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Welcome to Sofia and to the 8th EuroDIG

“Shaping the Internet together”

Traveling often around the world, I face the fact that people have very little idea about Bulgaria as a whole – not to mention our Internet industry in particular. But we have a lot to be proud of and to show the world. International statistics have shown that the Bulgarian Internet is one of the fastest in the world, with only a few countries being ahead of us, which happened because of the lack of regulations. The number of people who connect their lives and work with Internet increases dramatically every day. Services of Bulgarian programmes are sought and cherished.

Therefore EuroDIG is taking place this year in Bulgaria. On the one hand, it is a great opportunity to show our international guests our achievements and challenges; on the other hand, it is an opportunity for the Bulgarians to hear about the latest news from the Internet world and enabling them to share their point of view to participate in creating the future of the Internet in Europe and in the world as a whole. In other words, to discuss, to seek the best options, share their experiences and to shape the Internet together!

One more idea was the mix of old and new. One great example is therefore our mix of the new, adding some developments by creating a department working on the Internet field. That is what we are trying to achieve – to build on the strong fundamentals of the past one united better Internet, equal for all.

On behalf of the Bulgarian team, I have the honor to welcome you to the 8th EuroDIG.

Iliya Bazlyankov
Director, IT department
UNICART Ltd

EuroDIG 2015 Sofia

It is a great pleasure to welcome the participants from all over Europe, as well as the member states of the Council of Europe to the 8th edition of the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG), that is taking place on the 4th and 5th of June 2015 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

As an open platform for informal discussions the European dialogue on Internet governance has a very valuable contribution to the development of public policies in the field of Internet governance. This year’s event is a result of a great collaborative effort on the part of many authorities and individuals who contributed to its organization.

For more than fifteen years the European Union has been contributing to the enhancement and development of the Internet as a significant factor in everyday life and an essential tool for achieving the Digital Single Market (DSM). The Internet plays an important role to promote innovation, growth, trade, democracy and human rights. The Internet as a global resource needs global governance.

The Republic of Bulgaria stands up for the fundamental principles in building and developing the Internet as a global strategic resource in terms of transparency, freedom of expression and access, security and technological neutrality, protection from harmful content, management and governance flexibility, fragmentation prevention and we actively express our position at the international fora and summits.

We strongly support the efforts to develop a working multistakeholder model of Internet governance. At a national level the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications actively collaborates with the Internet community, businesses, NGOs and academies. A result of this fruitful cooperation is the establishment of the national Top-Level Domain (TLD) in Cyrillic “.bg”, that is currently in an advanced stage of implementation. The national address in Cyrillic on the Web is an opportunity for more people to benefit from the global network to communicate and work. The spelling of web-site names entirely in our own alphabet assists the easier use of regional information sources that are important for local users. In the past year we also signed a cooperation agreement with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) which provided common actions regarding the management of Internet names in Europe and the training of Bulgarian experts in Internet governance.

As a host of EuroDIG’2015 is an expression of our committed position to improving the governance of Internet. I am convinced that during the EuroDIG days in Sofia we will have the chance to push forward the debate on how to shape the Internet and the Digital Single Market together for the benefit of the European business and the society. Let us do it!

I sincerely hope that this forum will be extremely beneficial for all participants, so that the debates and the exchange of experience, as well as good practices will greatly contribute to come up with a strong message to further enhance the Internet governance approaches and practices.

I wish great success to EuroDIG’2015.

Ivaylo Moskovski
Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications
About EuroDIG

The European Dialogue on Internet Governance began over a glass of wine between friends and colleagues in Paris in June 2008. What voice for Europe in Internet governance? How should it look like? On a paper tablecloth in a brasserie, one of the group started drawing. It was an exciting moment which led to a concerted effort by a number of passionate individuals of various affiliations to create ‘EuroDIG’, which then held its first meeting only about three months later in the premises of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg on 20–21 October 2008.

EuroDIG had impact. The numbers of participants grew steadily. New supporters and hosts joined, including the European Broadcasting Union. Many VIPs took part. EuroDIG was soon recognised as the European Internet Governance Forum. It provided European orientation on hot topics. It triggered new European public policy. EuroDIG was innovative in creating outcome, flash sessions, and new interactive discussion formats. Most importantly, EuroDIG helped to shape a shared commitment in Europe to open and inclusive discussion, which included the voice of young people.

The EuroDIG model is a blended mix of stakeholders which is financed by a spread of small donations to avoid capture. It became trusted because of the hard and transparent work of the secretariat, namely Sandra, Wolf, and more recently Lorena. The Council of Europe, the Swiss Government and the European Broadcasting Union provided sustainability. It gained a global presence at the Internet Governance Forum and inspired over 20 national IGFs in Europe. It is a family of stakeholders who believe and evolve together through EuroDIG.

