

**SEEDIG and national IGF initiatives in
South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area**

**Virtual meeting III
31 March 2016**

Summary

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The meeting was aimed to continue discussions on enhancing the communication between SEEDIG and national IGF initiatives, and to exchange information about updates from both SEEDIG and national IGFs.

1. Updates from SEEDIG

An update was given on the status of the preparatory process for the SEEDIG 2016 meeting (22 April, Belgrade, Serbia). Particularly, the [programme](#) published on the SEEDIG website was briefly represented. It was also mentioned that [online registration](#) is open and all participants are welcome to register for the upcoming meeting.

It was also announced that, thanks to donations from the Internet Society (ISOC Regional Bureau for Europe and ISOC Chapter in Serbia) and the Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA), a limited number of individuals from South Eastern Europe and the neighboring area could be funded to attend the SEEDIG 2016 meeting. The [eligibility criteria and application form](#) were made available on the SEEDIG website. Participants in the meeting were invited to apply for travel support, as well as to disseminate this information among their networks. It was noted that the deadline to apply for travel support was 3 April.

Participants were also reminded about the [SEEDIG Internet governance survey](#), which has been launched with the aim to better understand how Internet governance, in general, and Internet governance issues and processes, in particular, are perceived by the Internet community in South Eastern Europe and the neighboring area. The survey data will be compiled and reflected in a report to be presented at the SEEDIG meeting. IGF initiatives were kindly invited to contribute by filling in the survey, as well as promoting it among their networks.

2. Updates from national IGF initiatives

Participants from national IGF initiatives shared some updates about their planned activities.

- **Albania (planned IGF initiative).** A process has been initiated by the government to establish an institutional group that would deal with the organization of the national IGF. Some steps were also made to involve civil society organizations in the early phases of this process.
- **Armenia IGF.** The second annual meeting is scheduled to be held in October. The initiative's website is being updated, and a call for proposals for topics to be discussed at the meeting is to be launched on 1 April. The call will stay open for one month, and it will be followed by a voting process. Information about the call for topics will be sent to all stakeholder groups via different communication channels (including mailing lists). Based on the previous year's experience, the organizing committee will try to enhance the session planning process, by involving more community members.
- **Slovenia IGF.** A steering committee is working on the launch of the Slovenian IGF, which is planned to hold its first meeting in May. A dedicated webpage has been established and different stakeholders have been engaged into the process, particularly from government, technical community, academia, and civil society, in line with the main guidelines from the IGF Secretariat. It was noted that the Slovenian Government supports the national IGF, including through a financial contribution.
- **Croatia IGF.** Preparations for the second annual meeting of the national IGF are ongoing. The meeting is planned to take place on 1 June. The programme will be finalised soon and all information will be published on website and promoted via social media.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF.** The second annual meeting of the national IGF is tentatively scheduled to be held in October. At this stage it is planned to renew the organizational team, and involve all stakeholder groups in the planning process.
- **Belarus IGF.** Although the initiative was not represented on the call, some updates on the Belarus IGF were given. The first meeting of the national IGF is scheduled to be held on 17 May. The programme for the meeting is being developed and will be published on the initiative's website. In addition, invitations are being sent to participants, and the registration is open.
- Participants were told that a discussion had been held with members of the Georgian IGF initiative about the opportunity of organizing a webinar dedicated to discussions on Internet

governance processes, in general, and IGF initiatives, in particular. The aim of such a webinar would be to enhance the awareness and understanding of the local community about such processes, and to explain the mechanisms and rationale behind organizing a national IGF initiatives (the need to involve all stakeholder groups, why a national IGF is relevant, what would be the benefit of it, why the local community should be involved, etc.). It was suggested to all participants that, if there was interest in such webinars, SEEDIG was ready to organize them, and it would also invite the IGF Secretariat and EuroDIG to participate.

- Participants were reminded that SEEDIG has a [dedicated page for national IGFs](#) on its website, and they were invited to inform SEEDIG about the scheduled date of their corresponding IGF meetings, in order to have this announced on SEEDIG's website.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for late April or early May.