BARCELONA – SEEDIG Outreach Session
Tuesday, October 23, 2018 – 10:30 to 12:00 CEST
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: ICANN63 SEEDIG Outreach Session on the 23rd of October, 2018 from 10:30 to 12:00 in Room 127-128.

ANDREA BECCALLI: Good morning. Bonjour. Chengetai, many friends around, good morning. I'm glad, I'm happy, I'm honored to host for, what, fourth time, fourth year.

SORINA TELEANU: Fourth.

ANDREA BECCALLI: Fourth year, the SEEDIG Session of the ICANN meeting and it's great to see this community growing, not only within ICANN, but more importantly, getting more cohesive in the region, organizing an event that is, by the year, improving, getting more substantial in terms of agenda, innovating the way it is organized, bringing some new people with the Youth School and activities and enlarging also the base of those international [inaudible] sponsors that make SEEDIG happening.

I think SEEDIG is an experiment in process and it will continue to evolve and I think it's a great platform for ICANN to engage with its

community, but also to move the discussion beyond, more close to the region where the issues are, beyond the DNS and the challenges of the Internet. The governance of the Internet and the policies of the innovation are, by the day, more complex, more relevant, more visible. There is no day now that I look into my New York Times or any other news outlet up and I don't see any article about the influence of social media or how can we tackle the fake news or how the elections in Brazil was to bring the country towards almost a dictatorship and the role social media played, and I was like, "Wow, we were discussing these things some time ago, and it's glad to see this discussion growing."

But now the challenge is, okay, how do we move this discussion into the next phase, how does the multi-stakeholder model that we cherish in ICANN is also replicated at the larger level and implemented to something more than just a confidence and I think this is a great platform to see that.

While I see in the room that there are representatives from an organization like ISOC, like EuroDIG or formerly IGF, now Global Commission on Member Something, Regional Cooperation. We like to get always with new names.

And I see them here and I'm pleased because I think it's already a commission of the value of this. So without taking more time – I can take the whole hour if I can just stop – I'll let Sorina and Sasho to take the lead of the session.

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I think it's just brainstorming, but also as many of you received an e-mail that there would be a host for the 2019 SEEDIG, which is Romania, which is a key country, also [inaudible]. I mean, I remember reading just a few weeks ago about protests in Romania and the role of the news and the fake media played in those protests.

I think we have the value in this group of people, in this collective intelligence, not only to assess and to see these things coming, but to move a bit forward into the policymaking and to innovate the government. That's something that we are struggling every day in ICANN. We see. I don't know how many of you have been to the GAC session or the 100 sessions on GDPR. The base is a problem of governance and how do you tackle decisions that, by nature, global interest national with a form of governance, it's by far still statebound. And SEEDIG is not statebound at all. Actually, it's open. This Board is quite open. It looks like the early days of the European integration when everybody was welcome. Now it looks like people want to leave, but that's not the case here. I think more people that wants to come and join.

So Sasho, Sorina, how do you want to lead the discussion?

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Andrea. Good morning, everyone. Serena Teleanu, Chair of the Executive Committee of SEEDIG. We'll have, I would say, a rather informal session. We have some slides for those of you who are rather newcomers to SEEDIG, but before we go into that, let's have a quick

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round of introductions so we all get to know each other. And Siranush?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Siranush Vardanyan from Armenia.

FRÉDÉRIC DONCK: I was waiting for her to tell me that I should.

SORINA TELEANU: Frédéric, please.

FRÉDÉRIC DONCK: Thank you. Frédéric Donck, Internet Society.

SANDRA HOFERICHTER: Sandra Hoferichter, EuroDIG.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible], EuroDIG.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE: Chris Buckridge from the RIPE NCC.

ALENA MURAVSKA: Alena Muravska, RIPE NCC.

ALEXANDRA KULIKOVA: Alexandra Kulikova, ICANN.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Carmen [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [inaudible], I'm with ICANN Communications Team.

STEFAN FILIPOVIC: Stefan Filipovic, participant from Serbia.

MARIA KORNIIETS: Maria Korniiets, NextGen participant from Ukraine, Youth IGF Movement.

SASHO DIMITRIJOSKI: Sasho Dimitrijoski, Executive Committee member.

ANDREA BECCALLI: Andrea Beccalli, ICANN.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [Inaudible], ICANN.

JANA MISIC: Jana Misic, NextGen here but also was interning for SEEDIG this year.

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VALENTINA STADNIC: Stadnic Valentina, Moldova Fellow.

NENAD ORLIC: Nenad Orlic from Serbia.

CHENGETAI MASANGO: Chengetai Masango, High Level Panel for Digital Cooperation and IGF Secretariat.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [inaudible] from Armenia, Domain Register Company.

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN: Kristina, I am from Armenia, Global AM LLC, also a fellow for ICANN63 and former fellow for SEEDIG2018.

OLIANA SULA: Oliana from Albania, fellow to ICANN and former fellow to SEEDIG this year.

TETIANA KYRYLIUK: Tetiana Kyryliuk, Ukraine, civil society representative.

MONIKA KYRYLIUK: Monika Kyryliuk, Ukraine, [inaudible] member, SEEDIG Editorial Team.

DESARA DUSHI: Desara Dushi, former fellow, NextGen Ambassador, Academia.

SORINA TELEANU: Thanks, everyone. I know some of you are new to SEEDIG, so that's why we're going to go through some of these slides, but before I go that, many thanks to our supporting organizations for being here. I know you all have a lot of other things to do this week so I really, really appreciate your time. Thanks a lot.

Jana, let's go quickly through some of the slides.

So we'll tell you a bit about what SEEDIG is doing and trying to do, but please stop me at any point with questions, comments, suggestions, anything you might want to add. I don't want to be the one talking too much in this session, so pretty please.

So SEEDIG is the acronym for the Southeastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance, which is a subordinate IGF initiative launched in 2015. During the four years of existence, we have changed quite a lot. Our mission, vision, the things we want to do in the region so that the newest possible version, I would say, I'll go quickly through them.

And this is also related to why we wanted to create a platform for dialogue and cooperation on digital policy issues in the region, and by region, I mean Southeastern Europe and the neighboring area, and I'll go a bit into that later.

So our belief in SEEDIG is that digital technologies have an important role to play in the stable economic and social development of the

region. And in line with this belief, our vision is that for healthy, sustainable and inclusive digital advancement of the region, and the mission is to support such digital advancement through facilitating dialogue and cooperation on digital policy issues among all stakeholders in the extended region.

