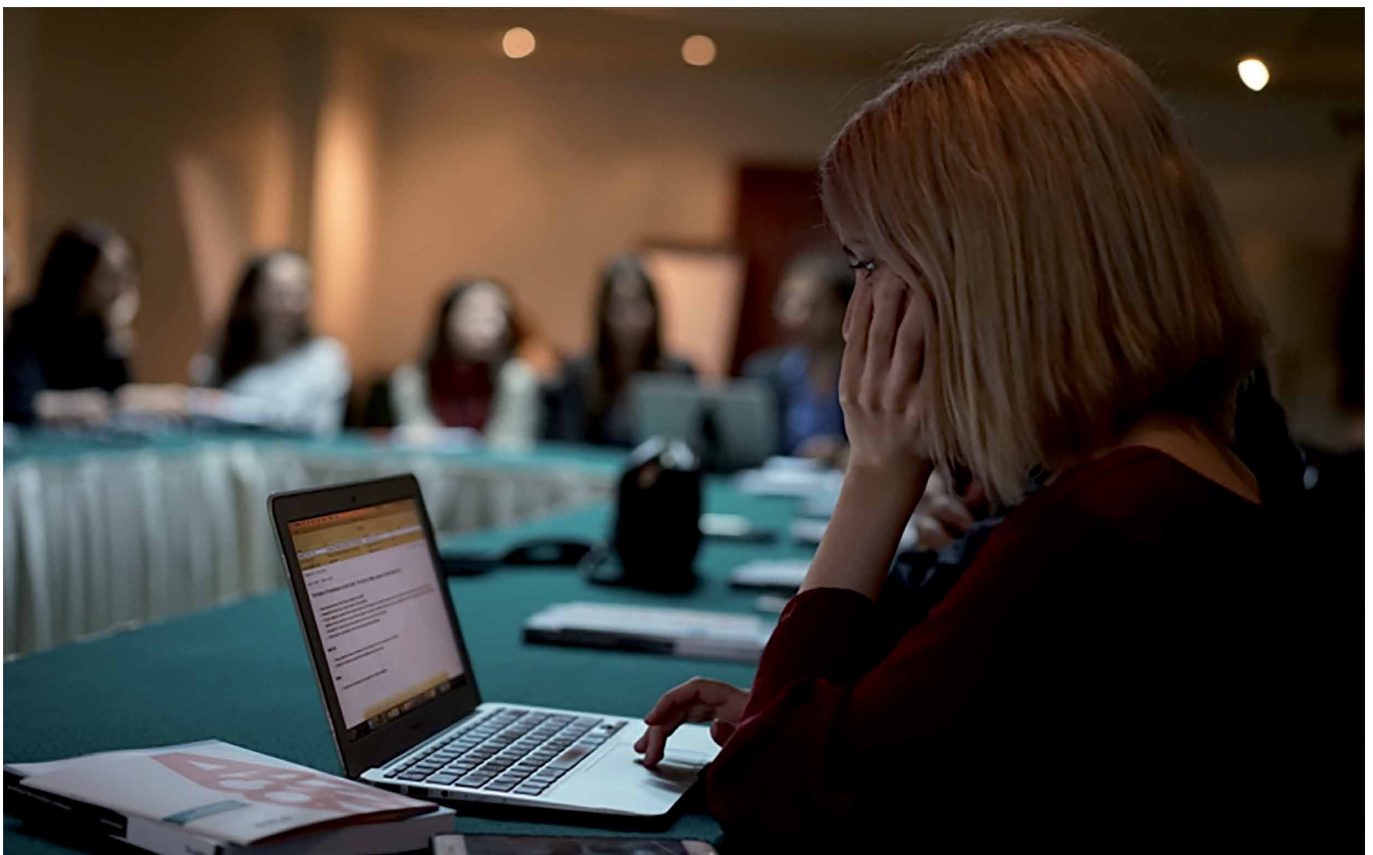
Youth School participants preparing for the debate

4.   Students participating in the SEEDIG meeting

An important part of the Youth School was students' participation in the actual SEEDIG annual meeting. They were encouraged to actively contribute to the discussions held over the one day and a half programme, share their views, ask questions, and engage in debates together with other SEEDIG participants.

At the end of the meeting, Youth School participants were handed over diplomas recognising their successful completion of the programme.

