

INTERNET GOVERNANCE IN ARGENTINA

Project report # 2

1. NAME OF THE PROJECT: INTERNET GOVERNANCE OUTREACH PROGRAM

2. AMMOUNT OF FUNDS AWARDED: U\$S 6,150.-

3. AMMOUNT RECEIVED UP TO DATE : U\$S 3,075.-

4. PROJECT MANAGER : SEBASTIAN RICCIARDI

5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The World Summit on the Information Society, and some recent changes in the current rules to register and renew domain names in Argentina caught the attention of many members of the local Internet community. We are concerned about the lack of widely accepted principles and policies to address issues regarding the technical management of the Internet in our country. We acknowledge that this situation is not based on political disagreements, but is often the result of the lack of knowledge and comprehension about technical aspects of the Internet.

Therefore, we committed ourselves to start an outreach program within the local community to drive the attention of governmental officials, the private sector, the civil society, universities and other members of the internet community. This outreach program will advocate for the creation of a new multistakeholder entity to manage the .ar ccTLD (so far under the government management) and encourage the community to participate of the existent organizations that address technical issues (ICANN, the Internet Society itself, etc.).

This outreach program will have different stages:

- Media releases
- A monthly newsletter about ISOC.Ar activities and the Internet in Argentina.
- 2 workshops on Internet Governance and the role of the Internet Community
- Meetings with governmental officers and the private sector

We will focus on a two major areas, in which we think ISOC should play a key role:

- Internet Governance

- Technical management of the Internet (at all levels: National, regional & international)

We expect this project to be a strong contribution to the internet community. Not only it will allow ISOC.Ar (The Argentinean ISOC chapter) to restart its activities and strengthen its leadership on Internet policy matters, but it will also increase the awareness of fundamental issues in our country: How the internet works, what is the DNS, why the existent organizations (ICANN, IETF, IAB, etc.) are important, etc. We will also focus our message in promoting a real inclusive dialogue between all stakeholders.

6. UP TO DATE PROGRESS

6.1. Capacity Building contributions

We have been invited to lecture on Internet Governance issues at the ISEN (Instituto del Servicio Exterior de la Nacion), institute in which argentinian diplomats take mandatory courses. We consider this kind of activities very important: we had have the opportunity to discuss with future diplomats the WSIS outcome and explain them the actual coordination model for handling technical aspects of the Internet, including the role of ICANN, ISOC, IAB, IETF, etc.

6.2. Multistakeholder meetings

We held several meetings between Pablo Hinojosa from ICANN, Sebastian Bellagamba form ICANN ASO and president of the ISOC.Ar chapter, Olga Cavalli, from the argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oscar Messano from LACNIC, members of CABASE (Camara de Empresas de Bases de Datos y Servicios en linea). In these meetings we discussed several issues related to the local ccTLD and Internet Governance Issues. We have these meetings once a month.

6.3. Civil Society coordination

We conducted several meetings with organizations from the civil society in Argentina, among them Internauta, Ageia Densi and IISI, setting the agenda for future discussions and debates. We are now coordinating a group of organizations that will help ISOC.Ar present a proposal regarding the .ar ccTLD management.

6.4. First Internet Governance Workshop



On October 3rd, we organized the First Internet Governance Workshop at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Hosted by the Group of Technology related Issues (GETEC), the meeting was designed as a workshop to provide a tangible result: a set of recommendations to present at the IGF to be held in Athens this month, representing the official Argentine position.

This workshop was a big success, as seen from different perspectives:

- 1) It was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, showing their commitment with the multistakeholder model, and their will towards a constructive dialogue. One of the main objectives we had for these activities was to promote this kind of interaction between the government, the private sector, the civil society, the academic sector and the Internet technical community.



- 2) The attendance was very impressive. All the major business organizations were there, including CESSI, CICOMRA and CABASE, and many high ranked government officers from different areas. The civil society was also well represented. Ambassador Colombo Sierra, Argentine Vice minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the MAG, opened the workshop pointing out the importance of having these multistakeholder dialogues to build up the Argentine official position regarding Internet Governance issues.

3) It was very important for ISOC and for the local chapter. We have demonstrated our capabilities to organize high level round tables and productive discussions about Internet Governance.



4) An online list was set up, to keep discussing Internet Governance Issues, hosted by the Government. We expect to migrate this list to ISOC.Ar as soon as we have the opportunity to do so (we are facing some technical constraints right now)

7. FINANCIALS:

We have received the first installment of 50%, and still have funds available on the account. We are financing the project from different sources, and up to date we have only spent approximately \$4,500 of the \$9,000 received.

8. OUTLOOK:

We are planning another Multistakeholder Workshop after the Internet governance Forum meeting in Athens, and we will host small workshops in different places to develop a proposal to reform the Network Information Center and ccTLD management. We expect to report about these activities on November.