

SOUTH EASTERN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Promoting dialogue and
cooperation on digital policy
issues in SEE+



SEEDIG

South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance

Promoting dialogue and cooperation on digital policy issues in SEE+



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MARIYA GABRIEL

EU Commissioner for
Digital Economy and
Society

I truly believe that SEEDIG, as one of the most successful regional forums on Internet governance, is a remarkable place where we can explore the opportunities for the countries of the region to benefit from digital technologies. The South Eastern European region as a whole is taking important steps towards digitalisation, thanks to its vibrant and creative community of innovators. The citizens of the South Eastern European countries deserve to be an active part of the digital transformation, which provides an opportunity to leapfrog to a modern digital society. [...] Policy-makers, private sector, NGOs, tech industry, startups and citizens, all have a role to play in the digitalisation of society and must engage in a constructive dialogue. SEEDIG is an ideal platform for this dialogue to take place.

ABOUT **SEEDIG**





VISION AND MISSION

We believe that digital technologies have an important role to play in the sustainable economic and social development of South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area (SEE+). In line with this belief, our vision is that of a

healthy, sustainable and inclusive digital advancement of the SEE+ region.

Our mission is to support such a digital advancement through **facilitating multistakeholder dialogue and cooperation**

in addressing issues related to the use, evolution and governance of the Internet and other digital technologies across the region.



The map shows countries which are at least occasionally represented in SEEDIG activities. SEEDIG does not define the SEE+ region per se; individuals and entities who consider themselves to be part of SEE+ are welcome to join our activities.



SEEDIG PRACTICES

To fulfill our mission, we:

- Provide a platform for regional dialogue and collaboration on digital policy issues*, through annual meetings and intersessional activities.
- Raise awareness and promote a better understanding of digital policy issues among SEE+ stakeholders.
- Strengthen the capacity of regional stakeholders to meaningfully contribute to Internet governance and digital policy processes.
- Inspire and support communities throughout the region to launch national initiatives and to get involved in regional, European and international processes focused on addressing digital policy issues.
- Build partnerships, in SEE+ and at international level, with entities that help us fulfil our mission.

As a sub-regional Internet Governance Forum (IGF) initiative, we guide our work by the following principles: multistakeholder, open, inclusive and transparent.

* For the purpose of this document, and in relation to SEEDIG activities, the term 'digital policy issues' is understood as 'issues related to the evolution, use and governance of the Internet and other digital technologies'.

SEEDIG IN
4
YEARS

500+
ANNUAL
MEETINGS
PARTICIPANTS

30
FELLOWS



30+
COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED
FROM SEE+ AND
BEYOND

29
YOUTH
SCHOOL
PARTICIPANTS

1800+
E-MAILS VIA
THE DEDICATED
LIST

180+
MAILING
LIST
MEMBERS

5
INTERNS

20+
PARTNERS

35
ONLINE
PUBLIC
MEETING

3
REGIONAL
SURVEYS

20+
SEE
SUMMARIES

AN
ELECTED
**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

14
EDITORS

9999+
CUPS
OF
COFFEE :)

RUNNING THE PROCESS



SEEDIG COMMUNITY

Plans and runs SEEDIG activities, in a bottom-up, open, inclusive and transparent manner.

Includes stakeholders from all groups (academia, civil society, governments, intergovernmental organisations, the private sector, the technical community) and different countries in the SEE+ region.

Is open-ended. Membership is determined by voluntary participation in SEEDIG activities and the dedicated public mailing list. [↗](#)

SEEDIG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Coordinates SEEDIG activities.

Is elected by the community.

Works in line with a community-endorsed Terms of Reference. [↗](#)

Is multistakeholder and regionally diverse. [↗](#)

Is assisted in its work by interns, editors, web admins, and others.



ACTIVITIES





SEEDIG ANNUAL MEETINGS

We hold annual meetings focused on fostering dialogue and collaboration between SEE+ stakeholders in addressing relevant digital policy issues, from closing the digital divide to taking advantage of the opportunities offered by emerging technologies such as the Internet of things and artificial intelligence.

At the end of each meeting, participants endorse the *SEEDIG Messages*, which outline main takeaways, possible goals and proposals for future actions. These Messages are meant to help inform and influence decision-making process within governmental entities, national parliaments, companies and regional organisations.



SEEDIG 2015*

3 June | Sofia

Multistakeholder Internet governance: From global debates to SEE realities

150+ participants
38 countries represented
SEEDIG 2015 Messages [📄](#)
*Joint meeting with EuroDIG 2015



SEEDIG 2016

22 April | Belgrade

Can we SEE Internet governance?