Youth School participants receiving diplomas

Conclusions and next steps

Building upon the successful experience with the inaugural edition, SEEDIG is committed to continue the Youth School. Work will be undertaken on further strengthening the initiative (bringing more students, covering more topics, expanding the duration of the programme, etc.), in line with feedback received after Ohrid, as well as further community suggestions.

Youth School participants are now integral part of the SEEDIG community, and have started to actively participate in SEEDIG activities.

SEEDIG Youth School – Class of 2017

Students testimonials

Well organised, stimulating, professional, informative, and enjoyable programme. It gave me the opportunity to meet new friends and potential colleagues.

Uada Mema

Being part of SEEDIG was a very interesting experience for me. I learned a lot of new things regarding cybersecurity and its future. The most important thing is that thanks to SEEDIG I would love to work and have a career in this field. I really hope that in a near future I will have the opportunity to meet again with experts of cybersecurity.

Gesara Halili

SEEDIG Youth School is for me still a vivid memory. Before being part of this event I did not know clearly the difference between the e-governance and governance of the Internet. Now, not only that I know the difference, but I can proudly say that I have realised how important is the governance of the Internet. The entire event was a source of information, since I was able to hear specialists from different fields talking about interesting topics such as cybersecurity, fake news, smart cities, and so on. Thank you all who made SEEDIG 2017 an amazing experience and I hope that a lot of young people will apply to the next edition!

Corina Chircea

SEEDIG Youth School was a great experience and also a great initiative. I believe that including youth in such events is important because it encourages us to be more engaged with Internet governance issues, to learn, and also exchange our views.

Dajana Mulaj

SEEDIG Youth School was a really interesting event. Everything was well thought, so everyone would get involved and feel part of the event. I appreciate the new information that I had the chance to learn about, on topics with a considerable importance for me. Best part: the nice people that I met.

Arta Leli

The above are excerpts from students' testimonials. Complete versions can be read on the Youth School webpage.

SEEDIG Meeting Fellowship Programme

Mission and objectives

The **SEEDIG Meeting Fellowship Programme** was launched with the aim to contribute to achieving SEEDIG's objectives. In particular, the programme is intended to:

- Support SEEDIG's efforts to develop the capacity of regional stakeholders to actively participate in national, regional, and global Internet governance processes.

- Diversify and consolidate the SEEDIG community, by giving more individuals from the region the possibility to attend the annual meeting, and to get involved in intersessional activities.

Sponsor

Thanks to financial support from the Internet Society, travel and/or accommodation costs were covered for the fellows.

Participants

- **16 fellows from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine. Fellows belong to the following stakeholder groups: academia, civil society, government, and private sector.**

The selection of the **16 fellows** (out of a total of 31 applications) was made in line with the **criteria and process** published on the SEEDIG website at the time of the launch of the call for applications. In short, during the evaluation of applications, attention was paid to the applicant's motivations, as well as to the need to achieve a diversity of participants, in terms of countries and stakeholder groups represented, gender and age balance, and balance between newcomers and experienced participants.

Content

The content of the Fellowship Programme was defined by members of the SEEDIG executive committee, with input from the Internet Society and other SEEDIG community members.
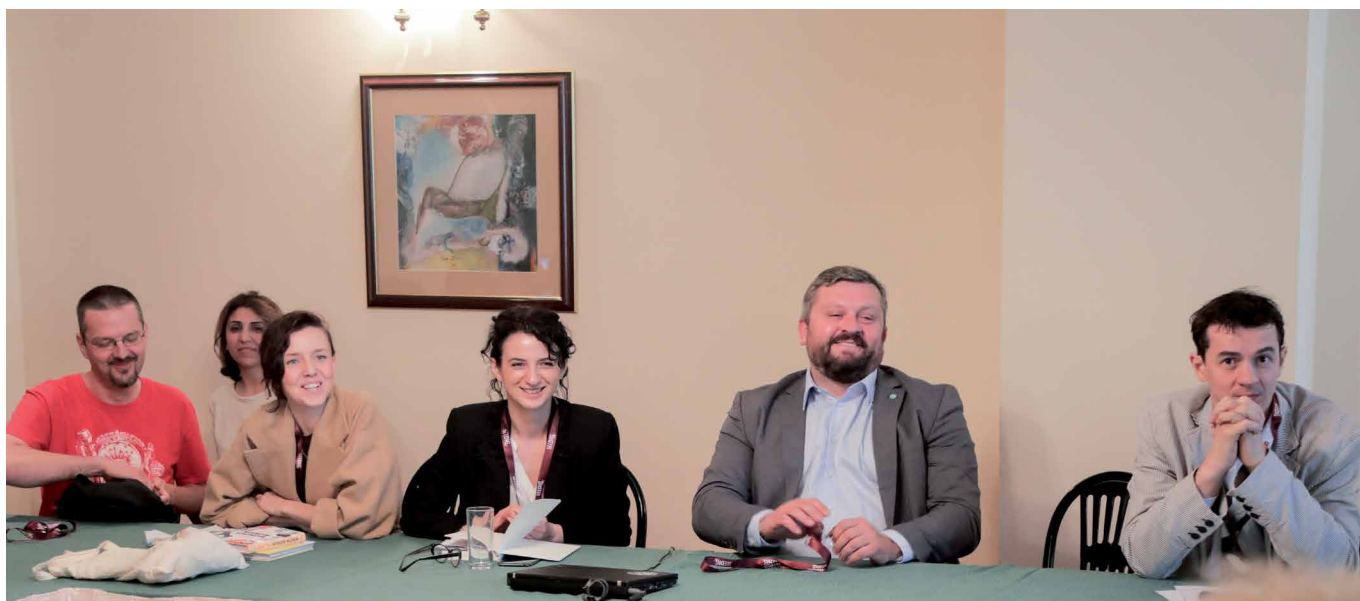
1.   Before the SEEDIG meeting

