



South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance

Can we SEE Internet governance?

Second annual meeting
22 April 2016
Belgrade, Serbia

Meeting report

May 2016

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'Much of Internet governance happens at the national and regional levels. Good Internet governance starts at home and the NRIs can help influence national and regional Internet governance processes.'

Markus Kummer, Internet Governance Forum Support Association

'The European Bureau of the Internet Society is happy to support such an important initiative as SEEDIG, that encourages opinions, suggests best practice, shapes discussions, and influences Internet policies in the region.'

Frédéric Donck, European Regional Bureau, Internet Society

'SEEDIG's strength is the outreach and bottom-up participation, and how from an informal meeting among stakeholders at IGF and ICANN meetings, it evolved in a full-fledged event in just two years!'

Jean-Jacques Sahel,
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

'The RIPE NCC is proud to support SEEDIG and to contribute to the important regional discussion of Internet governance issues in South Eastern Europe.'

Chris Buckridge, RIPE Network Coordination Centre

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 (IG) issues among all interested stakeholders in South Eastern Europe (SEE) and the neighbouring area.

SEEDIG is an initiative driven by stakeholders in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area, with support from various entities from outside the region. It was launched in a bottom-up manner, back in 2015, as a response to a perceived need for a space where actors in this region can gather together and discuss those Internet-related issues that are particularly relevant to them.

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 inter-sessional activities (such as webinars and surveys). This process is planned and run in a bottom-up, open, inclusive, and transparent manner, by an open-ended and multistakeholder [SEEDIG community](#)¹. Membership of the SEEDIG community is determined by voluntary participation in the [designated public and open mailing list](#)². Coordination of SEEDIG activities is done by an [executive committee](#), 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 organizations, etc.

¹ As at May 2015, the SEEDIG community comprises 95 members from 16 countries that could be considered part of SEE and the neighbouring area, and 8 countries beyond the region. Membership spans across all stakeholder groups: civil society – 38%, government (23%), technical community (20%), private sector (8%), academia (8%), intergovernmental organizations (3%). In terms of gender balance, 54% of all members are male, and 46% female.

² icann-see[at]rnids.rs | <http://mail-server.rnids.rs/mailman/listinfo/icann-see>

SEEDIG 2016 preparatory process

The preparatory process for the SEEDIG 2016, which ran between October 2015 and April 2016, 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 organizing teams. Transparency was also part of the process, 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 2016 milestones	
October – December 2015	Joint SEEDIG – EuroDIG call for issues Resulted in over 70 proposals for issues to be discussed at the meeting.
14-15 January 2106	<u>Virtual planning meetings</u> Discussions on the proposed issues (based on an overview prepared by the executive committee).
21 January 2016	<u>Draft programme outline</u> Based on the submitted issues and the discussions held at the planning meetings.
21-31 January 2016	Public comment on the draft programme
February 2016	<u>Final programme outline</u>
February 2016	Forming organizing teams for sessions These teams, initially formed of individuals who submitted proposals for SEEDIG, were kept open to any other interested individual throughout the entire process. Each team was lead by one or two focal points, designated as such by the executive committee.
February – April 2016	Organizing teams build the sessions The teams worked on the final session titles, descriptions, formats, key participants, (remote) moderators, rapporteurs, etc.), in an open and transparent manner, and in line with the SEEDIG session principles .
March – April 2016	Survey on Internet governance in SEE and the neighbouring area

Feedback from participants: Comments on the preparatory process

- *The planning process was well designed, inclusive and open. Everybody had the chance to participate.*
- *It was as open as it can be.*
- *Congratulations on openness, transparency and on time information online.*
- *It was an inclusive process and anybody could get involved.*
- *Very broad, bottom-up executed.*

Survey on Internet governance in SEE and the neighbouring area

As part of the SEEDIG inter-sessional activities, [a survey on Internet governance in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area](#) was conducted online, between March and April 2016. The aim of the survey was to collect information about how IG, in general, and IG issues, processes, and organizations, in particular, are perceived by the regional Internet community. [The results of the survey](#) were made publicly available before the Belgrade meeting, and were presented and discussed during the meeting itself.

Key findings:

- The most frequent words used by respondents, when asked to define Internet governance, were: use, rules, regulation, procedures, and multistakeholder.
- **Privacy and data protection, digital divide and cybersecurity were identified as the most challenging Internet-related issues at national level.**
- Forty per cent (40%) of the respondents believe that there are no efficient and effective mechanisms in place at national level to address the identified Internet-related challenges. Other 40% indicated they were not sure whether such mechanisms exist.
- Eighty-one per cent (81%) of the respondents were of the opinion that countries in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area share similar Internet-related challenges and concerns; the top three such similar challenges and concerns were: **digital divide, privacy and data protection, and cybersecurity.** *(These three topics have also represented the focus of SEEDIG 2016 sessions; the topics had been decided before the results of the survey were made available, and the survey came to reinforce those decisions.)*
- Seventy-one per cent (71%) of the respondents indicated that there is value in having regional mechanisms and processes for stakeholders in SEE to discuss/address similar Internet related challenges.
- Limited resources (financial, time, etc.) and lack of/insufficient awareness were identified as the main barriers to participation in national, regional and/or global Internet governance processes and organizations.
- The need for **more capacity building and awareness raising** on Internet governance issues was emphasised frequently throughout the survey responses.