Jana?

So I see Southeastern Europe and the neighboring area, we have never, ever actually went into defining the region. We don't say, "These are the countries that belong to SEEDIG." What this map is showing is the countries that are usually participating in SEEDIG activities.

Everyone is open, welcome to join us at any point from these countries in red there or from any other neighboring countries. As I've said, we do not define the region, not to go into political complications. So Southeastern Europe and the neighboring area, a wide concept, welcoming Australia as well.

To fulfill the mission that I have just read earlier, we do or plan to do a couple of things related to, as I've said, providing a platform for dialogue and collaboration on digital policy issues through annual meeting and what we call intercessional activities, the one happening between two annual meetings, raising awareness and trying to promote a better understanding on digital policy issues among original stakeholders, strengthening the capacity of the original stakeholders to contribute to Internet governance and digital policy processes, nationally, regionally and internationally, supporting local

and national initiatives, contributing to regional and international ones, and building partnership with entities that help us fulfill the mission, and again, thank you for that. We can go next.

As I've said, we are a subregional Internet Governance Forum initiative recognized as such by the IGF Secretariat, and we do operate in line with the four key IGF principles being multi-stakeholder, open, inclusive and transparent and that's why our community is always open and anybody is welcome to join at any point.

How do we do things? Who's running the process? Who's doing the activities? We have the so-called SEEDIG community. That's basically all of you, our supporting organizations, people from the region, our editors for this year's summary fellowship, alumni, youth and everyone else who's coming to our meetings and participating in our activities.

We have a mailing list, which for a while, has been the main communication channel. Now we also have an improved website. But if you are not yet subscribed to our mailing list, please go to SEEDIG.net mailing list and join us. That's how we keep in touch. We tell our community about things we are doing and they are also letting us know about things they are doing.

So with this community-driven process, everything starts bottom, up, and then we have an Executive Committee. Sasho and I are members of that and then we have three other colleagues from Ljubljana, Slovenia, Armenia and Turkey. And what we do is to facilitate all these activities. Jana, you can go.

Probably the most interesting part about the Executive Committee is that we had an election process, so the five of us are actually elected by the Executive Committee. It took us four years to go through an election process but we did get there and we are pretty proud of going through that process. It was a really interesting experience.

And it is not only us doing things. We are also assisting all our work by interns, web admins, the editors, so thank you everyone for that.

We'll go quickly through our activities and the key element of our process is the annual meeting where we try to bring together stakeholders from the region and from around the region, from our international partners to discuss about digital policy issues which are of relevance for the region and to foster dialogue and collaboration between regional stakeholders. Everything from digital divide to artificial intelligence has been discussed at our meeting, and at the end, we have the SEEDIG messages following the model of EuroDIG messages summarizing the discussions.

We had four annual meetings so far. The first one was in 2015 and it was in collaboration with EuroDIG, so we had a joint meeting. They kindly hosted our event then and that's how SEEDIG actually started. And then we had three other meetings in Belgrade, in Ohrid, and in Ljubljana, '16, '17, and '18 and we're now starting the preparations for the fifth annual meeting, but more about that a bit later.

We also have capacity development programs and these are part of the intercessional activities, things we try to do between two annual meetings and then also connect them to the annual meetings. Again,

we're trying to raise awareness on digital policy issues of relevance for the region and help stakeholders from the region be better prepared to participate in national, regional, and international process focused on digital policy and Internet governance.

So we have the fellowship program. You've heard from some of our fellows what they do. They have a couple of online meetings before the annual SEEDIG meeting. They get to know each other. They get to know more about SEEDIG, and then they come. At SEEDIG, they have a one-day session dedicated only to them discussing digital policy issues, having debates on conferences and things like that.

We had two additions of the SEEDIG fellowship. We have had 30 fellows from 12 countries, and for this many things to ICANN, RIPE and the Internet Society for the sponsorship, this is how this program has been possible. Also, the SEEDIG Youth School, which is dedicated to young people from our region, to students, more or less similar. They have online preparatory meeting before the annual SEEDIG meeting, then they get together and have pretty interesting debates. This year, they were facilitated the Internet Society and ICANN, and yeah, I think they went well. So we had 29 students from ten countries.

And as Jana said, we also have an internship program. Young people from the region helping us with our work and doing quite amazing. Thank you, Jana, for that since you're the only one on here.

We had five interns from five countries in two years and we'll launch a new goal for the applications at the beginning of the next year. So if

you know anyone who would want to contribute to that, please spread the word. Jana?

We also do publications and regional surveys. For example, we have the so-called Southeastern European Summary. Every month, we go through what's happening in the region, good and bad things, digital policy related and then we put them together in the Southeastern European Summary which is published at the end of each month. Olga is a member of that [inaudible] team, together with 12 other editors from nine countries and they are all doing this on a volunteer basis based on their expression of interest. Olga and the rest of the team, thank you for that.

And we also do regional surveys before each annual meeting. We try to get the feeling of our regional community on certain digital policy issues, which are then discussed at the annual meeting. The first one was in 2016. We were trying to understand a bit how the community sees Internet governance. Then last year, we had a survey on IDNs, Internationalized Domain Names, and this year, on broader digitalization and digital policy issues. And as we go ahead with the planning process for 2019, we'll have another regional survey before the meeting on a topic to be determined.

As I've said, we're also working on connecting with global, regional and national Internet governance initiatives. We are working on contributing to EuroDIG and the global IGF. We have linkages with EuroDIG. As many of you probably know, we have the joint [inaudible] issues and that's just one example of us working together. We then go

at EuroDIG meeting with SEEDIG messages and try to present a bit the view of Southeastern European community. We're looking into building some more strengthened relations between our Youth School and the EuroDIG so things are going in that direction, trying to create some sort of more linkages between the two processes and making sure that our voice is a bit more represented in the European process. And when I say "our", I mean southeastern Europe, not SEEDIG as such.

And then we support national IGF initiatives within our region. There are quite many national initiatives around there. Some of them even say they have been inspired by SEEDIG, which makes us proud and we are always happy to go and support them in any way we can other than financial, of course, unfortunately. Jana?

And other than all of these activities, we're looking into launching some other activities, hopefully in cooperation with our partners. We're trying to do more things within the region at the national level, for example, going in a country and having workshops with students on Internet governance in [usual] policy issues, or with RIPE. For example, I was just talking to Chris the other day on trainings with law enforcement authorities or on accessing databases and things like that, so we're exploring new ways in which we can actually contribute to making a difference in the region and making people more aware of what's happening in the digital policy, Internet governance world. Jana?