As part of their commitment to the programme, fellows were invited to contribute to SEEDIG's May **summary of Internet governance and digital policy developments in SEE**, and write about Internet-related developments and events happening in the month of May across the region.

2.   Ohrid session

A **2.5 h session dedicated to fellows** was included in the programme of 24 May. The session was structured as follows:

- **Introductions:** fellows, SEEDIG, Internet Society, ICANN, RIPE NCC.

- **Presentations and discussions on May Internet governance developments and events.** Each fellow presented at least one development/event they wrote about for the May summary. After each presentation, other fellows asked questions and made comments, thus creating a debate around the developments.

- **Quick debates on specific Internet governance and digital policy issues.** Fellows were presented with specific topics, each having a pro and a contra side. Within a quick 5-minute debate, they had to advocate for one of the two sides.
  o Example of a topic: Pro: E-voting and Internet voting are the democratic way to ensure inclusion, transparency, accuracy and efficiency. Contra: E-voting is too insecure to trust my vote to.

- **Overview of fellows' future engagement with SEEDIG.**

SEEDIG fellows at their introductory session

3. Fellows participating in the SEEDIG meeting

Fellows were asked to act as rapporteurs and online moderators for sessions included in the SEEDIG programme. The distribution of roles was made based on the preferences expressed by fellows. They were briefed on the specificities of the tasks, both in writing and in an online meeting.

In addition, fellows actively contributed to the discussions held during the SEEDIG meeting, and shared their views and experiences on the topics discussed.

At the end of the meeting, graduates of the SEEDIG Meeting Fellowship Programme were handed over diplomas recognising their successful completion of the programme.

SEEDIG fellows receiving diplomas

Conclusions and next steps

SEEDIG 2017 fellows are now members of the SEEDIG community, and they have been invited to act as 'SEEDIG ambassadors' in their countries, by promoting SEEDIG at national level and engaging in the SEEDIG process (annual meetings and intersessional activities).

Following the Ohrid meeting, fellows have continued to contribute to the monthly summaries of Internet governance developments. They have also volunteered to assist with other SEEDIG-related activities.

SEEDIG is committed to continue the initiative and work on strengthening it, with input from 2017 fellows and the broader SEEDIG community.

SEEDIG 2017 Fellows

Fellows testimonials

The SEEDIG Fellowship Programme has allowed me to make connections which will be significant in future collaborations with people from different stakeholder groups who work for an open, safe, stable, right-based Internet. I look forward to being part of a community which is growing each year and will positively impact Internet governance debates in the region.

Su Sonia Herring

This has been my first participation in a SEEDIG event and my first fellowship. I've got lots of information on cybersecurity, broadband challenges, Internet of Things developments, IDNs, etc. As for the organisational part, it was excellent as well. I am happy with my participation in SEEDIG 2017 and I would like to thank all the organisers and the hosts of this event.