If SEE countries share similar Internet-related challenges and concerns, which are these?

4.2



SEEDIG 2016 programme

The programme for the SEEDIG 2016 meeting was built in a bottom-up, open, inclusive, and transparent manner, by the SEEDIG community, in line with the [programme guidelines](#) and the [session principles](#).

Can we SEE Internet governance?	
22 April, Belgrade, Serbia	
08.00	Registration of participants
09.00	Welcoming remarks
09.30	Who governs the Internet in SEE?
11.00	Speakers' corner & Coffee break
11.30	Bridging digital divide(s) with a #SEEchange in digital literacy
13.00	Lunch break & Meeting between SEEDIG, EuroDIG, and national IGF initiatives
14.00	Short talks
14.30	Discussing cyber(SEE)curity: global issues in regional context
16.00	Speakers' corner & Coffee break
16.30	Come and solve the human rights puzzle with us
18.00	Conclusions and wrap-up



Welcoming remarks

- Sava Savić, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Republic of Serbia
- Dušan Stojanović, Directorate for eGovernment, Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government, Republic of Serbia
- Danko Jevtović, Serbian National Internet Domain Registry (RNIDS)
- Dušan Stojičević, SEEDIG executive committee



'We believe it is necessary to invest more in capacity building for public institutions, the private sector and NGOs, in the field of Internet governance, on topics such as security, human rights on the Internet, and cooperation with international and regional experts and institutions.'

It is important that stakeholders in the region enhance their cooperation on Internet governance, in particular in strengthening infrastructure, local service, and content, as well

as fighting cybercrime and protecting human rights and freedoms.'

Sava Savić, Assistant Minister for Information Society,
Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Republic of Serbia

'We are discussing how to be not only consumers of the digital future, but also how to contribute and bring something to it. We feel that this forum is a good place to go. We support the bottom-up model that is bringing experiences together, and the multistakeholder model of discussing and finding ways to go forward.'

The voice of this region has to be heard more. I am thankful to see that this assembly here is full of people who are positive about the region and who could contribute more.'

Danko Jevtović, CEO, Serbian National Internet Domain Registry (RNIDS)



Chris Buckridge
@_buckr

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Kicking off the second south-east European Internet governance discussion at [#seedig2016](#) in beautiful Belgrade

S1: Who governs the Internet in SEE?

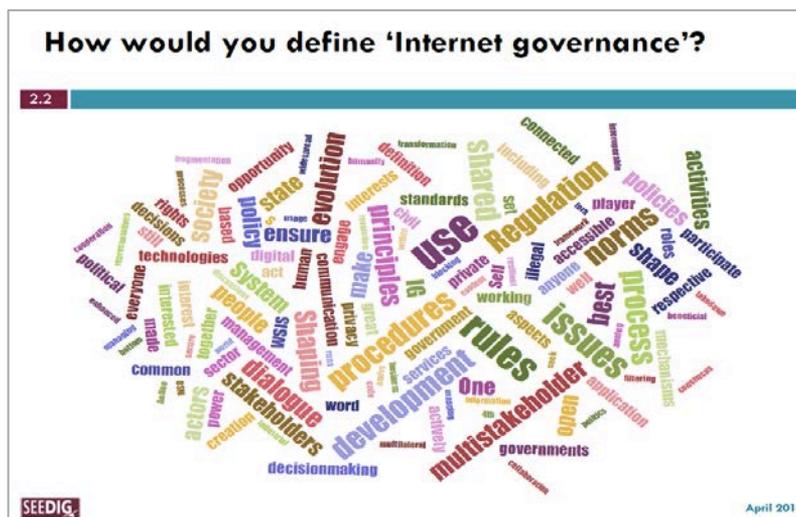
Teaser:

What is Internet governance? How does it work? Why is it relevant for (the development of) the South Eastern European (SEE) region?

Main roles:

- Key participants:
 - Andrea Beccalli, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
 - Chris Buckridge, RIPE Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)
 - Frédéric Donck, European Regional Bureau, Internet Society (ISOC)
 - Markus Kummer, Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA)
- Moderator: Sorina Teleanu, DiploFoundation, Romania
- Remote moderator: Ani Dallakyan, Internet Society Armenia
- Rapporteur: Ana Kakalashvili, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany/Georgia

Reflecting the discussions:



'We should have a wealth of diversity to have real Internet governance for, from and with the people.'

