

## Aleksandar Icokaev - Statement of interest - SOI

My name is Aleksandar Icokaev, I'm an attorney at law and intellectual property protection agent.

I am immediate past coordinator ( from 2017 to February 2023 ) and currently a member of the supervisory board of IGF MKD, the NRI - national IGF initiative for the Republic of North Macedonia. <https://igfmkd.mk/en/declaration/>.

My involvement in Internet Governance goes back to 2010, with my first ICANN meeting in Brussels. ( I was there as a lawyer, working on the domain name and IP portfolio of Deutsche Telekom & T – Mobile for Macedonia in cooperation with Hogan Lovell LLP Paris – with registered approx 250 domain names under the ccTLD < mk. > . )

As a result of my constant striving to get on board ICANN, in 2012 I was happy to be selected for my first ICANN fellowship. Now I am an ICANN fellowship alumni with 8 ICANN meetings - 3 as a fellow, on the others as a mentor to new comers, including the ICANN 77 in Washington. I'm proud and grateful that I had the opportunity to meet great people - colleagues in IG, many of them now members or chairs of different ICANN constituencies or even ICANN board members. As for a lawyer and an IP agent, my constituency would have been ICANN IPC.

I have also attended 4 EuroDIG annual meetings including the meetings in Tbilisi 2018 and The Hague 2019 as well as SEEDIG meetings from the very first one in Sofia 2015 to 2018 in Ljubljana Slovenia. I'm glad to see that this Regional - Southeast IG initiative is back on tracks as deserved, strongly supported by the key players in the IG. The event in Zagreb – SEEDIG 8 looks promising and encouraging. Many people have vested great amount of time and energy in creation SEEDIG.

Attending ICANN meetings, I had the privilege to attend ( on several occasions ), events organized by the IGF SA that were hosted by late, one and only Marilyn Cade and Mr. Markus Kummer.

During one of such presentations by Marilyn and Markus, named IGF SA @ ICANN ( it was ICANN in Helsinki I believe ), under their direct suggestion, the idea was born to transfer what is being discussed at the Global IGF / ICANN to the local level and to make an effort to organize a national initiative for the Republic of North Macedonia.

After that meeting with IGF SA, together with few enthusiasts in Macedonia we have started activities for organizing the first national annual IGF event.

An initiative board composed of representatives of all relevant stakeholders was formed and in November 2017 the first IGF MKD was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as institutional partner - <https://igfmkd.mk/en/gallery-2017/> ( we have reps from the tech community, university, civil society and the end users )

Since then, IGF MKD has been organizing successful annual events every year. As a reference please refer to the photo gallery for the years 2017-21. <https://igfmkd.mk/en/galleries/>

I have to emphasize that as a registered and recognized national IGF initiative, IGF MKD received financial assistance from IGF SA, on two occasions for the national events in 2017 and 2018.

Already in 2019, we made the biggest event with the participation and sponsorship by one of the largest Telecom providers worldwide, T-mobile and as institutional partners we had representatives of the government - the ministry of information society and from the office of the President of the Republic. That year the global IGF was held in Berlin and Ms. Angela Merkel gave opening speech

which we have used as the opening theme on our annual event ( the video of Ms. Merkel addressing)

IGF MKD accepted and supported the recommendation of the IGF Secretariat and the IGF SA for all national initiatives, aimed to increase transparency and accountability and began preparations for the establishment of a legal entity. The administrative procedures were completed by the end of 2019, but due to the corona crisis, the registration ended in May 2020.

<https://igfmkd.mk/en/organizational-structure/>

For 2021, we received a grant from the IGF Secretariat and we also managed to organize an annual event for 2022/23 with the help of local supporters. Please see the link attached.

<https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/north-macedonia-igf-1>. This link will lead you to the IGF MKD website.

If you scroll down the pictures from our IGF MKD events you will see that we made effort to bring relevant guest speakers in the names of, Chengetai Masango, Lynn St Amour, Sandra of EuroDIG, Anja Gengo of the IGF secretariat, Sorina and Vlada of Diplo foundation, Mirjam of RIPPE NCC, Leon Sanchez and Andrea Becalli of ICANN and many others...

As we in IGF MKD cherish the idea that every organization needs fresh blood and new energy, in 2023 IGF MKD elected new coordinator – Marko Paloski a young IT engineer and I have assumed the membership position in the supervisory board.

Regarding my level of involvement during my mandate as the coordinator of the NRI - IGF MKD, my personal and professional capacities and the level of communication with the IGF Secretariat, you can also contact Ms. Anja Gengo from the IGF UN Secretariat.

Last but not least, I run my own law office - firm and I don't always have time to devote myself completely to socially responsible activities and non-governmental organizations – i.e the Civil society. However, I'm big supporter of the voice they bring to the table in the efforts to influence decision making process in the national legislative bodies and institutions.

For me, membership in IGFSA EC, first of all, would mean great recognition and personal satisfaction and, from my end I would try to contribute to its work to the best of my abilities and experience.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Aleksandar Icokeev ( Ichokjaev )