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So on the recognition that we are having our fifth annual meeting, which is an anniversary meeting in Bucarest, in Romania. It's going to be in early May 2019. The date, the exact date is still to be confirmed, but as it was the case this year, it will be a three-day event. The first day, it will be dedicated to the fellowship program and the Youth School, and then a two-day event focused on digital policy issues based on what the community is telling us as part of the [call for] issues.

And we already have the support of four important, I would say, entities in Romania and we're also looking into bringing other stakeholders on board. But as of now, we have the Parliament of Romania through the Committee on Information Technology and Communications in the Chamber of Deputies, we have the Minister of Communications and Information Society, and we have someone from the ministry here now, the National University of Political Science and Public Administration and the Association for Technology and the Internet.

In November, we'll have an outreach meeting in Romania inviting more local stakeholders to talk a bit about SEEDIG and see how they can contribute. As I've said, we have a joint call for issues with EuroDIG, which is still open. So any suggestions you might have for topics you would want to discuss, both at SEEDIG, but also at EuroDIG next year, which is going to be in Hague, and in [June] if I'm not wrong, please go online and submit your topics. You can submit the same topic for both meetings. You don't have to go through the same thing

twice so we're supposed to be an easy process for you and Sandra is going to share more about EuroDIG.

So call for issues, please go online and let us know what you would like us to discuss at the meetings. You still have time until 30 November, but we do count on you.

What happens after the call for issues and it's the actual planning process for the meeting. We have various stages like an online planning meeting in December. Then we have a draft program published and put there for public comment. The final program is finalized and then we have organizing games, again volunteer-based, which are working on the sessions.

So for that, we also count on you. It's not only submitting a topic but then also working on putting the session together and some of you here have been part of the SEEDIG organizing team and I thank you also for that.

And that's basically a very quick overview of the planning process. We have program guidelines and session principles and things that our organizing teams all act in line with, but everything else is bottom-up and driven by the community. Jana?

And the last part is about supporting SEEDIG and if we go a bit down, we have our main supporting organizations, some of them being here: ICANN, the Internet Society, RIPE, IGFSA, the Council of Europe, [Deepla] Foundation, European Commission, EuroDIG, ETNO, ICC BASIS, and the IGF Secretariat. Once again, many thanks for all your

support. SEEDIG wouldn't have gotten to prepare its fifth meeting without your support, so thanks again for that and we do hope we can continue to count on this support.

Other than that, we are actively seeking to get support from other organizations, entities, and also within the region. You probably noticed on the slide above that we have a lot of support, but most of it is international and European, not so much within our region so we're working on that. We're looking, for example, into getting in touch with the Regional Corporation Council. Some of you may know about the Southeastern Europe Corporation process, so we'll see how that works. And any other idea you might have, just please let us know and we would be happy to reach out to other people. Jana?

How to support SEEDIG, there are many, many ways and I'll just read the headings quickly, participating in the annual meeting, and I can go through them quickly.

Becoming a SEEDIG partner, as I've said, we have the supporting organizations, we have sponsors, we have institutional partners at the national level, and supporting our capacity development efforts, that's a very important part because we do hope and aim to focus more on this kind of activities, doing more capacity development in our region and at national level in addition to what [inaudible] doing in connection to the annual meeting. Jana?

And we are always open to and happy to discuss new projects we could launch together with other partners, which have an impact or could have an impact in the region. So once again, it's a process we

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are trying to work on and any common sense suggestions from you are welcome, especially when it comes to anything from our region. We can go next.

So those were the main points about SEEDIG, what we have been doing, what we would like to do, what are our plans and hopes for the future, I would say. I would stop here and see if you have any comments or questions or concerns before we go into some of the questions on the slide. Anything I've missed, things you would want to know more about?

That's a lot of silence. Nothing? Please.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So with Andrea's support, we have been following closely as the Coms team, the SEEDIG and the Youth School and I see that the strongest point about SEEDIG has been its focus on the youth and engagement with the youth and education. I was wondering with the youth, what are the backgrounds of the participants mostly? Is it legal, engineering? If you could share that.

SORINA TELEANU: This year, we got applications from 80 students which was quite impressive for us for a regional where we still say it's not so much a word of Internet governance and digital policy, and they did come from many, many backgrounds. We had computer science, of course, and mathematics, but also political sciences, legal studies, economics, social sciences. What else, Jana?

And when we selected the candidates and the one that actually went into the school, we tried to create a bit of a balance between the various fields so it's not all of them computer scientists or all of them political scientists.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thanks, Sorina. Do you have information, data, on the distribution of participants per country and how this has changed maybe over years?

SORINA TELEANU: We do. We do have stats at the end of each meeting and they are published on the SEEDIG website. I don't think I can tell you on the top of my head how that is but happy to share.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Is there any obvious majority or minority that you can remember?

SORINA TELEANU: Yes. I think we have a lot of participation from what is called Western Balkans and then Romania in that part there, but going eastern is a bit more complex, so any support in that region would be very much welcome.

Anyone? Anything else?

I was either very clear or very confusing. Ah-ha.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I just want to say that, oh, Alexandra is gone. That's okay. Yeah, I will still say it. I am happy that Maria is here, for example. She is also Next Gen. Sorry for doing this, but she was organizing the Ukrainian IGF and I think it's very nice that you're here and that then we can seek to expand further than just the western Balkans when it comes to participation because that is very [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you. That would be great. I actually co-organized the Youth IGF this year together with my colleagues from Organizing Committee who are also here. So yeah, that's great, and also that you do the summer school on Internet governance. I guess I've been dreaming about having something like that in Ukraine, I think would help this. So that would be nice. Thank you.

SORINA TELEANU: I'm having another look in the room. I don't see any hands, no one wanting to say anything so I am going to ask questions and hoping someone will try to answer those.

As Andrea also mentioned and as it has been said a couple of times, or more times in this four years of SEEDIG, we are an ongoing process and we do strive to get better with every year and to do things that really have some sort of a meaning in the region and not just have SEEDIG or annual meetings or whatever else we're doing for the sake of having an occupation and things to do for some of us. And that's why we need your feedback, we need your input, we need you to tell

us what else SEEDIG can do or what SEEDIG can do better to achieve that nice vision of healthy sustainable digital advancement of the region.