Mzia Gogilashvili

To me, SEEDIG represents one of the most important meeting points for IGFs from the SE Europe. The annual events are perfectly executed, the crowd is always interesting and full of insights from neighbouring countries. I feel honoured to be a part of the SEEDIG community and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Domen Savič

SEEDIG was the first, but surely not last fellowship experience for me. I am really glad that you gave me a chance to become a member of this great community. Thanks to SEEDIG and the great people met during this meeting, I have definitely found my place and the particular way in which I'd like to pursue my professional interests.

Lia Gubashvili

This was my first time on SEEDIG and I was honoured to be selected as a fellow. I support the vision that the Internet is for everyone and it is a tool to improve lives and make the world a better place. SEEDIG gave me the opportunity to learn more about Internet governance and to meet amazing people whose work, commitment, and enthusiasm already gave great results in this area.

Marija Blagojević

SEEDIG is a unique opportunity in the region to recognize global and regional trends in the development of Internet policy and multistakeholder dialogue, and a very important initiative for the development of dialogue on all other topics in region. I would like to say thank you to the Internet Society for supporting the Fellowship Programme and to SEEDIG executive committee for interesting agenda, speakers, and for enormous efforts of members who brought the conference to the end.

Nenad Marinković
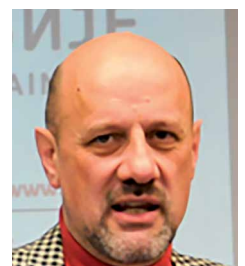
The above are excerpts from students' testimonials. Complete versions can be read on the Fellowship Programme webpage.

SEEDIG Internship

Mission and objectives

The SEEDIG Internship Programme was launched in March 2017, with two main objectives:

- To enhance SEEDIG's capacity development efforts, by offering individuals from the region the possibility to be closely involved in SEEDIG activities

- To bring additional support to SEEDIG's core team in undertaking activities related to the planning of the annual meeting and the intersessional work

In April 2017, two interns were selected to assist with the preparations for the Ohrid meeting, as well as with the Internet governance developments in SEE initiative. The unpaid internship was initially offered for a period of two months, but was subsequently extended, as agreed by both parties. The interns worked online, and they also attended the Ohrid meeting and supported the executive committee on site.

Testimonials from interns

I was fortunate enough to be selected for the SEEDIG internship, which has allowed me to hone my skills, and has given me a better understanding of Internet governance issues and their relevance in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area. Experiencing working online has taught me more about teamwork, and how people can come together to get things done. The internship has also given me the courage to start something from scratch and, with hard work and diligence, see it through to the finished product (Ohrid meeting). Being a SEEDIG intern has been an enriching experience and the insights I have gained will definitely influence my future professional career. After my internship, I will stay part of the SEEDIG community and continue to contribute to the SEEDIG process.

Merve Küçükbatır, Turkey

I found the experience very enriching, both personally and professionally. I cherished the opportunity to reconnect with my field of study, to meet and discuss with professionals directly involved in the digital policy scene, and, most importantly, to be part of a community of like-minded individuals. I was also grateful to participate in the SEEDIG event. It was thrilling to see so much dedication and commitment coming from students and professionals from my region. Their effort is praiseworthy, and I feel honored and lucky to be part of this team!

Paul Turcu, Romania

E. INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Internet governance developments in SEE

In September 2016, SEEDIG, in collaboration with DiploFoundation and the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP) have launched the **Internet governance developments in South Eastern Europe initiative**. The main goal of this two-folded initiative is to contribute to strengthening the dialogue and exchange of information on global and regional Internet governance (IG) and digital policy issues within the SEE community.

Monthly summaries of IG developments in SEE

The **monthly summaries** are intended to provide an overview of Internet governance and digital policy developments and activities happening in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area.

June summary of IG developments and events in SEE

How is the summary prepared?

Each month, members of the SEEDIG executive committee, SEEDIG and Diplo interns, and other members of the SEEDIG community collect and write about updates about Internet-related developments and events across the region. Once the text is ready, design is prepared by the Diplo team in Belgrade.

Who can contribute? And how?
Literary everyone can contribute to the monthly summary. There are two types of contributions: • Notifying us about developments and events. This can be done by simply sending us an email with a line about the development/event and a link to more information. • Writing about developments and events. You can join our team of editors by helping up write short descriptions of the developments and events collected throughout the month. Interested? **Send us an email** and we can take it from there.