Valentina Pellizzer, One World Platform, Bosnia and Herzegovina

'Internet governance is really built on consensus between all stakeholders.'

Nata Goderdzishvili, Data Exchange Agency, Ministry of Justice, Georgia

'Internet governance is a multistakeholder approach and it has to remain that way. It has to be process driven, with a long term thinking forward.'

SEEDIG participant



Alexandra Kulikova
@AVKulikova

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Panel and audience try to define #internetgovernance - yet again! #Seedig2016.

'The way Internet governance evolved is very adapted to the underlying distributed technology. There is no single organisation in charge, but the collaboration between many organisations. It goes beyond the technical coordination; there are societal aspects related to Internet governance that are not dealt by any single organisations; and there is also the issue of cross-border application of rules.'

Markus Kummer, Internet Governance Forum Support Association

Session messages

1. Internet governance (IG) is evolving with time. This evolution of IG makes the main actors be more open and inclusive.
2. IG is mostly and mainly about dialogue and collaboration between different actors. And 'consensus' is the key word in IG.
3. There is no single main actor in IG: governments are important, but so are users, the technical community, and the private sector. Civil society is bringing up a lot of important topics, but the governance of the Internet is further implemented together with other stakeholders.
4. Multistakeholderism is not a single model, but a set of (good) practices and behaviours that helps improve the governance process and make more voices being heard. Participating on equal footing and inclusiveness are key words for multistakeholder Internet governance mechanisms.
5. Representativeness of stakeholder groups and 'legitimacy' are a matter of continuous discussion in IG. But, as long as the governance process is open and inclusive, we can call it multistakeholder.
6. (Better) global IG discussions should be shaped in a bottom-up way: from national level to (sub-)regional, and all the way to the global level.



S2: Bridging digital divide(s) with a #SEExchange in digital literacy

Teaser:

Regardless of digital infrastructure's quality, human capacity is ultimately what influences the effectiveness of Internet ecosystems. Users should engage with technology that is in line with their needs and positively influences the quality of their lives, but users often struggle due to the "digital divide." What is the nature of digital divide in South Eastern Europe that hinders participation in the information society, and what are the bridges that we must build?

Main roles:

- Key participants:
 - Valentin Negoită, Association of Producers and Distributors of ICT Equipment (APDETIC), Romania
 - Megan Richards, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission, Belgium
 - Vojislav Rodić, Serbian National Internet Domain Registry (RNIDS), Serbia
 - Jan Žorž, Internet Society, Slovenia
- Moderator: Dušan Stojičević, Serbia
- Remote moderator & Rapporteur: Michael Oghia, Turkey/USA

Reflecting the discussions:

What is the digital divide? Answers from session participants

A division made on digital parameters.

Perhaps one of the biggest inequalities of the 21st century?

The gap between the opportunities of access and literacy between countries and regions.

Not just a gap in knowledge, but anything that presents a barrier to people to be able to get that knowledge and use it.

We have a very good access to the Internet, but we don't have enough national content, because we don't have enough capacities to use this technology - this is a case of digital divide.

'It is one thing to have broadband access, it is another thing to be able to use the access that it available. So we have to look at the interests of citizens in terms of communication, access, exchange of information, and better use, but we also have to look at how small business and entrepreneurs can have access to the Internet to grow their companies and take advantage of the innovative potential of the Internet.'

Megan Richards, European
Commission

'We, as a region, might have the opportunity to look into new technologies, like white space, which need a little bit of cooperation between the technical community and the regulatory authorities to try to experiment. We don't need to let others lead in white spaces experiments, for instance, as one of the technologies that might solve the problem of access in rural areas.'

Vladimir Radunović, DiploFoundation, Serbia

This is probably the sour point - to see that in a globalized world, not all citizens, here in the region and beyond, are accepted in the digital world, because they don't have access, they don't have the skills, they are not equal in their rights. Internet is more or less a human right today. Not everyone benefits from this right. And this is one of the challenges we are facing, to make people be equal, and to have access and to be skilled in order to keep up with a decent career, life, and have all it takes to compete with others.

Valentin Negoită, Association of Producers and Distributors of ICT Equipment, Romania

Session messages

1. There are many layers of Internet development in the South Eastern European region, from access and infrastructure (broadband included) to cost and affordability, literacy, content, and services. Deployment of infrastructure is insufficient in itself, and needs to be complemented by measures focused on education and development of local content, among others.
2. Internet access solely via mobile technologies should be seen only as a temporary access solution. Mobile technology does not provide complete access to the breadth of the Internet, and, as such, must be reinforced by fibre networks and better use of spectrum, especially in rural areas.
3. More efforts are needed in the region (both from the governments and the private sector) to improve the adoption of IPv6 and other Internet technologies that can contribute to bridging the digital divide.
4. Digital literacy and awareness about content like e-services or e-government, specifically in local languages and scripts, are critical to bridging the digital divide.
5. Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) can contribute to bringing more people online. Supporting and encouraging the development and use of IDNs in the region is therefore extremely important.