You've seen what we're doing. Many of you already know SEEDIG. How else we can contribute to the digital advancement of the region? What else can we do at the regional level, at the national level, with different stakeholder groups? How can we improve our work? Sandra?

SANDRA HOFERICHTER: Sandra Hoferichter from EuroDIG. We are in constant exhange with the SEEDIG Executive Committee how we can align our processes, how can we collaborate so that we are not two parallel tracks, but that we find ways where we cross all our processes again and again.

One thing that I, as speaking for EuroDIG, would wish is that the SEEDIG community participates more, also then in the EuroDIG because this year we, on purpose, made a bit of a distance in-between the two meetings so that really the results from the south region, from the southeastern European region can feed into the pan-European dialogue.

So far, there was a little bit of a lag and events were a bit too separated, I would say, and the good results, that's quite a big region, the southeastern European region, but they were still under-represented when it comes to the EuroDIG. But here it is really on you, on the participants to sign up for an Org team that might have parallels to a session you helped [inaudible] for SEEDIG, and then

really helped to transmit the messages from the southeastern European region to the pan-European forum.

And I know this is not a job the Executive Committee can do. This is really something that must be accomplished by the community that is shaping the SEEDIG program and then helping to shape the EuroDIG program as well. This is the only way how you can make the voice of SEEDIG heard on a national – sorry, on a regional level and I guess the same applies for the global level as well, submitting the messages into the broader environment. I know how hard this is. We also are still finding the right recipe, how to submit the European messages into the global IGF, but I think we should really not lose that focus because this is what it is all about, coming from the national level to the subregional, regional, global, and so on and so forth because that, what's taking place on a national and sub-regional level should be really heard on the global level as well.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Sandra, and that was one of the reasons why SEEDIG was created, because it was felt that point, that the voice of the southeastern European community in European and global processes needs to be strengthened a bit and we should try to contribute to that and that [inaudible] addresses it is a community process so we count on you for that as well. Frédéric?

FRÉDÉRIC DONCK: First, thank you for this. While I believe the question that you have there, a question that any organization should answer regularly. It's value for you, it's value for ICANN, and for the Internet Society, so those are very good questions. I believe that what you're saying, [it all makes] SEEDIG or keeps SEEDIG relevant in the region.

First, you said it with quite much humor. It's open to everybody, but let's try to define what is the region and who is to ay some words in there so I know that there is an endless discussion about what's the Balkans, what is southeastern Europe. We might be flexible, as we always are in this community, but let's focus on those countries that we believe are the key ones.

The second one is the relevance. We had several discussions at the last SEEDIG that I attended, we launched some new kind of topics, remember, on youth, why do regions doesn't succeed to keep their [brains], that kind of migration issues. I believe there is some relevance there. There might be others.

Maybe the best way to check it is to tell people what is relevant for you in your community and then focus. That's maybe the second word that is of importance when trying to be relevant and focused. You might have a lot of people who might not like it, but at the end of the day, SEEDIG might be relevant if we focused on two or three key issues that people know they might debate and discuss in a very thorough way and they leave the room with something that is relevant for them.

So I believe the community is very rich. Honestly, the Balkans and this part of the world is known for having very young activists and a

vibrant community. We need to build on this. Those people know better than even us what it is that is relevant for them and government better listen to this. And I believe they will if they tell them, "This comes straight from your constituents." So maybe let's start with this and then focus and then say, "We will address those issues," but in such a deep way that people will really learn something important for them at all levels.

Romania is an extraordinary opportunity. Congratulations for picking up that country. We discussed this. This is something that is both relevant in terms of the European Union, in terms of the role of Romania, in terms of the Balkans, so we have a unique opportunity to have an agenda that might fit and be of interest of countries, who still they are the only one in the world wants to get into the European Union when everybody wants to get out of the European Union. So there is maybe something to leverage here. I find it fantastic that there is a vibrant community who says, "Hey, we need to address those kinds of issues." So that is the kind of strategic discussion that we would need to have and I'm happy that you give us this opportunity. Thank you.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Frédéric. The keyword I draw from everything you said is "focus" and we will be looking into focusing more on topics, on people, on countries, on stakeholders, and then about Romania. Yes, as many of you probably know, the country is going to have the presidency of the counsel of the EU in the first half of next year and we

are going to work with the ministry of communications and information society on creating linkages between SEEDIG and the digital policy-related events hosted there. They have some events focused on the Eastern Partnership Corporation [Country] on western Balkans so we're trying to bring this different communities in the new language together in the context of SEEDIG and new presidency activities.

Anything else from anyone else on this question? Olga?

OLGA KYRYLIUK: Olga Kyryliuk, Ukraine. You know, Sorina, I'm thinking that at the end, [inaudible] region is not the easiest one, in general, to make people engage all together in the [inaudible]. So I'm looking into my experience and I first started with some global meetings and then I understood that there is something happening in the region like SEEDIG and I'm really very happy that this is the case because, indeed, we need first to start with those who are sharing the same challenges as we do in our countries.

And also, I think to make people more engaged, we should have sessions like this. For example, I'm truly happy that SEEDIG has now at ICANN this outreach session because probably there are people who are hearing about SEEDIG for the first time and it would be also the opportunity for them to engage further with us.

And also, I know that we can't oblige people to do [further] something after they attend SEEDIG but maybe we can also make this point clear

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that in order to strengthen the community in the region, once they come back after the SEEDIG to their respective countries, maybe they can have some outreach sessions on their own with their local level groups, communities, and engage more people into the regional level because at the end, if we will keep it as the closed group of people, fine. We will welcome the issues, we find the solutions but then it does not really help to enrich the region as such.

So I can promise from my side to try to do something like that, but at the end, when you come to the national level, it also needs this critical mass of people who have the same intentions. But at least, we can try to do that.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Olga. And that also answers the second question on the screen, how to strengthen the SEEDIG community. And connected to what you have just said, we are trying to have these kind of meetings at ICANN and the Global IGF. We haven't tried at other processes because we're not very much aware of what our community members are doing and that's another problem we have been having and we're trying to work on that, to encourage people from our community more to tell us about what they're doing and how they can use what they're doing to strengthen SEEDIG and promote it and bring something back.