SEEhub for monthly IG briefings

The **SEEhub** is organised in the framework of the monthly **GIP Internet governance briefings**, and is held **every last Tuesday of the month**. The hub, which is run both online and at Diplo's office in Belgrade, provides a space for regional stakeholders to get together and learn about global and regional Internet governance developments.

SEEhub briefing on regional IG developments in March 2017
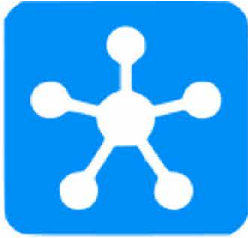
SEE hub
every last Tuesday
of the month
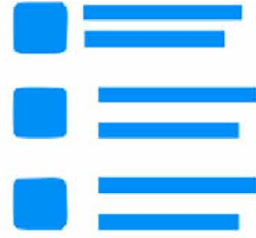
IG Summary
monthly
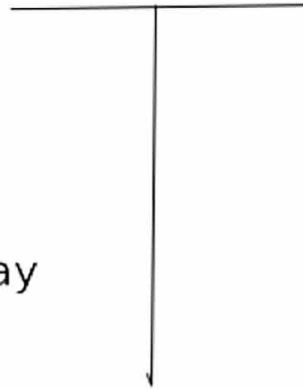
Telecom
infrastructure

E-currency

Copyright

Capacity
development

Privacy

Arbitration

Cybercrime

Internet of
things

+ 35 other areas

Examples of Internet governance and digital policy issues covered by the SEE summary and hub.
Based on the taxonomy used by the GIP Digital Watch observatory

Survey on Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs)

As part of SEEDIG's intersessional activities, a survey on IDNs was conducted online, between April and May 2017. The purpose of the survey was to capture the perception of the Internet community in SEE (mainly Internet end-users) on aspects related to the implementation and use of IDNs. The **results of the survey** were made publicly available at the Ohrid meeting, during the IDNs session.

Key findings

- Almost 63% of the respondents have not registered IDN domain names.
- Among all respondents 38% of them have not heard about IDNs. Almost 32% do not see any benefit in the use of IDN domain names, while 36% don't know whether there are IDNs in their country.
- Almost 35% of those who have registered IDNs have faced technical problems, and stated they are not satisfied with usability of IDNs.
- Half (50%) of those who have registered IDN domain names think that IDN TLDs should be connected with existing TLD, while 36% have an opposite opinion.
- Almost 56% of all respondents think that IDNs are an important issue in SEE.
- When asked whether there is a need for IDNs in their country, 32% of the respondents said yes, while an equal percentage gave a negative answer.
- The main disadvantage of IDNs is related to unsolved technical issues (almost 70%).
- The main benefit of IDNs is their role in promoting multilingualism online (71%).

Do you think that IDN domain names need to exist (explain why)?

People not feeling comfortable with Latin can create their own websites.
yes, it helps to non English speaking people surf the internet fluently
absolutly
Yes, especially if we want to bridge digital divides, connect the next billion, and accommodate new Internet users.
get more people interested in getting online by creating more local content
No, since internet-users already get used to the other way so I don't think there is a dire need for it.
Yes, there are billions of people who need it
People easily use their native language
to define the country
Yes because they support the development and promotion of a multilingual Internet
Because of culture, language and heritage

Respondents' views on whether IDN domain names need to exist

SEEDIG's relations with the global IGF, EuroDIG, and national IGFs

SEEDIG has been inspired by the IGF and EuroDIG, and is maintaining close connections with them. In doing so, SEEDIG is acting in line with its objective of creating synergies between local Internet governance realities (concerns, challenges, etc.) and the pan-European and global processes. In addition to benefiting from support from both the IGF and EuroDIG, SEEDIG also feeds into these two processes. Within South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area, SEEDIG has created a channel of communication with national IGF initiatives, and is seeking to support these initiatives to the extent possible.

Global level

There are several ways in which SEEDIG contributes to the global IGF:

Submission of annual meeting reports

(including messages from SEEDIG sessions), as contributions from the SEE community

Participation in annual IGF meetings

In 2016, for example, SEEDIG held a side-event in the context of the 11th IGF meeting. It was also involved in the preparation of the main session dedicated to national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs), and it participated in this session with messages from SEEDIG 2016. This year, SEEDIG is closely involved in the planning of NRIs presence at the 12th IGF meeting.

Contribution to IGF intersessional activities

To the extent possible, SEEDIG responds to calls for contributions to IGF intersessional activities. In 2016, for example, it provided input into phase II of the intersessional project 'Policy options for connecting and enabling the next billion(s)'.

