

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

### Responses to questions about national IGF structures: Spain

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

*What is your experience with the effectiveness of your national IGFs discussions? How do you make sure that your national IGF discussions do have an impact on the policy discussion and on national legislation process? How do you make sure that the relevant stakeholders get together and have a constructive exchange? How do you make sure that your national IGF helps people to better understand the challenges related to Internet Governance?*

The Spanish IGF was first launched on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Representatives from business, users of telecommunications and the Internet, scientific and technical community and public policy experts of the Information Society decided to encourage the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum in Spain as an open platform for debate.

It is especially interesting to point out that this forum has succeeded in bringing together relevant stakeholders and raising interest among them. As a matter of fact, this forum has been holding monthly meetings with high levels of attendance. With the support of Telefonica Foundation and the participation of outstanding speakers, we have also been successful in catching the general public attention.

Although we have been able to include government representatives who are highly involved, it still remains a goal for the Spanish IGF to reach a tangible impact on public policy and national legislation.

The Spanish IGF counts with an Advisory Committee, whose members are committed and actively participate in the decision making process. The Spanish IGF produces documents on different subjects that are discussed in its meetings, and these documents are approved by the Advisory Committee.

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

*What is "European" about the Internet Governance Discussion in Europe? What can Europe contribute to the global Internet Governance Discussion? What are European perspectives, best practices and how should they feed into the global IGF?*

The Spanish IGF supports the idea of developing an European approach in terms of Internet Governance. First of all, because European countries share a set of values, experiences and challenges that may be particular to this region; for these issues, it may be useful to have a common stronger voice in the international sphere. However, the European IGF should not substitute existing national IGFs.

It is of particular importance to agree on relevant issues at the European level that we can all focus on and try to have a real impact about them. The Spanish IGF, in a recent discussion about which these issues could/should be, and as a first approach, pointed out relevant issues such as: privacy, intellectual property, electronic book, cultural diversity... This should be further discussed and agreed on at the European level.

#### 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?*

We believe that building a European IGF is overall a good idea. However, the Spanish IGF would insist on some aspects which the European IGF should include. First of all, the European IGF should count on and strengthen other national IGFs and maybe encourage this type of debate in countries where the discussion is not taking place. Also, the European IGF should clearly define its goals and line of work so as to achieve specific objectives.

The Spanish IGF was born under a rather informal structure. We have since detected the need to move towards a formal organization and we would encourage the European IGF to be born with this aim.

We believe relevant stakeholders should include representatives from business, users of

telecommunications and the Internet, scientific and technical community and public policy experts of the Information 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?*

We support the idea of a Committee that contributes to the definition of goals and the agenda. This is not a contradiction to the fact that the Forum should hold open meetings and welcome contribution from all stakeholders.

We encourage that yearly sessions rotationally rely on national Internet related fora. Besides the yearly sessions, it is very important to encourage frequent encounters through e-participation.