

Aleksandar Icokaev - Statement of interest.

My name is Aleksandar Icokaev, lawyer and intellectual property protection agent.

I am immediate past coordinator (from 2017 to December 2022) and currently a member of the supervisory board of IGF MKD, the 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. (as a lawyer I was working on the domain name and IP portfolio of Deutsche Telekom & T – Mobile for Macedonia in cooperation with Hogan Lovell LLP Paris – with registered 240 domain names). As a result of my constant interest to get on board ICANN, in 2012 I received the first ICANN fellowship. Now I am an ICANN fellowship alumni with 7 ICANN meetings - 3 as a fellow, on the others as a mentor to new comers. I'm proud and grateful that I had the opportunity to meet great 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 is ICANN IPC.

I attended 4 EuroDIG annual meetings including the meeting in The Hague 2019 as well as SEEDIG meetings from the first one in Sofia 2015 to 2018 in Ljubljana Slovenia. Macedonia hosted the SEEDG in 2017, where we have announced the formation of the IGF MKD.

As a result of my involvement in ICANN, I had the privilege to attend, on several occasions, events organized by IGF SA that were hosted by the late, one and only Marilyn Cade and the man who knows how to motivate people with his soft approach, Mr. Marcus Kummer.

During one of such presentations by Marilyn and Markus, 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, Mr. Sasho Dimitrijoski, at that time the Macedonian representative in ICANN GAC and I, 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 an institutional partner - <https://igfmkd.mk/en/gallery-2017/>

Since then, IGF MKD has been organizing successful annual events every year. As a reference please refer to the photo gallery for the years 2012-21.

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.

IGF MKD accepted and supported the recommendation of the IGF Secretariat 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/>.

Regarding my engagement, contribution, 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.