Participation in regular NRIs online meetings, organised by the IGF Secretariat

European level

Since its creation, SEEDIG has been working together with EuroDIG on building and strengthening synergies between the two initiatives. These synergies have materialised in several ways:

Joint call for issues

Following the 2016 experience, a joint call for issues marked the start of the preparatory processes for the 2017 EuroDIG and SEEDIG annual meetings. For the second time in a row, this joint milestone created the framework for better understanding what Internet governance issues are seen as relevant both in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area, and in the wider Europe.

Participation in annual EuroDIG meetings

As it is the case with the global IGF, SEEDIG messages from the annual meeting are presented at EuroDIG as well. In 2017, this was done in the framework of a flash session, which also featured discussions on how SEEDIG could improve moving forward. In addition, following the joint call for issues, it turned out that most of the topics tackled at SEEDIG also featured in the EuroDIG programme, and this further facilitated the inclusion of SEE views into the EuroDIG discussions. Members of the SEEDIG community actively participated in the planning and running of EuroDIG sessions. Moreover, several SEEDIG fellows and participants in the Youth School were also selected for the YOUthDIG programme, further contributing to strengthening the connections between the two initiatives.

SEEDIG flash session at EuroDIG 2017

National level

Many countries in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area have developed national IGF initiatives over the past years. There are also several countries which are on the way of launching such initiatives. SEEDIG has been working on fostering communication with and between these initiatives, and has offered to support them in their activities.

Online meetings

Starting December 2015, SEEDIG has been facilitating online meetings with interested national IGF initiatives from the region. These meetings represent an opportunity to discuss and exchange information on issues such as challenges and success stories from national IGFs, modalities in which SEEDIG could assist in building or strengthening national IGFs, and ways in which national IGFs could contribute to the SEEDIG process.

Participation of national IGFs at the SEEDIG annual meeting

National IGF initiatives have been active contributors to the SEEDIG process. Starting 2016, a slot is reserved in the SEEDIG programme for a meeting with national IGFs (also attended by EuroDIG and the IGF Secretariat). In 2017, this meeting was held on day 0, and it brought together representative of existing and in-formation IGF initiatives from across the region. Discussions revolved mainly around challenges faced by these initiatives, as well as sharing of experiences on how some of these challenges have been addressed by some IGFs. It was agreed at this session to continue the series of online meetings, as they would serve as a good opportunity for IGF initiatives to stay in touch with each other, exchange experiences and good practices, and learn from each other.

Contribution of national IGFs to SEEDIG intersessional activities

Members of national IGF initiatives have been active contributors to SEEDIG intersessional activities, such as the monthly summaries of Internet governance developments, the monthly SEE hub meetings, and the surveys runs by SEEDIG.

SEEDIG at national IGF meetings

SEEDIG strives, to the extent possible, to participate in annual meetings of national IGF initiatives, as part of its outreach and communication efforts. Example of IGF initiatives meetings attended by members of the SEEDIG executive committee include: Armenia IGF, Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF, Croatia IGF, Georgia IGF, and Slovenia IGF.

Meeting of IGF initiatives at SEEDIG 2017

F. SEEDIG 2017 BUDGET

SEEDIG is financed solely through donations and in-kind support from sponsors and supporters. A general overview of the contributions received for SEEDIG 2017, as well as of the costs involved in the preparation of the annual meeting, is presented below.

Overview of costs

BUDGET ITEM	Actual costs (EUR)
1. Logistics for the Ohrid event	
1.1. Technical equipment	1320
1.3. Webstreaming, recording, photo	540
1.4. Catering (coffee breaks and lunch)	
a. Day 0	covered by host
b. Day 1	4792
1.5. Event material	
a. Banners, event brochure, diplomas	484
b. Badges	covered by host
1.6. Social events	
a. Welcome cocktail (23 May)	covered by host
b. Social event 1 (24 May)	covered by host
c. Social event 2 (25 May): catering and transportation	6040
2. Youth School and Fellowship Programme	
2.1. Travel costs for 17 Youth School students and 16 fellows (reimbursements, transportation Skopje–Ohrid–Skopje)	4823
2.2. Accommodation costs	3890
3. Interns (travel and accommodation costs for the meeting)	800
4. Executive committee	
4.1. Travel and accommodation costs for Ohrid for two members	1020
4.2. Travel and accommodation costs for one member attending the EuroDIG planning meeting in Tallinn (January 2017)	508
5. Contingency costs	127
TOTAL	**24344**