120+ participants
22 countries represented
SEEDIG 2016 Messages [📄](#)



SEEDIG 2017

24–25 May | Ohrid

Digital development: Turning challenges into opportunities

160+ participants
24 countries represented
SEEDIG 2017 Messages [📄](#)
*Joint meeting with Annual AEC International Regulatory Conference 2017



SEEDIG 2018

23–24 May | Ljubljana




Digital transformation and digital society in SEE+

120+ participants
27 countries represented
SEEDIG 2018 Messages [📄](#)





CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

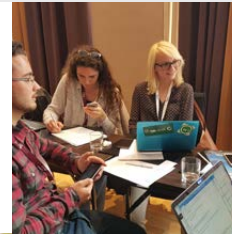
Since 2017, we run capacity development programmes,  such as the Youth School  and the Fellowship Programme,  dedicated to raising awareness on digital policy issues of relevance for the region and strengthening the capacity of regional stakeholders to meaningfully engage in addressing such issues at national, regional and international levels.



If I could describe the experience in few words, I would say it was a mind-blowing, full of positive vibes, intensive learning process and well-organised event.

29
STUDENTS
10
COUNTRIES

Youth School in 2017 and 2018



Online preparatory meetings
In-situ debates and simulations
Involvement in SEEDIG activities

I've been involved in the development of the private sector for years, but this event gave me an opportunity to see the views of other sides. Which was nothing short of a life changing experience.

Online preparatory meetings

In-situ conferences and debates

Involvement in SEEDIG activities



30
FELLOWS
12
COUNTRIES

Fellowship Programme in 2017 and 2018

SEEDIG | Fellowship

250+
APPLICANTS
to all programmes in 2017 and 2018



SEEDIG
Internship
Programme

5
INTERNS
5
COUNTRIES

Internship Programme in 2017 and 2018

Contribution to SEEDIG activities
Support to the Executive Committee

I cherished the opportunity to meet and discuss with professionals directly involved in the digital policy scene, and to be part of a community of like-minded individuals.

PUBLICATIONS AND STUDIES

We develop regular publications and studies, such as the *SEEs* summary [↗](#) and regional surveys, [↗](#) aimed at shedding light to regional practices and tendencies regarding the use, evolution and governance of the Internet and other digital technologies.



SEEs summaries

Monthly, since September 2016

Monthly overviews of Internet governance and digital policy activities in SEE+ [🔗](#)

In partnership with DiploFoundation and the Geneva Internet Platform

13 editors from 9 countries

40+ digital policy issues covered

19 countries monitored



Regional surveys

Yearly, since 2016

Regional surveys conducted before the annual SEEDIG meetings, with the aim to capture the perception of the SEE+ community on certain digital policy issues

SEEDIG 2018 survey | Digitalisation and digital policy in SEE+ [🔗](#)

SEEDIG 2017 survey | Internationalised Domain Names [🔗](#)

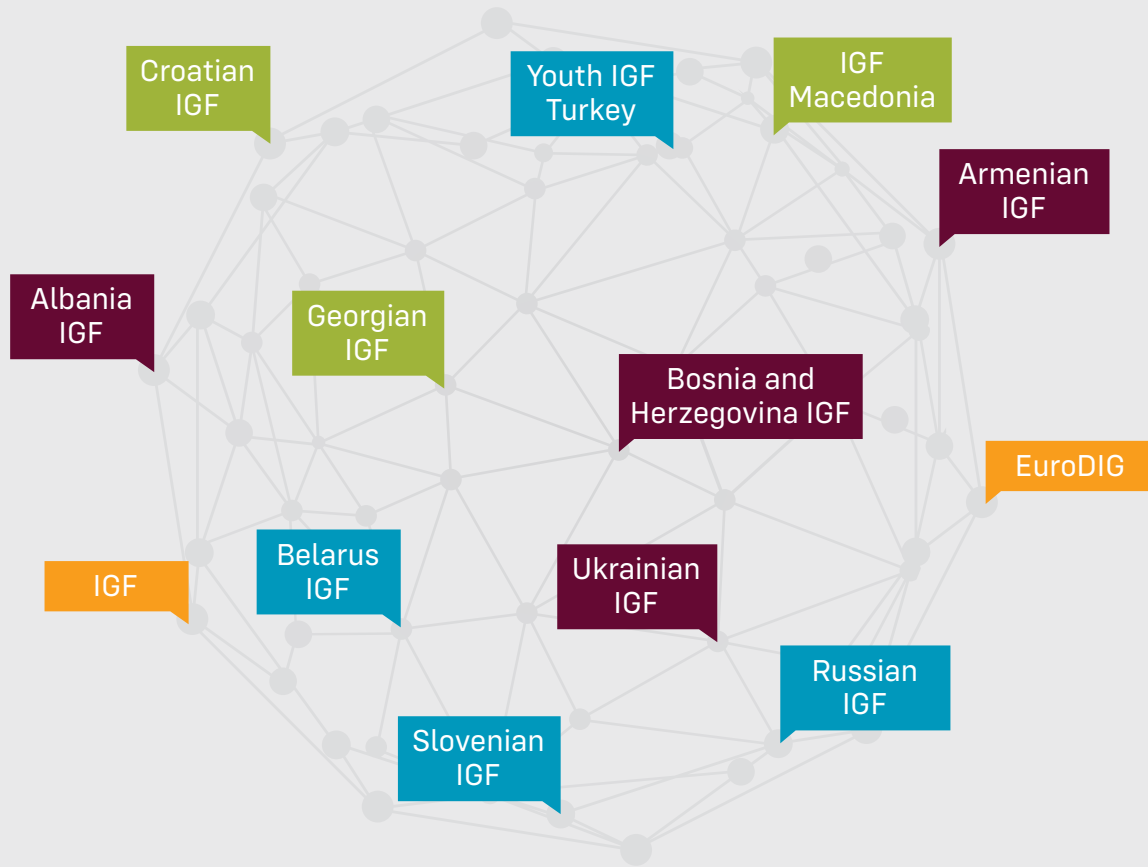
SEEDIG 2016 survey | Can we SEE Internet governance? [🔗](#)



