

Experts from across Europe discuss the sustainable governance of the Internet at EuroDIG, the first satellite event of ESOF2020

The European Dialogue on Internet Governance will be held from 10th to 12th June. From 5G to cryptography, from safety online to the digital divide: a virtual meeting to discuss Internet governance at an international level.

Registrations are open at eurodig.org until 9th June



Trieste, 11 May 2020

“Imagine the world without the Internet – 30 years ago society would have faced even more challenges with the COVID 19 pandemic happening right now” says **Thomas Schneider, Swiss Ambassador and President of the EuroDIG Association**, the organisers of the *European Dialogue on Internet Governance*, the first satellite event of ESOF2020 Trieste.

“The Internet, as the underlying structure, keeps up at least a minimum of our social and cultural life. Also, the economy is heavily dependent on a robust network. But we need to discuss constantly how it should be developed and governed in a way that it is for benefit of all.



Headquarters
Sottostazione Elettrica
Porto Vecchio - 34136 Trieste
T. +39 040 6759111
W. esof.eu

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Therefore, the overarching theme of EuroDIG is *Towards a sustainable governance of the Internet*".

Other than planned it will not take place as a physical meeting in Trieste but virtually with the support of ICTP – The International Centre for Theoretical Physics "Abdus Salam" in Trieste. **From 5G to quantum computers, from social networks to cyber security, from questions on privacy and safety online to access to infrastructure:** for three days, representatives from the academic world, the public and the private sector, governmental and political stakeholders as well as Internet activists and the general the public will come together to discuss everything that rotates around of the fair and secure development of the Internet with a people-centered focus.

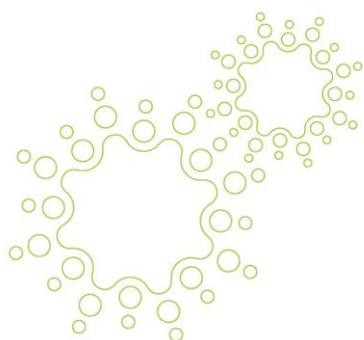
"ICTP is honoured to host the 2020 online edition of EuroDIG." claims **Atish Dabholka, Director of ICTP**. "While Europe and the whole world are facing an unprecedented situation, I believe it is important to continue the multistakeholder dialogue on Internet Governance. We are all witnessing the importance of Internet access for remote collaboration, online education and for our daily lives. We must ensure a fair access to the Internet for all, and EuroDIG's overarching theme is more relevant than ever."

A call to collect for Scientific Trieste

The themes, the spirit of openness and sharing, the involvement of Trieste – declared the European City of Science 2020 – have led to a strong synergy between ESOF and EuroDIG, one of the satellite events of ESOF2020 Trieste and the first of these appointments. "Supporting this event is important for ESOF for various reasons" states **Stefano Fantoni, Champion of ESOF2020**. "For the themes tied to the great challenges of the Internet and digital innovation, primary aspects for our forum, even more so in these difficult times, and also because if it is true that ESOF is a launch pad for Trieste, EuroDIG is also an appointment that shines light on the town and on the excellence of our scientific system."

This edition of EuroDIG is a call to collect for many of the scientific institutions in the area. In addition to ICTP, at the forefront in the organization, the event is being carried out in cooperation with SISSA – The International School for Advanced Studies of Trieste, and the University of Trieste.

Stefano Ruffo, Director of SISSA, underlines the deep ties between "pure" research and technology: "From a purely theoretical observation by Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen in 1935, we now see the birth of quantum technologies whose potential is largely unexplored; yet another example of how research guided by curiosity produces the most disruptive innovation." This Institute in Trieste is involved in the panel titled "Quantum technologies – from basic research to market" and organised by the Trieste Institute for Quantum Technologies, a joint institute set up by SISSA, ICTP and the University of Trieste. It will focus on the possibilities offered by research in this field which plays a key role in the sphere of cryptography, cyber security and Artificial Intelligence.



“The Internet is, on a global level, an enabling factor for development, well-being and culture” comments the **Chancellor of the University of Trieste, Roberto Di Lenarda**, who adds: “This is also demonstrated by the current world situation, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The University, whose mission includes advanced training in all areas of knowledge and of cultural, social and economic development, is, therefore, the ideal place to direct the debate on the governance of the Internet.”

Registration is required to participate in the forum, which will be held in video conferencing mode given the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Registrations are open until 9th June and can be made at www.eurodig.org where the draft programme is also available.

EuroDIG – European Dialogue on Internet Governance is an open platform for the exchange of opinions on the Internet and its governance. Created in 2008 by a number of organisations, government representatives and experts, it builds on the inclusive and bottom-up model of the UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and fosters dialogue and collaboration with the Internet community on public policies for its use and management. The association organizes a conference which is held annually in a European city. The 2020 edition, planned for Trieste, has been converted into a virtual format as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, whilst maintaining the collaboration with the Trieste institutions involved in the organisation.

ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) is the largest interdisciplinary scientific meeting in Europe. Created in 2004 by EuroScience, this biennial European Forum dedicated to scientific research and innovation provides a unique opportunity for interaction and debate among scientists, innovators, politicians, entrepreneurs and citizens.

Trieste has been named the European City of Science 2020 and will “host” the ninth edition of ESOF which will be held from 2nd to 6th September 2020 using formats that are compatible with the development of the COVID-19 emergency and which will certainly privilege online participation.

Press Contact

pressoffice@esof.eu

Nico Pitrelli

+39 3391337950

Marina D’Alessandro

+39 3492885935