Budget and sponsors for SEEDIG 2017

Sponsor	Status	Contribution (EUR)
Internet Society	Gold sponsor	10000
ICANN	Gold sponsor	9675,43
RIPE NCC	Silver sponsor	5000
IGFSA	Bronze sponsor	3160,12
Afilias	Bronze sponsor	1000
RNIDS	Bronze sponsor	1000
Amount left from 2016	-	4951,69
TOTAL		**34787,24**

Comparing the total budget for SEEDIG 2017 and the final costs, a surplus occurs. This surplus will be used to cover costs related to communication and outreach (improvements to website, mailman, printing materials related to SEEDIG's representation at various events), intersessional activities, and/or the planning of SEEDIG 2018.

Note: Due to the fact that SEEDIG does not exist as a legal entity, support has been sought for funds management. For the SEEDIG 2017 annual meeting, funds have been collected and managed through the EuroDIG Support Association. All decisions related to expenditures have been made by the SEEDIG executive committee, and executed by the EuroDIG Secretariat.

G. COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Throughout the year, SEEDIG activities have been promoted across and beyond the region, and outreach has been done via SEEDIG's social media accounts and via mainstream media.

Social media

SEEDIG's social media profiles (Twitter, Facebook) can be followed using the @SEEDIG2017 handle. Conversation around the Ohrid meeting and other SEEDIG activities can be found behind #SEEDIG2017.

SEEDIG has used social media as a way to exchange information, to engage in discussions with the community and partners, and to support the preparatory process by spreading the word about our activities and promoting calls for actions (such as the call for issues, the calls for applications for the Fellowship Programme and Youth School, etc.).

Twitter and Facebook recorded extensive usage during the SEEDIG meeting, and were used as a way to encourage discussions beyond the ones taking place face-to-face in Ohrid.

SEEDIG is also present on Flickr and YouTube. Although by nature less interactive online platforms, these channels are also visited by anyone interested to find photos and recordings from SEEDIG meetings.

Other organisations promoting SEEDIG

Several organisations, many of which are SEEDIG official supporters, have promoted SEEDIG during the year. Some examples include the Association for Technology and Internet, the Better Internet for Kids network, the European Internet Forum, DiploFoundation, the GIP Digital Watch observatory, ICANN, Internet Society, the Global Internet Policy Observatory, and One World Platform.

Media coverage

The Ohrid meeting was covered by several national TV broadcasters, which provided information about the event (purpose, scale, content, etc.), accompanied by videos showcasing the discussions. Some of these broadcasters are MRT (the public broadcasting organisation of the host country), TV Nova, SITEL, and KANAL 5.

The meeting was also covered by many newspapers and Internet media outlets.

Thank you to...

Local host and institutional partners

Aleksandar Acev, Sinisa Apostolski, Igor Bojadjiev, Elizabeta Dvojakova, Dragica Lepavcova, Igor Mircheski, Sanja Simonova.

Organising teams

Focal points: Sinisa Apostolski, Dušan Caf, Anja Gengo, Zdravko Jukić, Arvin Kamberi, Bogdan Manolea, Desiree Milošević, Valentina Pavel, Valentina Pellizzer, Vladimir Radunović, Radoslav Rizov, Grigori Saghyan, besides all members of their teams.

Session moderators, key participants, rapporteurs and online moderators, as well as presenters at the speakers' corner

SEEDIG 2017 team

Executive committee

Sasho Dimitrijoski, Lianna Galstyan, Aida Mahmutović[1], Dušan Stojičević[2], Sorina Teleanu

Interns

Merve Küçükbatır, Paul Turcu

Special thanks to all our sponsors and supporting organisations

Agency for Electronic Communications | Ministry of Information Society and Administration | MARnet | Afilias | Council of Europe | DiploFoundation | European Commission | EuroDIG | ICANN | IGF Secretariat | IGFSA | Internet Society | RIPE NCC | ApTI Romania | Internet Society Armenia | Internet Society Serbia | MASIT | One World Platform | RNIDS

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[1]   Until July 2017
[2]   Until May 2017

Find us online

Website
www.seedig.net

https://twitter.com/SEEDIG2017 | #SEEDIG2017

www.facebook.com/SEEDIG2017/

YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvo3d6ZmMU_ocYVG91t9fUw

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