Anja Gengo @AnjaGengo · Apr 22

#SEEDIG2016 Months of work on #digitaldivide into 90 minutes great session!



S3: Discussing cyber(SEE)curity: global issues in regional context

Teaser:

Cybersecurity is a global problem; however, every region and every country have their own particular struggles. What are the most important issues for cybersecurity in SEE? How can they be built into European and global agenda?

Main roles:

- Key participants:
 - Desiree Miloshevic, Afiliias
 - Axel Pawlik, Managing Director of the RIPE Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)
 - Milan Sekuloski, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- Moderators:
 - Vladimir Radunović, DiploFoundation, Serbia
 - Tatiana Tropina, Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Germany/Russian Federation
- Remote moderator: Radoslav Rizov, Microsoft, Bulgaria
- Rapporteur: Fotjon Kosta, Ministry of Energy and Industry, Albania

Reflecting the discussions:

Questions raised during the discussions Extracts	Closing 'tweets' by key participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What do we mean by cybersecurity? Is it information security, national security, or a mix of the two?</i>• <i>How are high level decisions on cybersecurity strategies, on fighting cybercrime, and on preventing conflict in cyberspace, for instance, made with the involvement of other stakeholders? How is the private sector engaged? How is expertise drawn from the academia and technical community?</i>• <i>How do we build trust in the digital space?</i>• <i>How many national cybersecurity strategies dedicate chapters to human rights? Is it necessary to address human rights in such frameworks? If so, how to ensure that this happens?</i>• <i>Is security more important than privacy?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>'Trust and transparency, cooperation and accountability – stakeholders need to keep checking the balance.'</i>• <i>'State institutions must serve the citizens both offline and online.'</i>• <i>'We probably cannot protect ourselves against all risks. Start with implementing data protection act by 2018 in your stakeholder groups.'</i>

Session messages

1. There are differences in understanding what cybersecurity is among different stakeholders, be they public or private. This lack of harmonised approaches to the cybersecurity definition is combined with the lack of clarity concerning the role of different stakeholders, such as state, private sector, and civil society. Thus, a dialogue between different stakeholders has to be based on clear understanding of the definition and possible roles.
2. The role of various stakeholders in protecting cybersecurity will continue to be shaped by the major shift from the concept of security as the duty of the state, to cybersecurity and protection of individuals as a shared responsibility. The distribution of duties and responsibilities among different stakeholders in the South Eastern European region is not established yet, and has to be figured out taking into account rule of law, human rights, and the balance between public and private interests. Governments and other stakeholders have to work together to find the best mechanisms for safeguarding cybersecurity and for a more balanced cyber environment.
3. Accountability of all players, especially governments and security services, is a precondition of any working multistakeholder solution.
4. Since many of the cybersecurity strategies in the region do not include human rights issues, more attention and awareness is needed to develop the approaches that will implement human rights 'by design'.
5. The rule of law is very important, especially when it comes to protecting humans rights and conducting criminal investigations in the digital environment. However, the law on paper is not enough – legal frameworks should be operational and functional.
6. Governments are expected to play a vital role in protecting critical infrastructure, combating cybercrime, contributing to education (including through public-private partnerships), and protecting human rights. However, users should take their part of responsibility in protecting the security of their data and/or devices (for example through using end-to-end encryption), and not only rely on governments and private companies.



S4: Come and solve the human rights puzzle with us

Teaser:

From content to code & algorithms – an interactive and inclusive session aimed in better understanding the major Internet human rights issues at stake in SEE and discover possible solutions.

Main roles:

- Key participants:
 - Patrick Penninckx, Council of Europe
 - Nevena Ružić, Office of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, Serbia
- Moderators:
 - Bogdan Manolea, Association for Technology and Internet, Romania
 - Valentina Pellizzer, One World Platform Foundation, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Remote moderator: Auke Pals, Network of European Digital Youth, Netherlands
- Rapporteur: Su Sonia Herring, youth delegate, Turkey

Reflecting the discussions:

The digital human rights puzzle

(Participants were divided in small working groups. Each group was asked to agree on the top three human rights issues related to the Internet that are critical in the digital age, and to propose remedies for addressing breaches of such rights.)