CONNECTING WITH GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES

We inspire and support communities throughout the region to launch national multistakeholder initiatives focused on dialogue and cooperation in addressing digital policy issues. We also work on fostering cooperation and exchanges between these initiatives.

We contribute to European and global Internet governance and digital policy processes, such as the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) and the global UN-led Internet Governance Forum (IGF).



SEEDIG seeks to support, contribute to, or foster communication with Internet governance initiatives such as the ones listed above.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES

As of the SEEDIG 2019 cycle, we will be exploring new areas of work, such as:

- Working, together with our regional and international partners, on developing and delivering workshops and trainings on specific digital policy issues targeted at different stakeholders.
- Supporting SEE+ stakeholders in enhancing regional cooperation in their areas of expertise.
- Enhancing and expanding the current capacity development programmes.
- Strengthening partnerships with entities in SEE+ and at international level.

Would you like to partner with us on any of our ongoing activities?
Do you have suggestions for new projects we could make happen in SEE+?
Contact us at execom@seedig.net and we will be happy to discuss.

SEEDIG 5TH ANNUAL MEETING



SEEDIG 5

7-8 MAY 2019

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Local institutional partners*:

- Committee on information technology and communications in the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania
- Committee of communications and information technology in the Senate, Parliament of Romania
- Ministry of Communications and Information Society
- National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications
- National University of Political Sciences and Public Administration

* As of November 2018. An updated list is available on the SEEDIG website. [↗](#)



WHAT?

- Two days of multistakeholder discussions and exchanges of experiences on issues related to the use, evolution and governance of the Internet and other digital technologies
- A pre-event day dedicated to SEEDIG's capacity development programmes (Youth School and Fellowship Programme)
- Focus on topics of relevance for the SEE+ region, such as the digital divide, cybersecurity, IDNs, digital rights and the digital economy
- Adoption of SEEDIG Messages, as main takeaways from the discussions and recommendations for the future

WHO?

- Representatives of academia, civil society, governments, the private sector, the technical community from within and beyond the SEE+ region
- Students and youth from across the region
- SEEDIG's regional and international partners (see page 28)



