

IGF NRIs

Report for the NRIs Collaborative Session on IDNs

1. Co-organizers

1. SEEDIG
2. Nepal IGF
3. Russia IGF
4. Macedonia FYR IGF (IGF MKD)

2. Session title

Multilingual Internet: IDNs under the magnifying glass

3. Session format and timing

This session was 90 minutes long, organised as a round-table, allowing all in situ and online participants to contribute to the discussions.

4. Content of the session

This session achieved a twofold objective: to raise more awareness on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and their relevance in the quest for a more inclusive Internet; and to explore challenges (and possible solutions) related to the implementation and use of IDNs.

In this context, the session discussed the three parts:

- Segment 1: : Multilingualism and IDNs: What and why? The session will start with a short intro into the issue of multilingualism on the Internet, and will continue with a brief introduction to IDNs.
- Segment 2: *IDNs through the eyes of end-users*. This segment will be focused on end-users, and their perceptions of, experiences with, and expectations from IDNs.
- Segment 3: *IDNs behind the scenes*. The technical community (registries, registrars, ICANN, the Universal Acceptance Steering Group, etc) and the private sector (search engines, e-mail service providers, etc.) will be invited to talk about what they do in the area of IDNs, and how they (can)respond to end-users' needs and concerns related to IDN usability. This segment will include experience sharing (from existing IDN

registries, Internet companies, etc), discussions on challenges faced in implementing IDNs, overviews of the work done to address such challenges, etc. Other stakeholders involved in the promotion of IDNs will be included in this segment as well (e.g. governments, IGOs, etc.).

5. Speakers/Resource persons

Segment 1:

- Jonne Soininen, ICANN Board
- IDN in the future rounds on gTLDs?
- expectation , economics
- UA WG, cover the result of the work

Segment 2: Lianna Galstyan, Internet Society Armenia

Segment 3:

- Irina Danelia, Coordination Center for TLDs .RU/.РФ
- Sanja Simonova, MARnet
- Alena Belskaya, .бел ccTLD (Belarus)
- Edmon Chung, DotAsia Registry, Universal Acceptance Steering Group Vice Chair
- Jennifer Chung, DotAsia Registry

6. Summary of key points:

IDNs were launched with the aim to make the Internet more inclusive, by giving users the possibility to access and register domain names in their own languages and scripts. IDNs overall objective is to empower more people to use the Internet. They are especially relevant to the regions using the non-Latin script. Many countries in the Eastern European region, but also in Asia Pacific have direct experiences on this, given the diversity of scripts (i.e. Armenian, Cyrillic, Georgian, Greek, Latin. In some countries, IDN country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) have been implemented (Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Macedonia FYR (.МКД), Russia (.РФ), Serbia, etc.) or are in the process of being implemented (Greece), while other countries have announced their intention to implement IDNs in the future (such as Bosnia and Herzegovina). In addition, the New gTLD Program launched by ICANN in 2012 opened the door for IDN generic top-level domain (gTLDs), such as .сайт “.website”, .онлайн “.online”, etc.. But there is a need to

raise more awareness and promote a better understanding of IDN-related challenges, in order to ensure that the initial objective of IDNs is achieved.

7. Interventions/Engagement with participants (onsite and online)

Several guiding questions helped framing the discussions:

Segment 1:

- What are IDNs? Why and how did this idea come to life?

Segment 2:

- A live quiz (using an online tool such as Mentimeter) will be prepared for session participants to answer on the spot. It will include questions related to the actual use of IDNs (whether session participants use IDNs and why, whether they find value in IDNs, what advantages and disadvantages they see in IDNs, challenges related to the use of IDNs, recommendations for improving IDNs, etc.). The [survey conducted by SEEDIG](#) in early 2017 could serve as a source of inspiration in developing this quiz.

Segment 3:

- For registries: Why embarking on a journey to introduce IDNs? What was/is your main motivation? | Share one challenge you have faced during this journey and what you have done or are doing to address it. | Are you satisfied with what you have achieved after launching the IDN? | What challenges do you still face regarding the usability of your IDN? Regarding the /PΦ domain experience I should say that the main challenge we are facing is some technical restrictions with IDN e-mail, or restrictions in using these domains in some registration forms and so on. We strongly believe that if vendors could solve such kind of problems there will be another giant leap in number of registrations and usage
- For registrars: Why including IDNs in your offering? | What is the demand for IDN domain names, among your client base? | What are the main complains you get from your clients when it comes to IDNs? | What is, in your view, the main aspects that needs to be addressed/improved, to have IDNs more widely used.
- For Internet companies (Google, etc.): What is your perspective on the usability of IDNs?
- ICANN/Universal Acceptance Steering Group: What is 'universal acceptance' and how do we get there?

- Governments/IGOs: Why are IDNs among your concerns?

Onsite moderator(s)

- Andrea Beccalli, ICANN
- Mikhail Anisimov, Coordination Center for TLDs .RU/.РФ

Online moderator(s)

- *Aleksandar Icokaev*

Rapporteur(s)

- *Sorina Teleanu*

Online participation logistics

Webex and Twitter used to gather input from online participants.