And we're looking into launching sort of a new program. Maybe program is too big of a word, but it will be something like an ambassadorship program. WE will invite people to apply for that, mostly for alumni of the Youth School and Fellowship Program. We

will select some of them based on their expression of interest and what they would have to do, basically, is to be SEEDIG ambassadors at national level. And I think the national level at the events they take part in. And in return, since we don't have much money, what we can offer is the probably nice title of SEEDIG Ambassador and then attend [inaudible] annual meeting. So we hope that will help a bit more also, and then we are looking into activating a bit more the mailing list which has been quite silent for a while.

Any other comments? We also have a question at the bottom of the screen, how to make SEEDIG more sustainable. Andrea?

ANDREA BECCALLI: Thank you, Sorina. Actually, I have answers for all the three.

A little disaster already. I [inaudible] the coffee on the business card. It is magic.

Okay. So one of the strengths of the SEEDIG community and organization, even looking around, is the age group, is by far, the youngest and more gender balanced in the whole [IG embattlement] and that's something that's extremely powerful because for how much myself and all of us keep ourselves updated and try to see what's going on, our brain gets less and less elastic by time and less exposed to what's coming up. So this is something that I think SEEDIG has a tremendous power on, powerbase to try on.

The other thing I think it's important for SEEDIG to send messages up via EuroDIG, via IGF. But it is at least as important to be the spearhead

into the region because in the region, I fear you are the forefront of this discussion, or sometimes there are other people that are having this discussion but they're not as connected to the global discussion. So probably one of the challenges for SEEDIG is to be and look into different countries on where the discussion is happening and how it can be channeled through SEEDIG and how also SEEDIG be a platform for finding solutions.

One thing that we found and I think Chengetai's new work would be again on that is that finding solution of the global [inaudible] for decisions is getting more and more complicated. And it's still a goal to look at, but the challenges are growing by the day.

Trying to find solutions at the local level and the regional level is probably something more at reach and if these solutions are good and they become best practices, they turn into a global… Look at the GDPR here, how suddenly something that has been in the making of a small group of countries became a global standard. So I will see as in the tradition of SEEDIG, of experimenting, to go into this direction and see how it can be more effective into the country and how do you do that? Well, connect with the policymaking of the countries/ Connect with business sectors of the country.

And here is the second challenge is that how do you sustain that? SEEDIG is by far a voluntary-based organization and for how much we get support from the international organizations that believe in SEEDIG and see the value. In the long term, the sustainability, and

that's a fair question, will be assured by the local buy-in and the local businesses. They have to see what is the value.

So I think if you play the first match and spearheading into one country and getting yourself seen and saying, "Look, we are discussing something," involving the policymakers, the MPs, the business trade associations, the civil society groups that are fighting and say, "Look, we can give you a platform which has global exposure with some little funding, but with you, we probably can tackle one single issue." So you can say, as you said, focus is a keyword and you have to focus on what probably all the SEEDIG's additions and all the service options that on what is a trait and what is relevant in those countries, and these are common traits.

Then the other part that I think SEEDIG has a great strength is the education part, is the school. So I was myself amazed by the numbers of applicants that applied for the SEEDIG school last year, 80, and that was the second year that the school was on. ISO and myself, we organized a school on Internet governance and Internet challenges here in Barcelona and I was amazed how still in the academic world, there is little of programs that tackle those issues in a comprehensive way because from the technical to the governance to the innovation, I put them, everything, together. This is [inaudible] annual could be a working group, a sub-working group of some of you that says, "Let's see how we can expand the education, how can we involve local universities." In my experience, when you go to a university and say, "We would like to organize something like that, we have some experts," they are very interested.

I put 3,000 Euros in a school here, a local bank put 4,000 Euros for that and the school said, "We'll give you the rooms for free." Another school said, "We'll send a professor. We won't charge." There is a lot of demand. There's a good market and SEEDIG has experience and this is something that I think you can find value and then try to build on that to get more sponsorship.

Then one thing that has been missing and we are all bad at that is the media outreach, is getting the word out. Nobody in this community is very media friendly. We started, Twitter wasn't invented here, Facebook wasn't invented. That's the DNS. And now [inaudible] left, now we see with the support of media, many of you were born with a smart phone in your hand and you should teach us on how to make the most out of that with traditional [inaudible], not a mobile phone.

What else? Now [inaudible]. I think I covered more or less all.

On my side, and I try to do that last year. I'll do by best to involve other global organizations that are active in this field. I'm thinking about the GSNA or the Digital Europe, that have a global reach and have contacts. So we weren't that successful as here. We will go back to that. But I think it's key to move the dependency of the global organizations because that's also how you make the impact and ensure that the community grows beyond the 120 and gets more into the different countries.

So these are my thoughts for now. I hope they are useful.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Andrea. Anything else? Now I'll try to follow-up quickly on some of the things that Andrea has said.

Yes, we do need more regional support. I've mentioned this briefly earlier and this is something we will work actively on as we prepare the next year's meeting in Romania and we count on governmental support for that and then we'll try and get engaged with local business stakeholders in Romania and see how we can expand regional cooperation out of that. This has been a challenge for SEEDIG. You have seen this light with our supporting organizations. Some of those supporting organizations are also sponsors and all of them are from the international level.

This year we did a great step ahead, I would say. We had half of the budget contributed by local sponsors in Slovenia which was really amazing for us and it was the first time when we actually managed to do that to raise so much money at the local level and we hope we will be able to build on that practice and gain more local support, but also within the region. So any suggestions from you on that, entities, organizations, companies we can reach out to, those suggestions are always welcome and you know how to reach out to us.

Speaking about the Youth School and getting universities on board, again, we're trying to start some sort of new activities and we will do that as we go ahead with the planning process for Romania. We have the National University of Political Studies as a local partner so we are looking into organizing some events for students there in Romania before January meeting and then use that as a sort of an example to

go around the region and try introduce learnings with the other universities for students.

And talking about the Youth School, we are also looking into expanding it a bit more. I have mentioned that so far, it's been a couple of online meetings and then getting the youth together at the SEEDIG meeting for an indicated session and then the participation at the January meeting. What we would like to do as we move ahead with the planning process for next year is to do something similar to what the Internet Society is doing with the Youth IGF program, so a more long-term program where we have more time to go more in-depth into the actual introductions to Internet governance, digital policies to organizations and processes spanned over several months, have some assignments for the students that are part of that online program, and then based on the assignment, select the students that will participate in the annual meeting.