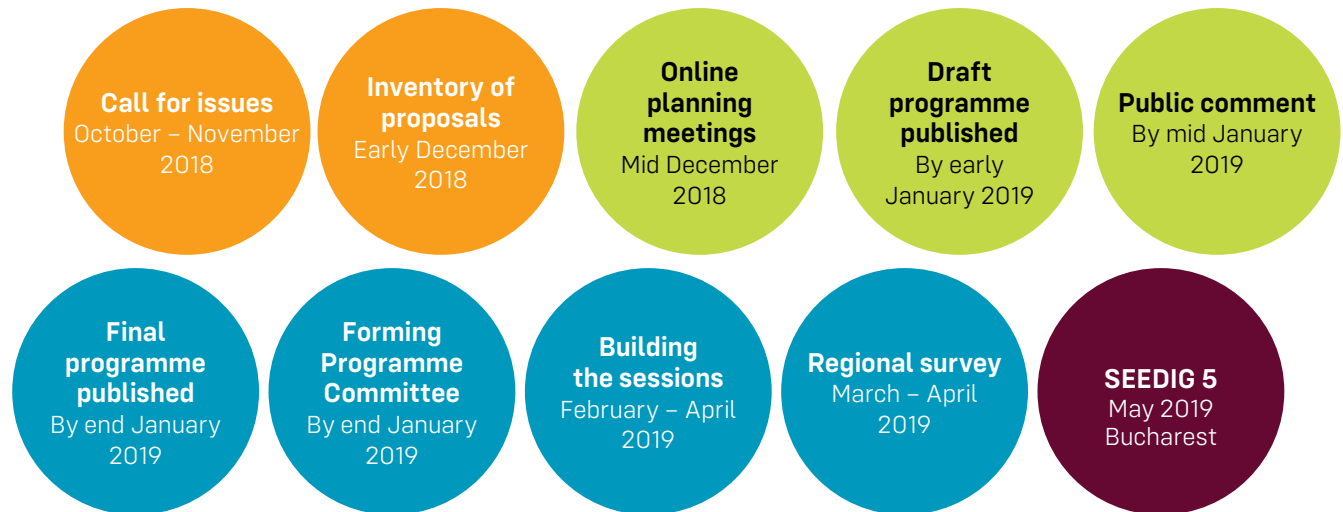


HOW?

SEEDIG annual meetings are planned in an open, inclusive and transparent manner by the SEEDIG community under the overall coordination of the Executive Committee.

The planning process [↗](#) starts with a call for issues, through which everyone in SEE+ is invited to tell us what topics they would like to see discussed at the meeting. Based on the submitted topics, a draft programme is created, which is then finalised through online meetings and consultations. Once the programme outline is ready, organising teams are formed to work on shaping the sessions, in line with a set of predefined Session principles. [↗](#)

PLANNING PROCESS





JOIN

- Help build the meeting programme. Check the SEEDIG website for more details about the planning process and how you can get engaged.
- Promote the meeting within your communities and help us attract more participation.
- Apply for our capacity development programmes or help us plan them.
- Join us in Bucharest, in May 2019, and contribute your views and experience to the discussions.
- Suggestions for fundraising opportunities are also welcome.

SUPPORTING SEEDIG



WHY SUPPORT SEEDIG?


Participating

in the SEEDIG annual meeting

- By participating in our annual meeting and preparatory process, you will have the opportunity to share your experiences, projects, and views with regional and international actors active in digital policy.
- You will network with policy makers, regulators, international organisations, businesses, technical entities, civil society organisations from the regional and international level and benefit from their perspectives on digital policy issues.
- You will also have the chance to identify like-minded collaborators and build new partnerships.

Becoming

a SEEDIG partner

- Joining our network of partners (sponsors,  supporting organisations, etc.) is an ideal opportunity to contribute to the sustainable digital development of SEE+.
- As a partner, you will increase your visibility as an active supporter of the multistakeholder model of addressing digital policy issues – a model widely promoted by international bodies such as the European Commission, ICANN, the Internet Society and the International Chamber of Commerce.



Supporting

our capacity development programmes

- By dedicating funds and educational resources to SEEDIG's Youth School and Fellowship Programme, you can demonstrate your commitment to encouraging high-potential individuals from SEE+ to shape their own digital future and become contributors to the region's digital economy.
- By partnering with us on delivering workshops and trainings in your area of expertise, you can increase your visibility in SEE+ and help the region take advantage of the opportunities of digitalisation.

Launching

joint projects

- We are always happy to discuss new ways in which we could work together to support a healthy, sustainable and inclusive digital advancement of the SEE+ region.

SEEDIG 2018 PARTNERS

Honorary patron



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PRESIDENT
Dr Milan Brglez

Host



DIGITAS
institute

Supporting organisations



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



European
Commission



ICANN



Internet
Society



UN-DESA



IGF Internet
Governance
Forum



EuroDIG
European Dialogue on Internet Governance



IGFSA Internet
Governance
Forum
Support
Association



etno



DIPLO



IC
BASIS



RIPE NCC

RIPE NETWORK COORDINATION CENTRE

Local institutional partners



arnes



DIGITAL
SOCIETY
FORUM



Bled
Strategic
Forum

Sponsors



Internet
Society



ICANN



RIPE NCC

RIPE NETWORK COORDINATION CENTRE



IGFSA Internet
Governance
Forum
Support
Association



telemach



RUNE
Rural Network Ltd



T2



Afilias



DOMINION
HOSTING



SODO
SLOVENIAN ORGANISATION
FOR INTERNET DEVELOPMENT



ALMA MATER
EUROPAEA
LJUBLJANA



Cablecable

Regional partners



AEC



Internet Society
Serbia Belgrade
Chapter




MARnet





RNIDS
Rural Network Agency

Throughout our work, we have been supported by several European and international entities. They advise us in planning and executing SEEDIG activities, participate in the SEEDIG overall process, and contribute to our outreach efforts. Each year, we are also building partnerships with local and regional institutions and organisations that contribute to the SEEDIG process and support our local activities.

seedig.net 

twitter.com/seedig2019 

facebook.com/SEEDIG2019 

execom@seedig.net 

Join the SEEDIG community!

seedig.net/community/

Aiming for a healthy, sustainable and
inclusive digital advancement of SEE+.

SEEDIG

