



South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT: TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES



Ohrid, May 2017



SEEDIG third annual meeting

24–25 May 2017

Ohrid

Metropol Lake Resort

SEEDIG 

Host SEEDIG 2017



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In the digital era, challenges are nothing but possibilities

One of the most valuable human qualities is to be responsible. Living in the digital era is a big responsibility for all of us, irrespective of the 'hats' we wear as users, developers, regulators of digital technologies and services.

The Internet has evolved into one of the most important digital tools, one that has the potential of enabling growth and development. As the Internet is fast evolving, and so do its applications in various fields, we are witnessing the creation of a new world – the so-called *smart world*. Which brings both opportunities and challenges for all of us. It is our joint responsibility to contribute to open, inclusive, and multistakeholder Internet governance processes that can help shape policies and strategies empowering us to take full advantages of the opportunities and address the challenges.

Challenges are nothing but possibilities. Let us all responsibly face them and use them as opportunities that lie ahead of us, in the process of transforming the world in a better place for everyone.

As Nelson Mandela said: 'Information and communication technologies are the single most powerful tool we have for human progress.' I would add: Let's use it!

I strongly believe that SEEDIG will foster meaningful discussions and lead to important conclusions about how we, stakeholders in South Eastern Europe, can transform digital challenges into digital opportunities, as the theme of the event suggests. I encourage you all to engage in these discussions, and share your views and experiences.

Marta Arsovska-Tomovska
Minister of Information Society and Administration
Republic of Macedonia

Welcome to the SEEDIG community!

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 we 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.

The Agency for Electronic Communications is proud to host SEEDIG this year, in conjunction with our annual International Regulatory Conference. What waits for you is a couple of days of discussions and working sessions on topics such as NGA networks, OTT services, net neutrality, access and digital divide, human rights online, cybersecurity, and the Internet of Things, among others.

What I hope is that your involvement with SEEDIG will not end with the Ohrid meeting. So I welcome you not only as participants in the meeting, but also as members of our community. And I am looking forward to our work together.

Sasho Dimitrijoski

Director, Agency for Electronic Communications, Republic of Macedonia
Member of the SEEDIG executive committee

SEEDIG is setting itself as a model for the region and beyond

ICANN's mission is to help ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet, you need to type an address – a name or a number – into your computer or other device. That address must be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN helps coordinate and support these unique identifiers across the world.

ICANN was formed in 1998 as a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with a community of participants from all over the world. The ICANN community is a volunteer-based group of diverse stakeholders from across the world. They work together to give advice and develop policy within ICANN's mission.

To achieve its mission, ICANN relies on an open global community of stakeholders, driving the policies for the management of the Internet core functions.

Today ICANN continues to grow its community involved in the management of the Internet core functions, and in supporting the multistakeholder model that defines ICANN's work.

In doing so, ICANN supports national and regional initiatives promoting the multistakeholder 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.

Looking forward to seeing you in Ohrid!

Andrea Beccalli
Senior Manager Stakeholder Engagement – Europe
ICANN

South Eastern Europe is a particularly important region

Founded by pioneers of the early Internet, the Internet Society is the world's trusted independent source of leadership, engaging in a wide spectrum of Internet issues, including policy, governance, technology, and development for the last 25 years, with more than 80,000 members and supporters, more than 140 organisational members, 110 chapters, and offices around the world.

Our Regional Bureaus lead the Internet Society's mission at regional and local level. They undertake and support initiatives in each of the regions and advise Internet Society departments on policy, politics, technology, and culture-related issues that impact our work. The European Bureau aims to strengthen and broaden relationships with key stakeholders at European and national levels, while working with European decision makers to promote a realistic model of the Internet based on the values of openness and transparency.

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.

We want to make sure that your voice, expertise, and imagination can continue to develop the Internet, one of the greatest tools of our lifetime. We're committed to an Internet of opportunity for everyone, to increase trust in the Internet to deliver its full benefit and connecting the unconnected to enable economic, social, and human development. Together, we can make this happen. Join us at internetsociety.org.

Frédéric Donck
Director, European Regional Bureau
Internet Society

RIPE NCC is proud to support SEEDIG

The RIPE Network Coordination Centre is the oldest and largest of the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs). It administers Internet number resources to more than 15,000 members in Europe, the Middle East, and parts of Central Asia.

Our work is governed by policies developed by the RIPE community via open, transparent and bottom-up processes. The RIPE NCC provides neutral platforms for community interaction to develop Internet number policies and to share experience and ideas. We also participate in Internet governance discussions, ensuring that the perspective and experience of the RIPE community is included in those discussions.

We are 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. Once a year we organise a regional meeting in South East Europe. The next one will take place in Budva on 12–13 June 2017. You are very welcome to join us!

Gergana Petrova
Junior External Relations Officer
RIPE NCC

What is SEEDIG?

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

SEEDIG brings together representatives of governments, intergovernmental organisations, private sector, technical community, academia, and civil society, with the aim to facilitate multistakeholder discussions, exchanges, and collaboration on Internet-related issues that are of particular concern within the region.

SEEDIG 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 process

The initiative aims to function as a process that includes an annual meeting, as well as intersessional activities. This process is planned and run in a bottom-up, open, inclusive, and transparent manner, by a multistakeholder group of individuals from SEE and the neighbouring area (the SEEDIG community), with support from various regional and international entities.