We hope that will also make them feel a bit more engaged and more responsible so when they get to the January meeting, they are even more active than they have been at the past two editions, and also, they'll still have an opportunity to actually learn more than what we have managed to do with the two online meetings and session at SEEDIG.

MARIA KORNIIETS: Thank you. I actually wanted to encourage you to go on with this because I think there is a great demand. We just really need to make clear messages, like for the young people, for example. I believe in that

because, like recently, we organized an event for Cyber Security Awareness Month and basically, we closed the registrations three days before just because we had more people – not twice, of course – a lot more people applying than there was the capacity at the room that was 120 places and it was three days before since like you know, many people register on the last day.

And that's why I think there is a great potential and really getting the media and explaining what you do in the way that young people understand this is really important and I guess it will be successful. Thank you.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you also. And that reminds me about something that Sandra says quite often and I think we should be paying more attention to. We should avoid focusing so much on terms like Internet governance, digital policy and the fancy words, and when we go and talk to people who are new to this processes, actually go and talk about the issues. As Frédéric also said, focus on things that have importance and don't say "Let's have a meeting about Internet governance" because that will probably not attract anyone because they might not even understand what that is. And thank you, Sandra, for that.

Anything else?

SANDRA HOFERICHTER: In this respect, I would just like to share something that I heard from Estonia. I think no one from Estonia is in the room. We were also

discussing, because I like the country so much, I would like to come back. I said, "Yeah, I can come and talk about Internet governance," and the people from the ccTLD and they are also responsible, they said, "If you mention that word, it's a burner. People will go out of the room." And this was quite clear and I think that might be the case for many countries or for many communities, that when you come with this abstract term of Internet governance, it's about our digital future. That's more easily and maybe we should [inaudible] that we are aware. Of course, we are speaking about Internet governance. We know that, but we probably shouldn't mention it too often.

SORINA TELEANU: Exactly. Thank you. Looking around the room, nothing else. Again, SEEDIG is a process and we do strive on getting better with every single day and every single activity we're doing. And maybe this is the time to mention how we have been functioning so far. I've said we have an Executive Committee and we have interns and we have the editors of the [SEE] family. All of these, over the past four years, have been volunteer work. No one got a single cent for all this work and I think it has been one of the main strengths of SEEDIG. I'm not sure, personally, how sustainable that is, looking into the future and trying to do a bit more with initiative, but I think that's something that the community should be discussing and seeing how we can make SEEDIG more sustainable from that point of view and also related to the question above in terms of strengthening the community and expanding the network of partners.

But just wanted to mention, once again, that everything has been possible because people have been putting time and effort into it on a volunteer basis, so guys, everyone here, many thanks for all that work.

I think we still have time, so any open questions, concerns, suggestions from our partners, you in the room, editors, interns, Sasho? I have been [inaudible].

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE: I'll just mention. Sorry, Chris Buckridge from the RIPE NCC. Coincidentally, today is RONOG. They're having the Romanian Network Operators Group today. I'm not sure if there has been any effort to reach out through that, but RONOG's been quite a successful example of a national network operator group in the last few years, having quite a big crowd of network operators, technical people, and it would be really good to try and use that and try and entice some people from that community to participate more in SEEDIG, so I would encourage you to follow that up. I'm happy to make the connection.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Chris. Once we have the contact, we will for sure reach out to them. Thanks a lot.

I'm looking around. I'll start asking questions to specific people unless anyone would like to say something.

Olga, would you maybe like to say a few words about our monthly summaries, just explaining a bit what's there?

OLGA KYRYLIUK: Yes, thank you, Sorina, and I was just thinking about this because I was thinking that, indeed, we are spending so much effort into that but sometimes I have this feeling over there, we really reach the necessary amount of people, at least to read what we are writing there. So maybe if we have some funds raised in preparation for the annual meeting, maybe we can have some budget line for – I don't think it's going to be a lot of money – but for some putting into the advertising of the summary and maybe we can also ask for sharing on the other mailing lists where our members of the community are also present.

I don't know whether it's of that much relevance for people from the other regions, but at the end, it's always good to know what is happening even in the other part of the world and for us, sometimes it seems that not that much is happening in the region. It also depends on the time of the year, but at the end, as you already explained, we are a group of people who are every month, looking into the events and different developments. What are the legal changes in the region and each month, we are trying to highlight that and yeah, but I think we need to find the channels, how to promote it more because sometimes it [inaudible] that people are not reading that.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Olga, for the work. Actually, I do get e-mails quite often from people once we publish the monthly summaries saying, "Oh, this has been useful," and there are even international organizations who have been reaching out to me during the summer when we did not

have the summary asking, "Hey guys, we're waiting for that. Where is it?" So yes, it is used. Maybe not at the level that we would want to, but it is useful and yes, we should do better at promoting it. Thank you, Olga.

Anything else from anyone? Join the table, please.

ANASTASIA SENDREA: Hello, my name is Anastasia. I am here with the NextGen. I'm from Moldova. Sorry.

So I missed the beginning of the meeting. I'm sorry. But I wanted to ask and to say, at the same time, to comment that as Maria said, and as probably everybody knows, Eastern Europe is very tech savvy. Countries there are very tech, the youth is very tech savvy and very curious and would love to get involved in any kind of events. And I think that there are also organizations or companies that would be interested if they are approached, but because we're talking about the region that historically and culturally still has a lot of differences, I think what is needed – and I'm saying this on top of my head now listening to you – I think that what is needed is a transborder project, one big project for promotion to make the SEEDIG name, that would actually prompt the youth from those different countries to work together because they are very excited to do that if they have the opportunity.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you for those suggestions. Yes, our region has not been the easiest one throughout history and yes, there are political complications there, but I don't think we ever felt that at SEEDIG or throughout our activities. It really has been a community going beyond Western Balkans, beyond eastern partnership countries in the EU language, and we have, actually managed to bring the different communities together as much as we could.

But following up on the youth thing, yes, we are also looking into creating some sort of a youth working group with volunteers from countries from the region who would be dedicated to getting more young people involved in our activities across the region, as you say, trying to work on some sort of joint project but by them, for them and with our support as much as we can as Executive Committee but not us trying to tell them what they should be doing, just trying to do something that is driven by them.

Other than that, again, any suggestions you have for universities we should be reaching out to, private/public entities? It is a community process. The five of us on the Executive Committee and our two or three interns, we cannot be aware of everything that's happening in our almost 20 countries, so pretty please, we do count on you for reaching out to people on behalf of SEEDIG because you are all members of the community and also letting us know where, who's door we should knock on. So thank you in advance for that.