The story of EuroDIG continues to unfold and grow through European capitals. This year in Sofia and next year in Brussels. After having acted as strategic coordinators of EuroDIG since its beginning, we are particularly happy to welcome RIPE NCC, the European Commission and the Internet Society (ISOC) as new institutional partners that will help to ensure the stability and distributed ownership of EuroDIG as a platform at the service of all Europeans. Together, we aspire to be ever more creative and innovative in dialogue. Above all, EuroDIG is always open, inclusive and it is never too late to get involved!

Lee Hibbard (Council of Europe) and Thomas Schneider (Swiss Federal Office of Communications)
Inspired by the Internet Governance Forum and the EuroDIG, the South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG) has been launched by and for stakeholders in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area, as a space where they can gather and discuss, in an informal and open manner, about current and emerging Internet related issues that are relevant for the region. SEEDIG is also aimed to create more linkages between the global Internet governance debates and the realities in the region, by empowering SEE actors to actively participate in global processes and organisations and to contribute their views and experiences.

You are welcome to join us for a full day of interactive discussions (on Internet governance processes, multistakeholderism, digital human rights and IDNs) and to help us make the voice of South Eastern Europe better heard in the Internet governance ecosystem.

Programme SEEDIG, 3 June 2015
Multistakeholder Internet governance: from the global debates to South Eastern European realities.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Welcoming address</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>What is Internet governance and why should I care?</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>Multistakeholder Internet governance mechanisms/approaches at a national level</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Human rights for Internet users: theoretical approaches vs realities in the region</td>
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<td>15:30</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>The domain name space in South Eastern Europe – the case of IDNs</td>
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<td>17:30</td>
<td>Conclusions and final remarks</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Media in the digital age</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Cybersecurity: bringing the puzzle together</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>To facilitate equal access for all</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>How to facilitate equal access for all</td>
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<td>17:00</td>
<td>Future Internet Law - what frameworks?</td>
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<td>18:00</td>
<td>Should data for Internet governance? Future?</td>
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<td>19:00</td>
<td>Media in the digital age - break out session</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Wrap up</td>
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**EuroDIG 2015 programme**

**Legend**
- [ ] Special session
- [ ] Special event (20 min)
- [ ] Keynote speech
- [ ] Step to realising equal access for all
- [ ] Internationalised Domain Names
- [ ] Data protection and privacy in the era of outstanding digitization
- [ ] How can we shape the digital single market together?
- [ ] How can the open Internet coexist with new IP services?
- [ ] Cross-border jurisdiction project
- [ ] The IANA stewardship transition: A test case for Internet governance?
- [ ] Privacy and data protection in the emerging era of digital and new services
- [ ] Should data for Internet governance? Future?
Thank you to all people involved in organizing this event

EuroDIG Secretariat
Lorena Jasme-Palaci (EuroDIG Communication Director and Youth engagement), Sandra Hoferichter (EuroDIG Managing Director), Wolf Ludwig (EuroDIG Programme Director).

Host Team
Ekaterina Dureva (EuroDIG 2015 Host team coordination), Iliya Bazlyankov (EuroDIG 2015 Host representation), Tetiana Ivanova (EuroDIG 2015 Host team assistance).

Special thanks to the local institutional partner the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications.

Session organisers (Focal points)
Amelia Andersdotter (WS 3), Bissera Zankova (PL 1), Chris Buckridge (PL 4), Frédéric Donck (PL 3), Georgi Apostolov (WS 2), Iliya Bazlyankov (WS 6), Julia Brungs & Jorge Fernandez (WS 8), Justin Caso & Karen McCabe (PL 2), Lee Hibbard (WS 9), Paul Fehlinger (WS 4), Radoslav Rizov (WS 7), Sorina Teleanu (WS 1), Tatiana Tropina & Vlada Radunovic (WS 5) – besides all members of the org. teams.

Side events
Iliya Bazlyankov (IDN), Kasia Jakimowicz (GIPO), Maarten Borgmann (DC IoT), Marco Hogewoning (Internet 101), William J. Drake (NETmundial).

Flash
Andrea Beccalli, Anelia Dimova, Bissera Zankova, Christian Borggreen, Ilana Franklin, Maarten Borgmann, Mariana Darnova, Paul Fehlinger, Plamena Popova, Sebastian Bachofel, Xianhong Hu.

SEEDIG
Special thanks to the SEEDIG Executive Committee (Aida Mahmutovic, Dusan Stojcevic, Iliya Bazlyankov, Liana Gastyan and Sorina Teleanu) for organizing the pre-event.
Information about the social event

Social evening at Central Military Club
June 04, 19:30 - 24:00

We invite you to finish a day of productive work with a special dinner in Bulgarian style with an exciting folklore program.

