

Applicant Information

First Name: Desara

Last Name: Dushi

Gender: F

Country of Residence: Albania

Stakeholder Group/Constituency Affiliation: NCUC

Questions

1. Current employer and position. Please describe the type of work you perform:

I currently work as Assistant Professor/Lecturer at Epoka University in Tirana, at the Law Department.

2. Education:

I have a Double Degree PhD in Law, Science and Technology from the University of Luxembourg and University of Bologna. I have an MA in Human Rights and a Msc in Criminal Law.

3. Please identify any GNSO Working Groups and/or chartered teams in which you are participating:

I am currently not participating in any.

4. Please describe any past involvement in the ICANN Fellowship Program, if applicable. For example, have you previously been a fellow or served as a program mentor?

I have been an ICANN Fellow twice: ICANN61 and ICANN63. I have been one of the authors of the ICANN63 Fellows report.

5. Please assess and explain how your knowledge, experience and expertise address the criteria listed below. Leave the response blank if not applicable to you.

- **Active participant in GNSO structures and policy development processes with a track record of engagement**

From what I can recall, I have participated in the drafting of the NCSG response to the Draft Proposal for NextGen@ICANN Program Improvements.

- **Previous experience serving as a mentor, teacher, or learning facilitator is a plus**

I have been working as a lecturer for the past year, starting in Kuwait and then in Albania, with over 400 students. I currently serve as a coach for the EPOKA law students team competing at the JESSUP Moot Court Competition 2021. I have served as an ICANN NextGen Ambassador at ICANN63. I also have experience working as a trainer at the Central Elections Commission.

- **Strong written and verbal communication skills**

My job and activities both as an academic as well as while serving as advisor to the Minister of Justice of Albania during 2019-2020 are strongly related with high written and verbal communication skills: I have drafted several reports, research papers, legal analyses, etc. I have several publications in leading international journals and several conference presentations and moderations.

- **Project management and coordination skills**

Being part of the SEEDIG Executive Committee, I have had the occasion of co-coordinating many regional activities, including the SEEDIG 5 and 6 annual conferences, and co-leading an intersessional project on Covid-19 tracking apps.

During my work at the Ministry, I have also led, managed and coordinated several projects. Additionally, I have served as a Focal Point of the Criminal Justice in Cyberspace workshop at EuroDig 2020; During 2019 I also served as a member of the Project Team at Western Balkans Alumni Association (WBAA), EU funded initiative.

- **Networking skills**

I have developed international networking skills due to my international PhD experience, time during which I have lived and worked in five different countries around Europe (Italy, Netherlands, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Germany) and I have participated in several international conferences around the world. As a result of my networking skills, I have several co-authored papers and cooperation initiatives, I have served as a member of several international committees, etc.

6. Please assess and explain how your knowledge, experience & personality meet the desired attributes listed below. Leave the response blank if not applicable to you.

- **Member of a GNSO Stakeholder Group and/or Constituency**

I am a member of NCUC since 2017.

- **Understanding of the ICANN's mission, structure, and multistakeholder model**

I have been participating at ICANN Meeting and following ICANN's work since ICANN58 in Copenhagen, my first ICANN Meeting, where I started as a NextGen. Then I also served as an Ambassador at ICANN63, as a NextGen Selection Committee Member for the 2019/2020 meetings and I was twice an ICANN fellow.

- **Willingness to devote the necessary time a resources prior to and during the ICANN meeting**

Being a lecturer and a coach, and a former NextGen@ICANN ambassador, I know how engaging a mentorship position is, and I am willing to devote the necessary time to this position.

- **Ability to create a supportive atmosphere for mentees by being open, accessible, and approachable**

My high international experience and my experience into various positions, academia, government and NGOs have equipped me with the ability to work in complex multicultural environments, which I think is a crucial skill for an ICANN Mentor. Moreover, working as a lecturer, I have further developed my communication and mentoring skills.

- **Robust network within the ICANN community and ability to leverage and share that network**

This can be demonstrated not only by my engagement in the ICANN community and my participation in several ICANN meetings, but also by my involvement in many other IG communities in several positions (EuroDIG Org Teams and Focal Point, SEEDIG Programme Committee Member and since February 2019 also Executive Committee Member, IGF, RIPE NCC Regional Meetings, etc).

- **Ability to present information in a manner that is simple and easy to understand**
- **Ability to establish weekly projects and deliverables for mentees using a clear and consistent learning approach**

My abilities to present information in a simple and easy to understand way, and my ability to establish weekly deliverables for mentees through a clear and consistent learning approach are demonstrated by my experience as lecturer of over 400 students, as a coach of students' teams participating into international competitions, and ultimately as an ICANN NextGen Ambassador. Additionally, my international experience in conference presentations among multi-stakeholder communities, and moderations add to my ability to present information to people from different backgrounds and nations in a clear and simple way.

7. Please explain your interest in serving as a mentor and what you will bring to the Fellowship Program if selected.

I would like to increase my engagement at the ICANN, and I think ICANN mentorship is the right direction. Having been an ICANN Fellow twice, I know what both a newcomer but also a returning fellow need. I believe fellows need a kind of mentorship that would stimulate them to get involved and continue their involvement in a long term after their fellowship experience. With my professional skills and my knowledge of the ICANN community and other IG communities, I would like to assist fellows in making the most of their ICANN meeting and their further engagement not only at ICANN but also in their national and regional communities.