Looking around the room, I'm not sure if anyone has any other comments. We do still have time if there is any other additional

feedback. If not, I will try to wrap up and I [inaudible] other things to do so we can end up quickly.

But before I do that, Andrea, [inaudible], as the leader of the session, anything else from you and Frédéric and Chris, since you're here still, if you have any final comments before you go? I think I just caught you on that. Sorry. Now just if you have final comments other than that.

FRÉDÉRIC DONCK: Well, you just get me in the middle of my move. I tried to be discreet and I failed. As always, I believe what I hear when I'm here is a very strong and vibrant community in those countries and I believe we should further leverage this. We have gold in our hands compared to other communities in Europe when we see a decrease in dynamism vis-à-vis the IGF or a conversation on the Internet globally.

So I believe we should really do something with youth in the eastern countries and in the SEEDIG countries, honestly. We have gold that we might further leverage and it should be of interest for the other stakeholders who definitely need those newcomers in the Internet.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Frédéric. Happy to discuss more about the youth project. Chris?

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE: I would just say the RIPE NCC's been really happy to be part of and supporting SEEDIG the last few years and I think it's a really good

example of a sort of smaller, regional event that a lot of Internet governance is really moving towards these days. I think it's moving towards to focus more on national and regional events and this is a really good example of that.

I guess sort of to echo what I was saying before, I think it is really important and I think all Internet governance venues are having this discussion of how do you make sure you have all the right stakeholders in the room. And I think the Armenian IGF was a really interesting example. Just the other week, there was a really good discussion about geolocation and it had people from the business sector, it had people from the technical sector who were really able to explain what's going on and why there are challenges there.

And it really highlighted for me, the importance of having those sort of technical voices in these discussions and really sort of getting to the crux of the matters about why these are specific Internet governance challenges rather than just governance challenges because we actually do have to deal with the architecture that the Internet presents us with.

So yeah, we've talked about RONOG, but I think a sort of broader effort should be, and I think RIPE NCC is happy to help with this, to try to engage those technical community members and get them interested in contributing a day out of their work schedule to an event like SEEDIG and to contributing to those discussions.

SORINA TELEANU: And making sure the topics we have are relevant for them as well, so to Frédéric's focus word, I would also add relevance, and we have two keywords for how we move.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE: Absolutely. Yeah.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you. Andrea?

ANDREA BECCALLI: What else? I see the challenge is here that we have lots of good ideas and there is lots of energy but you have to realize that the sustainability of SEEDIG is also bound to how much volunteer work we can put in that, and that's always a challenge on getting something really sustainable.

And so one is to enlarge the pool of participants and the other one is to find ways to have SEEDIG cooperate on some specific project and have some partners provide some funding on that.

So for instance, if we look into the academic side, for instance, if you want to do a school, I think that SEEDIG can bring a lot of experience, can bring a [inaudible] that was built inside SEEDIG, but again, the experts from abroad. But then if we partner, if SEEDIG partners with one university, two-year [inaudible] universities, [inaudible] sponsor, then it can grow into something that per se becomes more sustainable. That's the experience that I had just this last week.

We, as collectively, we always had this struggle on how to ensure that all the work and effort that is put in a way is not only recognized but also sustained. And that remains a question to be answered. We cannot discard that. I don't have a solution yet, but I think probably going to specific projects with other partners will be a way to go around and then have more release to see how can we continue to contribute to SEEDIG.

And then, the point you made about the mailing list. I receive the mailing list, I read it, and I always think we should make this mailing list available wider. It should be into the local media. I think the local media, now they're covering those issues. They will be delighted to have this content because it's high quality content. It's well-[reducted[. The mailing list cannot be the only ones so I think for a working group or a sub-group of the SEEDIG committee looking only on the media and outreach part, I think now it's very important.

And on the rest, just to close on a nice note, I've been involved into the organization of the Italian IGF. This time after many years of the IGF being organized in a very top-down manner by a group of friends calling some other friends and going to a catwalk of politicians and saying, "We are so good," we did, in IGF, really it starts from the bottom up and when they asked me, "How do we do that?" And I said, "Look at SEEDIG."

Look at a program that is young and that really innovated a tradition that dates back to the days of IGF but is not bounded by the UN procedures of the IGF. It really was able to spring free on that. And

they did it so much that they even copied the Youth School. So the Italian IGF now will have a Youth School and I think they spoke with Sonia. Someone from the Italian government of the original agenda called Sonia and Sonia is an expert for them and is. So there is some other part of the SEEDIG value which is not only monetary, is not only doing this work and "I need to live, I need to sustain," which is the prestige, which is the recognition. It is there and that's something that is very precious and it's a trust that you build from something that people in this space recognize the value of and that work can make something extremely useful and programs that build on that, on the prestige, on the experience that someone has working with SEEDIG will probably help again. It's one of your best sales speech that you can have. It's getting involved with SEEDIG because you get exposure to a global community. You get to know topics through participation of experts, local and international, that otherwise you won't have and that will help you also in your career, in your experience, in your studies. And that is to be framed better. Probably it's very apparent to us, but it doesn't transpire that clearly from the outside.

And I think I'll stop here. Thank you, again, and I look forward. I don't think many of you will go to the next ICANN meeting. I won't. It's a bit too East to stretch the SEEDIG, but you're always welcome at the ICANN meetings to have a space to meet, to discuss, to brainstorm, and we are happy to [inaudible] [your departure]. Thank you. Thank you, Sorina. Thank you, all.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Andrea. Chengetai, anything from your side? For the fifth anniversary meeting, yes, pretty please. It happens. Okay, and thank you for the support from the IGF Secretariat through all these years.

CHENGETAI MASANGO: [inaudible]

SORINA TELEANU: Thanks. I think we can wrap up. Yes.

DESARA DUSHI: Desara from Albania. So talking about IGF, I think it's the right place to say that we are organizing the first Albanian Youth IGF and any kind of support from you would be very much appreciated and one of the main problems that we are facing is the collaboration between the organizers of IGF and the organizers of Youth IGF. I think this is a problem that exists in all our regions and we need some kind of external mediators probably.

SORINA TELEANU: Happy to help because they are also part of our community if we can do that. Let's discuss separate.

DESARA DUSHI: It would be very important I think.