Address
Sofia, bul. Tsar Osvoboditel, 7

Transport
Special busses will be waiting for you in front of the main entrance of "Hotel Marinela Sofia"
19:00 3 busses
19:45 3 busses

For the return to Hotel "Marinela Sofia" from the evening event special busses will be waiting at Alexander Nevsky Square:
23:00 3 busses
24:00 3 busses

Looking forward to seeing you at the EuroDIG 2015 social evening!
Useful information

Broadcast and remote participation

There are a few possibilities to follow and participate at EuroDIG via internet. Many sessions will be streamed live via webex, a tool that also gives you the opportunity to talk to the audience and write comments online. For this check the remote participation links provided at the corresponding session site of the programme: www.eurodig.org/eurodig-2015/programme. Remote moderators will give you the floor or forward comments to the session moderators.

You can also raise your voice remotely via twitter by using the corresponding hashtag indicated at each session site of the programme.

Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi will be available during the event.
Network: EuroDIG
Password: shapingtheinternettogether

Host and EuroDIG contacts

Ekaterina Dureva
mob. +359 87 660 66 94
Sandra Hoferichter
mob. +49 163 380 87 85

Media

For press requests, please contact

Media national: Iliya Bazlyankov
mob. +359 89 999 16 90

Media international: Lorena Jaume-Palasi, Communication Director and Youth Engagement
mob. +49 179 91 19 678

Useful links

http://www.sofia-guide.com/ - The most comprehensive Sofia city guide

Telecommunication

The international phone prefix for Bulgaria is +359.

Emergency numbers

For any emergency, please dial the pan-European number 112.

Currency

The Bulgarian currency is the Lev (1 bgn = 0.50 euro). You can exchange money in bank offices, or use ATMs. Banks have different working times, generally from 09:00 to 17:00, in shopping centres until 22:00. You can find some branches working on Saturdays and Sundays. Major credit and debit cards are widely accepted, but in smaller restaurants and shops you should look for the card’s logo on their front door.

Travel from/to the airport Sofia

You can use metro to travel from/to the airport to/from Sofia. The underground trains run from 05:00 to 24:00 and the price of one way ticket is 1 leva. The metro station “Sofia Airport” on Line 1 is situated near by Terminal 2. Sofia Airport provides free transport from Terminal 1 to Terminal 2 in the time interval of 30 min from 07:00 to 19:00.

The most convenient ways to reach the airport from the venue are by taxi or using metro. Using metro, please go to station James Bourchier (Джеймс Бурчир) and take line 2 (the blue one), direction Serdica (Сердика). Then on station Serdica you should transfer to Line 1 (the red one) to direction “Sofia Airport”.

Recommended TAXI:

„Yellow Taxi” (call them at +359291119) or „Green Taxi” (+359878810810). Uber is also available.
The St. Nikolai Russian Church - This small decorative church with its golden onion domes was built between 1912 and 1914 to appease a Russian diplomat afraid to worship in Bulgarian churches. The church is named after St. Nikolai ‘the miracle maker’. To this day wishes are written on slips of paper and placed in the wooden box by the white marble sarcophagus of Bishop Serafim, who is buried in the crypt.

Alexander Nevski Cathedral & Crypt - Named after St. Alexander Nevski, a Russian Tsar who saved Russia from invading Swedish troops in 1240 and the patron saint of Tsar Alexander II, who was also referred to as Bulgaria’s Tsar Osvoboditel (Liberator), since it was his troops that finally brought about Bulgaria’s liberation from Ottoman rule. The spectacular external golden domes were covered in gold leaf, donated by Russia in 1960 and have recently been regilded. Find time to visit the crypt under the cathedral with its fascinating collection of icons.

Sveta Petka Samardzhiiska Church - This quaint church was built in the 14th century during Ottoman rule, which explains why it is below ground level and very simple in its exterior. The national hero, Vasil Levski, is said to have been buried here after been hanged by the Ottoman rulers and a bronze plaque on the wall commemorates that, though there is no proof that his remains lie here. St. Petka functions as a normal church with regular services.

The map of the centrum of Sofia

The most interesting sights in Sofia are situated in the centrum of the city. You can reach the centrum by taxi or by metro (from „James Bourchier“ station to „Serdika“ station). Here are some of the most popular tourist places:

- National Theatre - Built in 1907 by the Austrian architects Heiner & Felner, the National Theatre is one of the most ornate buildings in Sofia.
- National Museum of Archaeology - The oldest museum in Bulgaria has been in its present location the „Bujuk (Big) Mosque“ since 1899. The mosque itself dates back to the end of the 15th century and is without a doubt one of the most charming and interesting museums in Sofia.
- National Art Gallery - Established in 1948, the gallery has over 12,000 examples of Bulgarian art from the 19th and 20th century in its collection, though of course only a small part is on display.
- The Synagogue - The largest Synagogue in the Balkans and third largest in Europe was built between 1905 and 1909 in Spanish-Mauritanian and Byzantine style. A museum tracing the history of Jews in Bulgaria is to be found inside the synagogue building.
- Saint Sofia Church - It is the oldest Eastern Orthodox Church in Sofia. It is in fact this church, built on the highest point in Sofia, that gave its name to the present-day capital back in the 14th century. This is a very popular church for weddings and christenings.
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