Digital human rights issues

- **Overarching**
Freedom of expression | Privacy and data protection | Access to information
- **Specific:**
Freedom of assembly | Protection from surveillance | Dignity | Equality |
Gender | Security | Access to education | An open Internet |
Network neutrality

Possible remedies

- Raising more awareness on the fact that people have rights online | Encryption |
Transparency and accountability | The multistakeholder approach in addressing
human rights issues.

'When the Data Protection Convention was first developed, a lot of attention was given to states. Today, it is not the state that controls most of the data. And there the multistakeholder approach - looking at what are the key, core responsibilities of private business to preserve also the personal data of our citizens - remains key. And another thing we need to look at: when none or some of the human rights are not respected, what type of remedies do the states provide, what type of remedies do private companies provide, with regard to breaches of, for example, freedom of expression, data protection, and others?'

Patrick Penninckx, Council of Europe

Session messages

1. Privacy is one of the most important human rights online. Privacy and anonymity are needed to ensure that other human rights, such as freedom of expression and assembly, are freely exercised and protected.
2. Freedom of expression in every sense should be protected online.
3. Access to information will help ensure equality online.
4. An important question that needs further consideration is who should be more responsible when it comes to ensuring the protection of human rights online. Governments or the private sector?
5. Remedies to issues regarding human rights online need to be discussed by all stakeholders in length and depth.



Short talks & Speakers' corner

Short presentations on specific Internet governance issues and initiatives were included in the SEEDIG 2016 programme, within the short talks and speakers' corner formats.

Short talks

- **GIP Digital Watch**
Vladimir Radunović, DiploFoundation, Serbia
- **Global Internet Policy Observatory**
Megan Richards, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
- **Network neutrality**
Frédéric Donck, Regional Bureau for Europe, Internet Society, Belgium
- **Virtual currency and bitcoin**
Arvin Kamberi, DiploFoundation, Serbia; Aleksandar Matanović, Electronic Currency District, Serbia
- **Promoting digital rights with online media (intro)**
Valentina Pavel, Association for Technology and Internet, Romania

Speakers' corner

- **Outreach about activities of the Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC) at ICANN**
Tatiana Tropina, Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Germany/Russian Federation
- **International (European) organizations and projects on national (sub-regional) level: synergy or competition?**
Oksana Prykhodko, European Media Platform, Ukraine
- **How to empower and protect young people to use ICTs in a positive way – multistakeholder approach**
Anahit Khosrovyan, Safer Internet Armenia
- **Promoting digital rights with online media (presenting videos)**
Valentina Pavel & Matei-Eugen Vasile, Association for Technology and Internet, Romania

Moderators:

Lianna Galstyan, Internet Society Armenia

Aida Mahmutović, Centre for Internet Governance, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Conclusions and wrap-up

'First of all, I would like to thank the organizing committee for holding a very interesting and a very well organized meeting. Today's meeting was a product of a couple of months dedicated work of a number of people, in collaboration with the wider Internet governance community. [...]

This year marks the start of a new 10 years mandate of the Internet Governance Forum, granted by the United Nations General Assembly, which acknowledged the role of the IGF as a multistakeholder platform for discussions on Internet governance issues. With this new mandate, we are looking at reinvigorating our mission, with the help of the regional and national IGF initiatives such as SEEDIG. And we hope to better be able to serve the global community and help foster active and meaningful participation by all in the global Internet governance debate. [...] Moving forward, we are looking into and discussing with national and regional IGF initiatives on how we can better integrate national and regional views into the global IGF process. And we are striving for a two way flow of ideas.'

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

'I would like to thank the executive committee [...] for the great job they did to organize such an outstanding event. [...] You know put us under immense pressure; after such a great day and programme, with highly interactive, interesting, and exciting sessions, we have to top it.

[EuroDIG 2016] will be a big event, with an interesting programme. It is the community the one which, from the very first moment, has set the agenda, designed the programme, shaped the sessions. So it is an immense effort and it is a perfect proof that the multistakeholder model works. You are all invited and I hope to see as many of you there in a few weeks in Brussels.'

Wolf Ludwig, Secretariat of the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG)



Michael Oghia
@MikeOghia



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SO thankful to the @SEEDIG2016 hosts, EC, and sponsors. It was a great two days. Massive kudos! #SEEDIG2016 #EuroDIG2016 #IGF2016



hvale vale
@froatosebe



Follow

Good-bye #seedig2016 #belgrade thanks for the care, the politics, the content and the many inspirational moments

RETWEET
1

LIKES
2



7:11 PM - 23 Apr 2016



SEEDIG's relations with the global IGF, EuroDIG, and IGF initiatives from SEE

SEEDIG has been inspired by the IGF and EuroDIG, as it is aimed at maintaining close connections with both, 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 aims to feed into these two processes.

