

Siranush Vardanyan BIO

Currently I work with Habitat for Humanity Armenia as a Program Development Manager and my main responsibilities include participation in proposal developments, design strategies and concept papers for the program extension in the country, as well as facilitation of effective communication between the organization and governmental structures. Habitat for Humanity Armenia is National Office of Habitat for Humanity International for the Republic of Armenia.

Educational Background:

I graduated from Yerevan State Institute of Foreign Languages with Diploma with Honors, holding MS in History and English. I have completed all required exams for my PhD (all but dissertation) titled "Innovative Programs in Secondary Schools of Armenia" at the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia. In 2011 I completed the course on Project Management in Development, by receiving recognized certificate by APM Group, as well as successfully completed the continuous assessment element of module "Development: context and practice" at Open University (UK, London).

Professional Background:

I have more than 20 years experience of working with international organizations in Armenia, as well as 8 years of teaching English as a senior lecturer at Yerevan State Humanitarian College. During last several years I participated in more than 20 international conferences, seminars and workshops, where I presented different aspects of my professional development, such as technology integration into educational system, facilitation of online communities, human rights and migration issues, etc. I have several articles, published in local and international journals, related to my research work. I am Salzburg Seminar Fellow and participated in Academic Core Session: "International Legal Perspectives on Human Rights", in Salzburg, Austria and also Central European University alumni with participation at the course: "Human Rights and Forced Displacement: An Interdisciplinary Approach", in Hungary, Budapest.

Prior to my current work, during the period from 2000 till the end of 2007 I held different positions in Project Harmony Armenian Branch, working in Armenia School Connectivity Program project (www.ascp.am), which was aimed at integration of ICT into education sphere in Armenia. I was responsible for the overall administration of 330 Internet computer centers in secondary schools in Armenia. Within the Project Harmony organization, being in a senior management team, and being a Trainer of Trainers on Online Facilitation and Online Project Development, I have initiated and facilitated numerous online projects with involving different strata of the community, such as journalists, businessmen, teachers, students, children with fewer opportunities, NGO representatives, etc. I also initiated several online partnership projects with involving children and teachers from Armenia and US. For 7 years I was in the Senior Management Team of this organization and coordinated the works of about 700 people, including 2 teachers working in each Internet Computer Center (330 centers), Regional Field Coordinators (30 Regional Community Developers and Program Coordinators).

Since 2007 I has been actively involved in Internet Governance issues. I am a Diplo Foundation Alumni, being a part of on Capacity Building Program on Internet Governance in 2007, participated in the First European Summer School on Internet Governance. In 2008 I was one the members of Internet Governance Caucus (IGC) Nomination Committee for Multistakeholder Advisory Committee (MAG). I am an ICANN Fellowship Program Alumni, as well as ISOC Ambassador for IGF 2010 and ISOC Returning Ambassador for IGF 2011. In 2011-2012 I was At-Large Delegate for ICANN Nomination Committee member nominated from Asia Pacific and Australia region.

I served as a consultant for the National Center for Information Technologies (NCET) under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia, I use the knowledge gained from my continuous participation at ICANN meetings for providing a comprehensive support to NCET in the strategic planning and implementation of Internet related projects with participation of thousands of Armenian professionals.

As a Diplo Foundation Alumnus I volunteered to lead the remote participation project from Armenia for this year EuroDIG 2010, which took place in Madrid on 29-30 April, 2010. Armenia successfully participated for the first time through remote hub and I was the main organizer for setting up the remote hub in Armenia.

Though my current work doesn't directly relate to Internet related issues, but besides my job, I am also actively involved in different affiliations, such as I am a Board Member for the UN Association of Armenia local NGO, volunteer member of "Harmony" Information Technologies and Education Development Fund ("Harmony" Fund), as well as involved in different local organizations' activities, related to the development of IT sector in Armenia. I am also the member of Global and Armenian ISOC Charters. In December 2010 I was one of the Jury members of All-Armenian E-content Award. It was already for the third time I am becoming a jury member for this award, which is implemented in Armenia after WSIS Tunis agenda.

During my more than 20 years professional career I have developed extensive managerial, communication, and project implementation skills. Due to my networking and communication skills, I am also capable to do also outreach work worldwide on the initiatives implemented by ICANN. My fluency in English, Russian and Armenian languages is a very helpful asset in doing so.