



# South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance

ArmSIG 2017  
21 July | Yerevan

[www.seedig.net](http://www.seedig.net)  
#SEEDIG2017

# About SEEDIG

# What is SEEDIG?

**A sub-regional IGF initiative dedicated to open, inclusive and informal dialogue on Internet governance issues among all interested stakeholders from South Eastern Europe (SEE) and the neighbouring area.**

## **Objectives:**

- Raise awareness and promote a better understanding of Internet governance among stakeholders from South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area
- Build or 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 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 annual meetings

- First meeting: 3 June 2015 | Sofia
- Second meeting: 22 April 2016 | Belgrade
- Third meeting: 24–25 May 2017 | Ohrid



# SEEDIG intersessional activities

- Monthly summary of Internet governance and digital policy developments and activities in the region  
(joint initiative with DiploFoundation and Geneva Internet Platform)

- Ten issues published (September – June)
- **Contribute!**

*Join us in preparing the next issue.*

*Send us updates about Internet governance developments and/or events in your countries.*

- <http://www.seedig.net/ig-summary/>

Issue no. 6 February 2017

Geneva Internet Platform **SEEDIG**  
Internet Governance  
in South Eastern Europe

A monthly overview of developments and activities related to internet governance and digital policy in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENTS

**Domain Name System**

In **Bulgaria**, several developments occurred over the past two months with regard to .rs - the country's top-level domain. In December 2016, the BULRI registry announced the introduction of an annual maintenance fee for .rs domain names, starting 1 July 2017. In reaction, several registrars sent a letter to BULRI and the Ministry of Communications and Information Society, asking for public consultations on the details of the measure. At the request of the ministry, the National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics (the entity hosting BULRI) annulled its decision. Meanwhile, the ministry announced plans to elaborate a law project on the administration of .rs, and launched a public consultation.

Also in **Bulgaria**, privacy and data protection concerns were raised following an announcement that the National Agency for Fiscal Administration would conclude an agreement with the National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics on the sharing of information regarding the registrants of .rs domain names. The Ministry of Communications and Information Society reacted saying that any such data transfer can only be done with the consent of the data subject. The Data Protection Authority also noted that registrants should be informed of any data transfer, and announced that it would open an investigation.

**Income.bg**, the registry operator for **Bulgaria's** .BG, has launched the sunrise period for the registration of domain names under the .se International Domain Name (IDN). The three-month period is intended to allow the registration of specific categories of domain names (reserved names, names representing countries, and regions and municipalities in Bulgaria, etc.), as well as the placement on a 'registration queue' of domain names already registered under .bg, and of domain names requested by trademark or other rights holders.

**Telecom operators' suffer losses** because of the over-the-top (OTT) services - Voicall MTS, one of **Armenia's** main telecom providers, understood during a meeting with the country's Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technologies. The company stated that users increasingly prefer OTT services to the development of additional telecom lines, but that providers of such services cut the existing internet infrastructure "without bringing any income to the state or to the operator". The minister pointed out that this situation is common around the world, and that telecom operators should focus on "investing in new technologies which will ensure the usage of new services".

**Taxi drivers in Croatia** are protesting against Uber, asking authorities to ban the platform from operating within the country. According to Croatian authorities, Uber is registered in the country solely for marketing and advertising activities, but the Uber application has been used by passenger drivers to find potential clients. This has led to substantive fines being imposed on such drivers for providing public passenger transportation services without the necessary license. Taxi drivers find these measures insufficient and ask for a total ban against Uber.

**The Georgian parliament** published a series of draft laws aimed to amend and enhance the country's legislation in the field of electronic communications. Some of the proposed amendments are intended to respond to a decision taken by the Constitutional Court in April 2016, according to which the unrestricted access to telecommunication and internet data by the Georgian security agency is small and medium sized telecom operators have expressed concerns over their ability to implement the proposed requirements, as well as over their responsibilities to be entrusted to the new Operational Technical Agency of Georgia.