At global level, the results of the SEEDIG discussions are conveyed to the **IGF**, as contributions from the SEE community. For example, the report of the SEEDIG 2015 meeting has been submitted to the IGF and is now published on the IGF website. In addition, SEEDIG has been contributing to IGF-led activities, such as the 2015 survey on IGF initiatives.

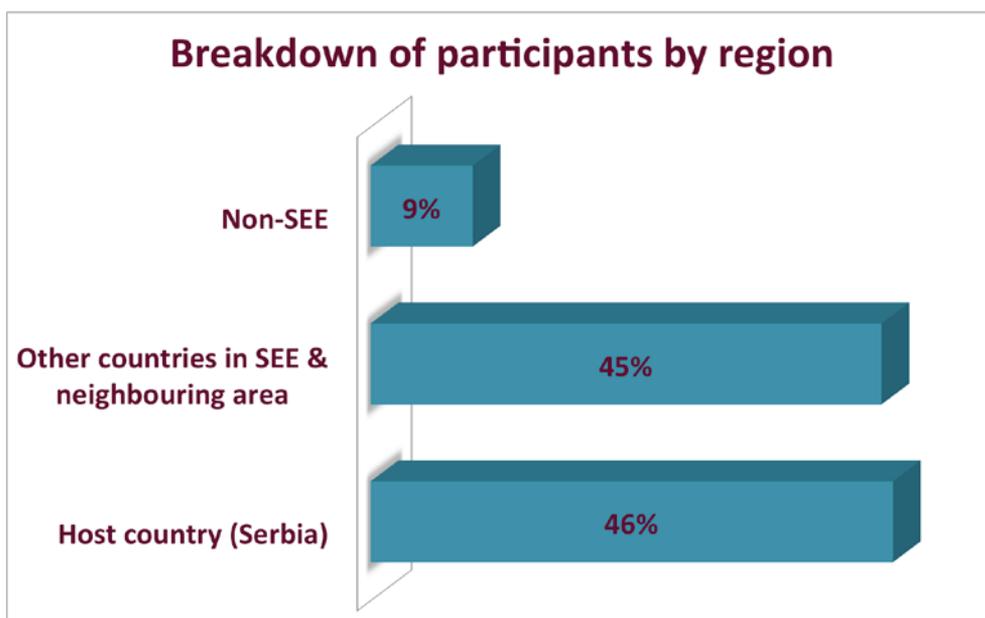
At European level, synergies are created between the SEEDIG and **EuroDIG** processes. For the 2016 cycle, the first step in this regard was represented by the joint call for issues for EuroDIG and SEEDIG. This joint for call issues was seen as a valuable exercise, as it created the framework for better understanding what Internet governance issues are seen as relevant both in South Eastern Europe and in the wider Europe. Further, efforts have been made to integrate SEEDIG (or, more specifically, SEE) views into the programme for the EuroDIG meeting, through a presentation of SEEDIG 2016 messages at EuroDIG (within a flash session) and the inclusion of SEE views into EuroDIG sessions that focus on topics also discussed at SEEDIG. To this aim, members of the SEEDIG community are encouraged to actively contribute to such sessions, in order to ensure that SEE views, perspectives and challenges are included into the discussions. These linkages are aimed to contribute to raising more awareness, at a broader European level, on Internet governance related concerns from SEE, as well as to creating/strengthening linkages between such regional concerns and realities, and the pan-European discussions on Internet related issues.

SEEDIG has also initiated a channel of communication with **national IGF initiatives in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area (already active or under formation)**. Starting December 2015, regular virtual meetings have been organised with interested national IGFs. 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 IGF initiatives, ways in which national IGFs could contribute to the SEEDIG process. Summaries of these meetings are [published online](#).

Representatives of the global IGF, EuroDIG and several national IGF initiatives also participated in the SEEDIG 2016 meeting (either on site or remotely). A joint meeting was organised during the day, and discussions were held on: the planning processes for the annual meetings of the national IGF initiatives, SEEDIG feeding into EuroDIG, and the importance of national and regional IGF initiatives to contribute to global IGF processes.