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.

In addition to the annual meetings, SEEDIG also works towards engaging the regional community in **intersessional activities**. One such activity – *Internet governance developments in SEE* – is undertaken in collaboration with DiploFoundation and the Geneva Internet Platform, and it has two components:

- Monthly **summaries of Internet governance and digital policy developments** in the SEE region – published every last Monday of the month.
- Monthly **briefings** focusing on digital challenges in the region – held every last Tuesday of the month.



To read the summaries and join the hubs, visit:
<http://www.seedig.net/ig-developments-in-see/>

Digital development: turning challenges into opportunities

Pre-event 24 May	
08.30–13.00	SEEDIG Youth School
09.00–11.30	SEEDIG Fellowship Programme
11.30–13.00	Meeting of IGF initiatives
13.00–14.00	Lunch break
14.00–15.30	Internet governance: A puzzle or a Tower of Babel?
15.30–16.00	Coffee break
16.00–17.30	Need for speed: Broadband challenges, issues, and trends
17.30–18.30	SEEDIG association: discussion

SEEDIG Youth School

Launched this year, the School is a youth-focused SEEDIG initiative bringing together undergraduate and master students from countries in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area. The School, which is sponsored by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), is offering students a space to learn, network, exchange views, and prepare their own position to participate in the SEEDIG meeting.

SEEDIG Meeting Fellowship Programme

Also at its inaugural edition, the programme is focused on capacity development in the field of Internet governance and digital policy. Sponsored by the Internet Society, the initiative is mainly intended to strengthen the SEEDIG community and empower SEE actors to actively participate in national, regional, and international Internet governance and digital policy processes.

Main event | 25 May

09.00–09.30	Opening & Welcoming remarks
09.30–11.00	True or false? Guess! Fake news, misinformation, and the role of media literacy
11.00–11.30	Speakers' corner & Coffee break <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEE regional IoT and other capacity building activities• New generic top-level domains (new gTLDs)• How to cripple the Internet in 5 simple copyright reform steps
11.30–13.00	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	Internationalised Domain Names: Status and perspective in SEE
15.30–16.00	Speakers' corner & Coffee break <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile security and pen testing• Net neutrality and zero rating: Regulatory experience across Europe• Perspectives on e-voting in SEE
16.00–17.30	Cybersecurity: National and regional priorities and cooperation
17.30	Conclusions & Wrap-up

Looking ahead – SEEDIG 2017 messages

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

Next milestones

- Presentation of SEEDIG 2017 messages at the 10th EuroDIG meeting (6–7 June, Tallinn) and the 12th IGF meeting (18–21 December, Geneva).

How to get involved

- Join the SEEDIG community, by subscribing to our dedicated mailing list: goo.gl/jcAoMy.
- Contribute to our intersessional activities.
- Help us make SEEDIG grow and shape future SEEDIG activities – ideas are welcome!

Looking back – Who organised SEEDIG 2017 and how?

SEEDIG annual meetings are organised in a bottom-up, open, inclusive, and transparent manner, by the SEEDIG community, with support from beyond the region. Overall coordination of the process is done by a multistakeholder and regionally diverse executive committee.

Preparatory process for SEEDIG 2017	
Oct.–Dec. 2016	Joint SEEDIG – EuroDIG call for issues
14–15 Jan. 2107	Online planning meetings
28 Jan. 2017	Draft programme outline published
Until 5 Feb. 2017	Public comment on the draft programme
Mid Feb. 2017	Final programme outline published
Feb. 2017	Forming organising teams for sessions
Feb. – May 2017	Organising teams built the sessions

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 Miloshević, 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, Dušan Stojičević , Sorina Teleanu

Interns: Merve Küçükbatır, Paul Turcu

Special thanks to all our sponsors and supporting organisations.

Were you with us at previous SEEDIG meetings?

SEEDIG 2015 | 3 June | Sofia

Theme: Multistakeholder Internet governance: From global debates to South Eastern European realities

Main topics: Internet governance processes, mechanisms and approaches; human rights for Internet users; the domain name space in South Eastern Europe.

SEEDIG 2016 | 22 April | Belgrade

Theme: Can we SEE Internet governance?

Main topics: access and digital divide, human rights online, cybersecurity, net neutrality.



Working session on digital human rights at SEEDIG 2016 (22 April, Belgrade)

Useful information

Meeting venue

Metropol Lake Resort, Settlement Konsko, Ohrid 6000

Webstreaming and online participation

Remote participation is an integral part of SEEDIG. All sessions are web-streamed and online participation is available via Webex.

You can also join the discussions via Twitter: [#seedig2017](#)

Details: <http://www.seedig.net/online-participation/>

Social events

Welcoming Cocktail | 23 May | Metropol Lake Resort

Dinner | 24 May | Restaurant Biljanini Izvori

Dinner | 25 May | Restaurant Belvedere

Boat tour | 26 May

Details: <http://www.seedig.net/social-events-2017/>

Currency

Macedonian Denar

Useful links

About Ohrid – www.ohrid.com.mk

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Useful information

Contact

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Website
www.seedig.net



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