On 25 January, **Greece** ratified the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and its Protocol on Ransomware and Ransom. The Convention on Cybercrime, formally adopted by the Council of Europe in 2001, is the first international treaty dealing with crimes committed via the internet and other computer networks. The Additional Protocol, adopted in 2013, concerns the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through internet and other computer systems.

A 31-year-old **Ukrainian** hacker, **Sergiy Varenko**, was sentenced to 41 months in prison in the USA for charges of aggravated identity theft and conspiracy to commit wire fraud. The hacker operated a botnet comprising more than 13,000 computers infected with malware, to gain unauthorized access to computers belonging to individuals and companies, and steal bank accounts details, debit and credit card numbers. Varenko also used several online hacking forums to traffic the stolen data.

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# SEEDIG intersessional activities

## □ SEEhub for Internet governance briefings

(joint initiative with DiploFoundation and Geneva Internet Platform)

- Briefing on regional Internet governance and digital policy developments
- Held every last Tuesday of the month, in Belgrade and online
- Back to back with the GIP global Internet governance briefing

□ <http://www.seedig.net/see-hub-for-ig-briefings/>



# SEEDIG intersessional activities

- Online meetings with national IGF initiatives from the region
- Surveys on Internet-related topics (IG, IDNs)
- Other? | *Suggestions are always welcome.*

# SEEDIG results

- As an IGF initiative, SEEDIG does not make decisions.
  
- Key messages from annual meetings:
  - ▣ Main takeaways, possible goals and proposals for future actions, as resulting from discussions
  - ▣ Distributed at national, regional and global level (including at EuroDIG and IGF)
  
- SEEDIG discussions and messages can help inform and influence decision-making processes within governmental entities, national parliaments, companies, regional organisations, etc.



# SEEDIG's relations with other IG spaces

## □ **Global level - IGF**

- The results of the SEEDIG discussions are conveyed to the IGF, as contributions from the SEE community.
- Contribution to IGF-led activities.

## □ **European level - EuroDIG**

- Synergies between the SEEDIG and EuroDIG processes
- Joint calls for issues for EuroDIG and SEEDIG; integrating SEE views into the EuroDIG discussions; etc.

## □ **National level – national IGFs**

- Periodic online meetings with national IGF initiatives (existing or under creation) from SEE and the neighbouring area.

- To the extent possible, SEEDIG is represented at meetings of the IGF, EuroDIG, and national IGF initiatives. In addition, members of the SEEDIG community try to meet face-to-face in the context of ICANN meetings and other IG spaces.

# Capacity development



**SEEDIG | Fellowship**

# SEEDIG Youth School

**SEEDIG Youth 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, whose inaugural 2017 edition is sponsored by **ICANN** is aimed at:

- raising awareness among students about Internet governance and digital policy issues;
- developing their capacities to contribute to Internet governance and digital policy debates, at national, regional, and global level;
- encouraging them to become active part of the SEEDIG community, and contribute to SEEDIG activities.

**SEEDIG Fellowship programme** is an initiative focused on capacity development in the field of Internet governance and digital policy. The Programme, whose inaugural edition is sponsored by the **Internet Society**, is intended to:

- Support SEEDIG's efforts to develop the capacity of regional stakeholders to actively participate in national, regional, and international Internet governance and digital policy 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 inter-sessional activities.

# Get involved!

- Subscribe to our dedicated mailing list (<http://bit.ly/1OSjd1J>). A good starting point to raise your voice.
- Contribute to the monthly summary.
- Join the monthly SEEhub briefing.
- Contribute your views and experience to the overall SEEDIG process.
- Help us spread the word about SEEDIG and attract more participation.
- Promote the messages from SEEDIG annual meetings within your communities. Be the link!
- How can SEEDIG be more attractive and relevant? Your ideas are always welcome.

# Thank you!

## Find us online:

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