Attendance statistics

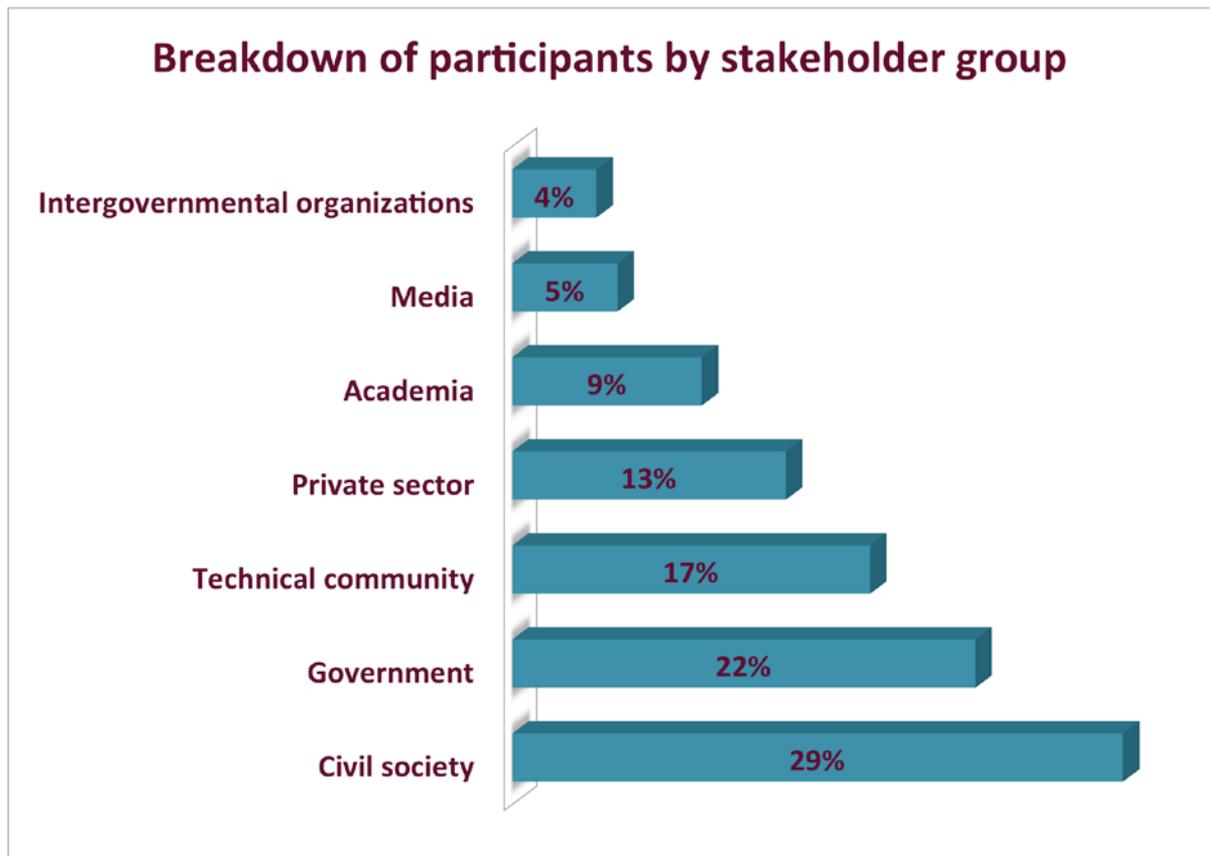
The SEEDIG 2016 meeting was attended by 116 on site participants, coming from a total of 22 countries: 16 countries from South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area (representing 91% of all participants), and six (6) countries from beyond the region (9% of all participants). Around 20 additional participants joined the meeting online, via the remote participation platform.



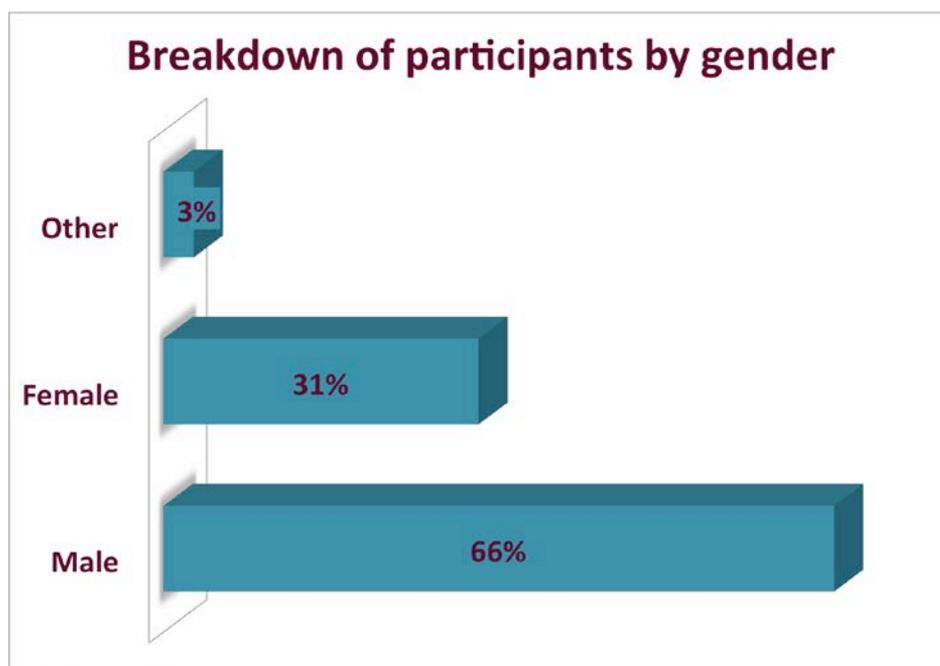
The countries that were represented at SEEDIG 2016 and could be considered as part of South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area are: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, and Ukraine.