SORINA TELEANU: And other than that, I'm happy to assist also on the content side. Sonia is just now preparing her Youth IGF in Turkey and she is reusing SEEDIG materials. You are welcome to the same. Let's talk and see how we can support you with things we've been doing so you don't recreate things from the start if materials are out there.

And on that note, if anyone has suggestions, ideas, things we can do, pretty please.

ALEXANDER ISAVNIN: Alexander Isavnin, Russian Federation.

Actually, I have a suggestion. Russia is a bit of East and a bit of South, so during your activities, please don't forget about us because in our country, it's very difficult to have a dialogue on governance and especially on Internet governance and I would bring fine examples. During the last Russian Internet Governance Forum, the technical community of Russia was represented by Australian communication professional who resided in the Netherlands called Chris Buckridge, serious. So if it's not possible or would be difficult in our own country, please don't mind to come to us also as a very developing community because we need it. We also may be as a post-Soviet country, do not have cultures of good dialogue and I think we are [inaudible].

SORINA TELEANU: Please welcome us. Are you subscribed to our mailing list? That's a starting point so you see what we're doing and then happy to discuss about reaching out to your communities there, the technical

community or any others. And yes, Russia is definitely part of the Southeastern Europe and the neighboring area.

Jana?

JANA MISIC: Sorry, we were out for a group photo with the fellows, so I'm just back. I missed [overlap] the path of this part of discussion, so I have some concerns myself and also as well some suggestions.

For me, as you said, it's a good idea that we should have a country ambassador. They can be even two people. I don't see it limited to one person. But then I think that one ambassador should understand the task that it is not just contributing to the SEEDIG meeting but working with local community which is the most important challenge that we face in the case, especially all the countries face that thing, but especially in Albania. When we organized our very small IGF, to be honest, we struggled to have contacts from different stakeholders and I know how hard it was to get to especially govern [inaudible] agencies because when it comes to academia or organizations, they were more or less flexible and open to that. I hoped that today, the presence of Albanian agencies [inaudible], for instance, they would come. I mean, someone promised me but it seems that, whatever, he was maybe busy.

But what I want to underline was that this role of ambassador should be really seen as a mission for the purpose to work with local community and not just to make this connection with the outside. It's

a really bottom-up role and when you are an ambassador, you are someone who is supposed to represent SEEDIG, but you represent your own community as well, which is the most important thing for me, especially in our countries.

Another concern for me is how to make the local outreach because, okay, we can have brochures, I can talk to the university, I can even organize a full day about it especially because now we are leading a project, a [inaudible]-founded project on digital competencies so maybe we can do it with it, but to the other communities, how we can do it. It's just the ambassador or it's just…? You, yourself, with the SEEDIG in Romania, I know, for instance, that it is very problematic and how to do it. Maybe, I don't know, people don't really trust the local community? I know how an Albanian mind works, for instance, and they need maybe more, I don't know, some kind of capacity building from someone from outside. I don't know. This is a problem.

Then coming to our Youth IGF or how to more engaged youth, for instance, I know that some people are already registered. They requested to the Secretariat that they will organize a Youth IGF in Albania from what I know. I am not involved. I do not fit the youth target anymore for the age thing, so I can coordinate but not.

So for youth, I guess it's easier to engage but I would pretty much suggest that that community especially should remain open and not closed because I work with young people every day of my life and sometimes I see that when they have these international initiatives in

their hands or when they have the possibility to go outside of the country, they try to remain very close so these are the issues.

Then for the rest, I guess that we are doing a great job with updating continuously this, our small and nice summary, and we should try also to make it more public and to share it. So I invite everyone here, even which is outside of the region to take a look to the summary and to read it because it has a lot of interesting things and you see that how the countries are different within the region.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Jana. Olga?

OLGA KYRYLIUK: Just a quick, one suggestion as we are right in the process of collecting the issues for both SEEDIG and EuroDIG and as both you and Sandra mentioned about this general idea of Internet governance, let's try also when we will be making the agenda to avoid too generalized topics for the sessions because that might sound fine for civil society but it's often the complaints from the business and technical community that these are too general themes and for them too because everyone is appreciating his own time and when they are coming to events like this, they should be interested. And I think once you make this topic very precise and really appealing for them, we can also expect the funding for them to come in the nearest years and also the support for our further activities. So maybe we can see how we put these issues into the agenda and also try to show the different. We

already try to show this different perspectives, but then from a more practical point of view because we can't all the time discuss Internet governance, like digital rights, fine, but we really need to go into the specific challenges for that particular year, particular region.

SORINA TELEANU: Thank you, Olga. Going back to the two keywords from earlier, focus and relevance, we should be focusing on those more.

OLGA KYRYLIUK: [inaudible] this year is for the people that didn't submit yet, me also. They narrowed with a purpose to be more focused and more concentrated, and I guess that constantly when submitting, myself, I always look back on the messages from the previous years and also at EuroDIG and I see how and what is the new perspective in submitting something new, some issues that is relevant for the region as well because some topics are not yet relevant.

SORINA TELEANU: Exactly, and that's another thing we should be looking more carefully into, focusing on regional perspectives when we discuss the issues. We had, for example, this session this year on emerging technologies and I did feel myself that it was a bit too general and not really focused on what's happening or what could happen in our region.

OLGA KYRYLIUK: Sorina, I have a concern. I see that some countries, apart from Slovenia, for instance, Croatia, they are not really involved. This is a question that comes from now I don't know the context and they have more. When we see this summer is, for example, a lot of things are going on there and then we don't see that they are involved so this is also a thing that is overlapping somewhere. Same goes for Azerbaijan, strange economic context but a lot of things are happening there. They will have e-identity very soon, like Estonia. So a bit.

SORINA TELEANU: And that takes us back to the local outreach, how we can improve that. Were there other hands in the room? I think we're getting near the end of our allocated time, right?

Okay, so we have three more minutes. Any other final remarks from anyone?

If not, I'll just wrap up by really, really thanking you all for being here and for the very useful suggestions. I do have a couple of new things in my mind that I will be trying to focus on more as we go ahead with the planning process and with the other activities we are doing.

Once again, I guess the key message is that SEEDIG is a community driven process and everything we're doing should come from the local level, from the community level so ideas are welcome for everything, suggestions are welcome for everything, criticism, please whenever you feel we are doing something wrong or something that we can improve, just send us an e-mail, scream at someone, "Guys, this is not

as it should be happening." And we look forward to doing more things, making a difference in the region and looking forward to seeing you all in Bucarest in May next year. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]