IGF 2017 report

- Session title:

Explaining Internet Governance to Friends and Family 101: How to Improve our Communication? (WS161)

-Link:

https://sched.co/CTsT

- Date:

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

- Time:

15:00 – 16:30

- Session organizer(s):

Agustina Callegari, Michael Oghia, and Jelena Ozegović

- Chair(s)/moderator(s):

Michael Oghia and Jelena Ozegović

- Rapporteur/note taker:

Mark W. Datysgeld (Brazil)

- Link to the DiploFoundation/GIP Digital Watch report:

https://dig.watch/sessions/explaining-internet-governance-friends-and-family-101-how-improve-our-communication-ws161

- List of breakout group facilitators and their institutional affiliations:

Jelena Ozegović (RNIDS)
Dan O'Maley (Center for International Media Assistance – CIMA)
Jennifer Chung (DotAsia)
Dennys Antonialli (Internet Lab)

- Key issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

See below

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

Michael greeted the attendees, introducing co-organizer Jelena and mentioning co-organizer Agustina, who was participating remotely. Michael explained the survey (https://goo.gl/forms/W35rbdTSKSfqQ01I3) the organizers designed and circulated in the previous months about the difficulties of explaining to others about Internet governance, and mentioned his personal experiences on the matter. Building on this, Jelena and Michael presented the results (https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pa_oKIpePcMdOW1nyywwWSpbOD23lsZsFFZTEvntTkY/edit?usp=sharing), including that 171 people filled out the questionnaire, and then discussed the positive and negative feedback received about it. They said the importance of the breakout discussions outlined in the session agenda lies in understanding the challenges, better structuring the theme, and analyzing where the problems lie. Jelena introduced herself and how hard it is to explain her role working in a country code top-level domain (ccTLD) administrator to others. They went over statistics about the participants of the survey, highlighting data about the people who answered it, and that the spread of the participation was good, with much gender, age, and stakeholder diversity. A notable finding was that 76 percent of those surveyed reported having trouble explaining their work to family in particular, while to friends the number was 60 percent.

- Please describe the discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

Jelena explaining how there would be four working breakout groups focused on different themes that were raised in the results of the survey (at that point, some people left the room in response to learning of the breakout session model, and almost all of those were from an older demography). Jennifer was responsible for tailoring to groups (diversity). Dennys was responsible for outreach to academia and schools. Daniel handled the creation of analogies and the simplification of language. Jelena's group had a focus on mentoring newcomers. Dan's group on analogies and simplification was the one that drew the most attention, attracting twice as many people as the others. The distribution of participants was as follows: Dennys had eight people, Jen had six, Daniel had 12, Jelena had six.

Participants were offered the opportunity to change groups as much as they wanted, but that did not happened. Once committed to a niche, they remained. Some interesting questions raised during discussions included:

- Why do older people not get prioritized more by institutions when it comes to engagement and scholarships?

- Governments and the media seem to stick out as sectors that have a hard time understanding and communicating in terms of the Internet.
- The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and its outreach programs, as well as some iconic ICANN figures, were often mentioned across groups as important.

There was an overall feeling that there was not enough time to discuss questions with such a broad discussion scope.

- Please describe any participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

Jennifer reported that with a smaller group they preferred to go through comments handed out by the organizers, using these categories: relevance, local content, regional collaboration, capacity building, diversity, and new channels and methods. Standout suggestions picked by the group were:

1. The need for more global society inclusion;
2. The use of less abstraction when talking; and
3. That local content means local languages.

Several analogies were raised by the working group that was focused on that matter.

Academia and schools raised these key points:

- Should there be Internet governance courses offered in educational environments? There was a consensus that yes, it should.
- Should those be mandatory or optional? Integrated into subjects or their own class?
- It was noted that recommending this as a subject for global learning might overlap with other more pressing issues in some countries.
- How to build capacity on those who build capacity?

Jelena's group highlighted that online courses already exist and are deployed. The Internet Society (ISOC) and ICANN, for instance, have those resources, so people should start from those. Each community and type of person needs their own kind of mentorship. It was stressed that one-to-one communication with experienced members of the community is very important to development as well, and there needs to be peer motivation/mentoring.

Lastly, a report with the outcomes of the workshop and the survey will be published in early 2018, and a broader project addressing these subjects might be started as well.

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session:

Approximately 32 in total

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session:

The gender balance in the room was of 18 males and 14 females.

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?

It was not a focus of the topics at hand, but inclusion was a relevant theme overall.

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:

N/A