All stakeholder groups were represented at the meeting.



In terms of gender representation, 66% of all participants were male, and 31% female. Ten percent (10%) of all participants were youth representatives.



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 2016 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 2016 to the current Internet governance challenges in SEE and the neighbouring area.



Relevance of the sessions to the current Internet governance challenges in SEE and the neighbouring area.



Content and format of the sessions.



Level of interaction between session panellists and participants.



How could SEEDIG become more relevant and attractive?

(thoughts from participants, extracted from the evaluation survey)

- *It might be interesting to bring people who deal with practical issues on the topics discussed - e.g. software engineers for security issues, professors for digital divide issues and so on.*
- *More regional cases (both success and failures - why the first ones succeeded and the later failed).*
- *Focus more to real and present issues for each country of the region.*
- *With an introductory session for newcomers and with session formats where people can freely discuss stringent issues or ask their questions.*
- *Perhaps policy recommendations or more best practice sharing. Understanding regional perspectives could also be beneficial.*
- *If it is recognized as important event by more governments from the region (high level event), with high-level commitment at the national level.*
- *National IGF initiatives and all other actors in the process of Internet governance should support SEEDIG activities in order to increase its reach and allow continuous operation.*
- *Perhaps by attracting more newcomers and participants from countries which were not well represented.*
- *Include more youth views in the panel as well as more diverse representatives from the actual region.*

Suggestions for inter-sessional activities

(thoughts from participants, extracted from the evaluation survey)

- *Webinars as a part of preparatory process studies and research could be useful in particular if those target the SEE region.*
- *Research and surveys could continue whenever there's an emerging and important issue in IG. These could accumulate to create a broader picture of the region in time.*
- *Something like the IGF best practice forums for the SEE region.*
- *Creation of a best practice guide – the components could be divided between countries.*
- *Ad-hoc consultations and exchange of views within the community.*
- *Follow up on national IGFs in the region and keep involved in EuroDIG.*

SEEDIG 2016 budget

SEEDIG is financed solely through donations and in-kind support from sponsors. A general overview of the costs involved in the preparation of the SEEDIG 2016 meeting is presented below:

BUDGET ITEM	Estimated costs (euro)	Actual costs (euro)
A. CRITICAL COSTS		
1. Logistics for the event	10000	8965
1.1. Conference room	500	600
1.2. Technical equipment and Internet	1400	1020
1.3. Webstreaming and recording	400	300
1.4. Catering (coffee breaks and lunch)	6000	5385
1.5. Printing material (event brochure, badges, etc.)	1500	1500
1.6. Other	200	160
2. Communication and outreach (website, printing material, etc.)	6000	150*
3. Travel support for SEE participants	15000	6000*
4. Other (unforeseen expenses)	2000	0
Total	33000	15115
B. ADDITIONAL COSTS (pending availability of funds)		
1. Social event(s)	7000	10000
2. Youth pre-event	10000	0
3. SEEDIG executive committee*	10000	0
Total	27000	10000
TOTAL	60000	25115

*Notes:

- Point A.2: The actual costs only include hosting for the SEEDIG website. There were no costs for building and managing the website, as this was done by members of the executive committee.
- Point A.3: A total of 16 participants from SEE and the neighbouring area received travel and/or accommodation support to attend the event. In addition, the travel and accommodation costs for four (4) members of the SEEDIG executive committee were also covered. The indicated amount is provisional at this stage, as reimbursements for sponsored participants are still being processed at the date of publication of this report.
- Point B.3: In the budget estimations put together before the meeting, this item was intended to cover costs related to participation of SEEDIG executive committee members in various Internet governance events.

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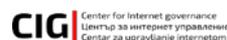
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Further details about SEEDIG 2016 are available at:

- Programme and session messages: www.seedig.net
- Video recordings: [Youtube channel](#)
- Photos: [Flickr account](#)

SEEDIG, as a process, welcomes all interested stakeholders.

- You can write to us at [see\[at\]intgovforum.org](mailto:see[at]intgovforum.org).
- You are welcome to join us in discussions via our social media channels:
 - [Twitter](#) - #SEEDIG2016
 - [Facebook](#)
- And you are invited to join our dedicated mailing list ([icann-see\[at\]rnids.rs](mailto:icann-see[at]rnids.rs)), at <http://mail-server.rnids.rs/mailman/listinfo/icann-see> (short URL: <http://bit.ly/1OSjd1J>)

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SEEDIG 2016 executive committee

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