

## **EuroDIG Plenary 4: Arrangements for a European IGF and Future EuroDIG events**

### **Responses to questions about national IGF structures: Romania**

#### **1. Effectiveness of national IGF structures?**

##### **What is your experience with the effectiveness of your national IGFs discussions?**

There is no much debate about IG or IGF in Romania. Nor the government nor the business sector showed any interest to launching/coordinating IG/IGF discussions at national level. And this is despite the fact that Romania had impressive delegations taking part in both WSIS phases. As for NGOs, there have been few small attempts to raise awareness on IG-related issues, but without having a great impact.

##### **How do you make sure that your national IGF discussions do have an impact on the policy discussion and on national legislation process?**

Since there is limited or no debate in Romania regarding IG issues, there is also no input in the policy making or legislation processes. Should there be more intensive IGF discussions at civil society/private sector level in Romania, this would probably draw attention of the government/Parliament and determine them to get involved into these discussions and to take these discussions into consideration when drafting policies/legislation.

##### **How do you make sure that the relevant stakeholders get together and have a constructive exchange?**

There is a need for raising awareness in Romania (among civil society, private sector and public sector) regarding IG related aspects and IGF meetings. Only when properly informed, it would be expected for these stakeholders to get involved in the IG process. But it is still unclear who should or could take the lead in such a process, since there seems to be little interest from the part of all potential stakeholders.

##### **How do you make sure that your national IGF helps people to better understand the challenges related to Internet Governance?**

Once stakeholders would get together and start discussing on IG issues, it is expected that they become aware of the fact that there is a need for informing people about their discussions and about all IG aspects that impact their lives, as Internet users. This could be done mainly through public awareness campaigns, seminars and workshops dedicated to end-users and organized through public-private partnerships, and with a strong involvement from the part of NGOs.

#### **2. European Approach on Internet Governance?**

##### **What is "European" about the Internet Governance Discussion in Europe?**

The fact that it gathers Europeans from different media all together in order to identify, from an European perspective, the IG-related opportunities, challenges, and solutions to these challenges. Once discussed at regional level, these issues can be brought to the attention of a more international "auditorium", in the global IGF.

##### **What can Europe contribute to the global Internet Governance Discussion?**

Europe can contribute to the global Internet Governance discussion by bringing into attention its views on IG-related issues and its practice in several of these issues (measures taken at European level in order to encourage the use of ICTs, efforts to harmonize European states' legislations on Internet related issues, etc), which could serve as a basis for the international discussions meant to identify solutions for the existing Internet Governance challenges.

##### **What are European perspectives, best practices and how should they feed into the global IGF?**

At European level, both the European Union and the Council of Europe have proved to be efficient in dealing with some IG-related issues. The conventions and recommendations adopted by the Council of Europe on issues such as cyber crime, freedom of speech, content filtering can serve as models to be followed at international level. On the other side, the European Union has some example of efficient practices in areas such as: encouraging the extensive use of ICT at regional level and bridging the digital divide separating states, regions inside states, categories of population; adopting efficient pan European regulations related to issues like data protection, privacy, electronic commerce, etc.

The often enhanced cooperation (through public consultations, multilateral meetings, etc) between these organizations and the private sector and the civil society on this kind of issues could also serve as model for a multistakeholder approach of IG.

By taking part in the global IGF, European stakeholders would be able to promote the European perspectives and practices on IG aspects, so that they could be taken into consideration during the discussions.

### **3. European IGF: mandate and objectives?**

#### **Is there a need/desire for a European IGF? If yes, what should be its mandate and objectives? Which stakeholders should participate?**

A European IGF is desirable as it will create an environment encouraging and allowing interested parties to meet and discuss on IG related issues at a regional level.

Through analogy with the global IGF, the mandate and the objectives of the European IGF would be to facilitate discussions between European stakeholders on IG elements, discuss the inclusion of IG issues in the public policy making at European level, identify, from an European perspective, the main challenges related to IG and contribute to finding the most suitable solutions, discuss on European contributions to the global IG process.

The stakeholders would include: public sector (governments, Parliaments and other public bodies) representatives from national level, officials from the European Union, Council of Europe, businesses and industry players, civil society.

### **4. European IGF: structure and working methods?**

#### **How should such a regional forum work? How should it be organized and how should it be funded? How should it link to national, global and other regional Internet governance initiatives? How could it help to improved e-participation in internet governance in Europe?**

The European IGF would have two bodies responsible for preparing its works: a secretariat and a stakeholders' committee (each stakeholders group – governments, private sector, civil society – should have an equal number of seats in the committee). The Forum would have regular meetings (once or twice a year), during which workshops and plenary discussion would be held on specific topics to be established beforehand by the two bodies, following proposals made by the interested parties.

Regarding the organization of the Forum, there are two models that could be taken into account.

The first follows the global IGF model. Thus, the European IGF could be organized under the auspices of the Council of Europe. The members of the Secretariat staff and of the stakeholders' committee would be appointed by the Secretary General of the Council, following nominations made by the stakeholders. The activity of the Forum could be financed from the contributions made by member states to the Council's budget.

In the second model, the European IGF would be organized as an independent body, at the initiative of the stakeholders (this decision could be taken during the EuroDIG meetings). The members of the stakeholders' committee would be appointed by a nominating body made up of an equal number of randomly-selected representatives of the three stakeholders groups (public sector, private sector, civil society). This nominating body would choose the members of the stakeholders' committee from the proposals that can be made by any stakeholder. The Forum would be funded from voluntary contributions from the stakeholders; however, this should not mean that only those stakeholders that contribute to the budget can have a voice in the Forum.

As a European forum, it will represent a framework for all national IG initiatives to be brought together, in order to enhance European cooperation on this matter and to exchange experiences and practices. The discussions held inside the European IGF would be brought to the attention of other regional initiatives and to the international IG community in the framework of the global IGF.

The European IGF bodies, as well as the individual stakeholders involved in the process would raise awareness on their IG related activities, in order to determine enhanced participation from other potential interested parties. The European IGF meetings themselves would contribute to making the IG process more visible at European level and to encourage participation in the process.

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