

## Challenges for a digital Europe. EuroDIG focuses on Internet governance in the post pandemic future

The European Dialogue on Internet Governance, the first satellite event of ESO2020 Trieste, which will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June, was presented today. Risks and opportunities in the response to the COVID-19 emergency, digital cooperation, open access and quantum supremacy are among the main themes. Registration is open at [eurodig.org](http://eurodig.org) until 9<sup>th</sup> June



*Trieste, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020*

“About a half of the world population has access to Internet, if we continue the work as hard as we have, or maybe harder, the rest of the world will be on line maybe even before the end of this decade. That means that the governance of the internet is even more important than ever. We



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need to have a stable internet, we need to have it affordable, safe, secure, preserves privacy, performs functions that we need in a reliable way”, says **Vint Cerf**, one of the founding fathers of the Internet, in the message he delivered today during the presentation of the first satellite event of ESOF2020. The American informatics expert, who is famous for being the co-designer of the TCP/IP protocols which lie at the base of how the networks work, was one of the main actors in this morning’s press conference, during which the *European Dialogue on Internet Governance* was presented, the meeting that brings together the various stakeholders for an ongoing and fruitful dialogue on the public policies that govern the Internet and which will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June with an entirely remote format.

*Towards a sustainable governance of the Internet* is the motto of this edition of the event. From **Cyber security to 5G, from the post Covid-19 emergency digital scenarios to the challenges of quantum technologies, from fake news to Open Science**: representatives from the academic world, public and private institutions, stakeholders from the political sphere and citizens will discuss everything that revolves around the world of the Internet, its safe and just governance with an approach centred on people.

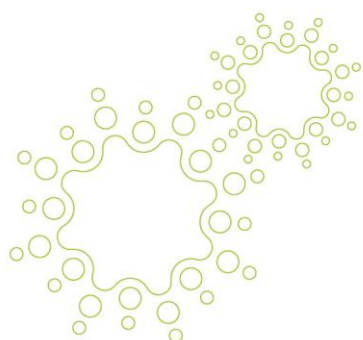
The meeting is part of the satellite events of ESOF2020 and will be the first of these to take place. It will be hosted “virtually” by the “Abdus Salam” International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and organised in cooperation with the Ministry for Technological Innovation and Digitalisation, SISSA – The International School for Advanced Studies, and the University of Trieste.

“The EuroDIG community has put a lot of effort into the sessions that will be held at EuroDIG. Cooperating with the Italian scientific community was not only a pleasure but also very rewarding for everyone in the Org Teams. We have paved a fruitful ground to continue our collaboration and we keep our fingers crossed to be able to be meeting in person in Trieste next year” states **Sandra Hoferichter from EuroDIG**, and reiterating that the 2021 edition of the forum will take place physically in the regional capital.

### **From the challenges of the pandemic to those of open science: the highlights of the forum**

Some of the main themes of the sessions were also presented today. **The opening plenary session, entitled *European Digital Economy and COVID-19 pandemic: current state of affairs, risks, and opportunities***, will focus on the effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic that have significantly accelerated the process of digitalization, whilst simultaneously highlighting all the risks tied to an improper and unregulated use of digital technologies.

EuroDIG will also be an opportunity to introduce **the *Online European Regional Consultation on Open Science, a UNESCO initiative*** carried out in collaboration with ICTP, Trieste Academy of Science (TWAS) and ESOF2020 focussing on the so-called open science, the approach that encourages a more open access to science, to its methods and its results. The final objective is to draw up a list of global recommendations which define shared principals and concrete actions on



Open Access (free access to scientific results) and Open Data (free access to research data). EuroDIG will be an inaugural meeting, followed by an effective consultation on 6th July. The outcome of the work carried out will be made available during the ESOF forum in September.

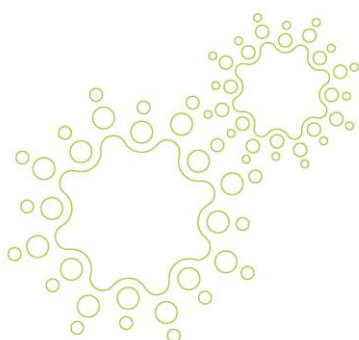
EuroDIG will look further into the future, describing the challenges and opportunities of future technologies, such as quantum computers. **The panel on *Quantum technologies – from basic research to market*, organised by the Trieste Institute for Quantum Technologies (TQT)**, a joint institute formed by SISSA, ICTP and the University of Trieste, will focus on the possibilities offered by the research in this area which plays a key role in the field of cryptography, cyber security and Artificial Intelligence. The promising developments will have an important role in shaping the digital economy in the future. Suffice it to think of the race for quantum supremacy by the information and communication technology giants who have committed themselves to creating the first quantum computer capable of carrying out a command that traditional computers are unable to do.

Registration is required to participate in the event. Registration can be made at [www.eurodig.org](http://www.eurodig.org), where the complete programme is available. Registration is open until 9<sup>th</sup> June.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020 using formats that are compatible with the development of the COVID-19 emergency and which will certainly privilege online participation.



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