

FORD FOUNDATION 2024 Digital Infrastructure Insights Fund RFP

<https://infrastructureinsights.fund/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/DIIF-Rfp4.pdf>

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Organisation name * UnCiv

Project Title * Hacking Internet Governance with Feminism & DeGrowth:

Away from Ecocide, Towards Climate Justice

Is this concept note primarily focused on research or implementation? * Research

Which topic does your research address best of all? * ODI and its intersections

1. What is your research question? * Enter up to 30 words.

How can we minimise detrimental environmental impact of the Internet infrastructure, through empowering participation of marginalised groups in Internet Governance, increasing DEI and combining feminist, DeGrowth and Climate Justice principles

2. What (research) methods will you use to answer this question? * Enter up to 500 words.

Please describe the methodologies and scope of your proposed research or implementation experiment

Please describe in a concise way, what research you are proposing and the context for this research/implementation

I am suggesting to combine feminist, DeGrowth and Climate Justice principles with the Open Digital Infrastructure governance.

I claim that the Internet infrastructure has detrimental impact on the environment (see my article “AI is Ecocide” [AI]).

This impact should be minimised, or better yet: reversed - for the Internet to become a regenerative force for planetary health, for all humans, non-humans & biosphere.

Within Internet Governance (IG), there is a raising awareness that {environmental} “sustainability {is} a new key aspect and goal of web standards.” [W3C], “cloud has a larger carbon footprint than the airline industry” [ISOC], and that we should be “discussing environmental impacts and sustainability of Internet technology” [IAB].

And, as an activist within Digital Rights & Climate Justice communities, I am working together with these communities on own approaches to “Green Tech” [CJ].

While Internet Governance is formally functioning on the “multistakeholder model” [IG&H], supposedly including diverse actors, there are challenges in attracting contributions from those affected, especially from groups that are marginalised through intersectional oppressions (gender, citizenship, education, race, neo-liberal capitalist exploitation, colonialism). Various initiatives to “increase diversity” [RIPE-TF], [systems] are struggling to improve the situation [Cath] , [Kaeo] ; there are also concerns about lack of consideration for End User [RFC8890], & increased focus on “human rights” [RFC8280].

Therefore, Internet Governance can benefit from participation of marginalised groups: open standards would be enriched, all the while increasing DEI.

For this, I am using “research methods” that are non-academic, experiential & non-conventional: “connecting people” & communities to each other, and collectively producing innovative approaches for governing the common resources (be it protocols or calendars or data collections or “codes of conduct” or alternative events forms...).

As part of my research, I am:

- a “Community Builder”: Sharing Knowledge, Participating in events, Organising events, (e.g. hackathons, hacker camps, workshops, Local Hubs)
- an advisor: Increasing DEI in technical communities by inviting & involving alternative groups (social science students, artists, DeGrowth community, XR,)
- an activist: Advocating for marginalised groups (youth, women, refugees...) & for Climate Justice (& for Squirrels!)
- a "translator" (negotiator, [NVC] mediator) between "techies" & “activists”, since I belong to both groups;

I have been producing a lot of material: publications (articles, reports), talks (slides, video recordings), collections of information (wiki pages), and collective works (e.g. zines).

Soon, I will be trained in more “conventional” research methods: I will attend these education events:

- 13-14. June <https://whatworksclimate.solutions/training/>
- 2-5. July <https://academy.ikem.de/2024-programme/>

Practical scope: I am already doing all these activities, mostly in my free time, and also as part of my job.

The main difference that this grant would make for me: I would be able to take a sabbatical (unpaid) leave from my work, for 6 months.

Or, I could do the project part-time, for 12-14 months.

3. What data or other resources will you use to answer this question? * Enter up to 200 words.

I have been collecting & analysing data about Climate Crisis, hacking & environmental sustainability since 2013; [1] is my most recent collection:

- * [1] <https://wiki.techinc.nl/Sustainability>
- * https://wiki.techinc.nl/Hackers_tribes
- * <https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/DigitalDisobedience>
- * https://wiki.techinc.nl/Internet_Footprint_Dilemmas
- * [IG&H] https://wiki.techinc.nl/Internet_Governance_and_hackers
- * [CJ] 2022: <https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/ClimateJusticeDigitalRights2022>
- * [NVC] NonViolent Communications <https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/NVC>

Based on this, I have been producing a lot of material: publications (articles, reports), talks (slides, video recordings), and collective works (e.g. zines).

Subset of my publications:

- * [AI] 2023: AI is ecocide https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/AI_is_ecocide
- * 2022: “A Plea for Climate Justice - Report from the IAB Workshop on e-Impact” <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/a-plea-for-climate-justice-report-from-the-iab-workshop-on-e-impact/>
- * 2022: Towards Climate Justice in Tech <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/towards-climate-justice-in-tech/>
- * 2021: Every Society Has the Internet they Deserve <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-community-resilience-every-society-has-the-internet-they-deserve/>
- * 2021: RIPE Community Resilience: Nature is Healing <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-community-resilience-nature-is-healing/>
- * [NN] 2012: <http://becha.home.xs4all.nl/hackers-philosophers-utopian-network-dec-2012-becha.pdf>

Recent & upcoming presentations & publications:

- [AMRO24] Linz, May 2024 <https://www.radical-openness.org/en/programm/2024/internet-squirrels>
- [ETC] Berlin, June 2024 <https://www.electictechcarnival.org>
- [ICT4S] Stockholm / online, June 2024 <https://conf.researchr.org/track/ict4s-2024/ict4s-2024-ict4s-24-zine>
- [MTH] online, September 2024 <https://morethanhumanfreedom.wordpress.com>

Referenced mentioned in this grant request:

- [W3C] <https://www.w3.org/blog/2024/mapping-key-themes-for-the-year/>
- [ISOC] <https://www.internetsociety.org/blog/2024/04/the-internet-and-climate-change/>
- [IAB] <https://datatracker.ietf.org/group/eimpact/about/>
- [RFC8890] <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/rfc8890/>
- [RFC8280] <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/rfc8280/>
- [RIPE-TF] ripe.net/diversity
- [systems] <https://www.ietf.org/participate/ietf-systems/>
- [Cath] <https://criticalinfralab.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/LoudMen-CorinneCath-CriticalInfraLab.pdf>
- [Kao] <https://www.ietf.org/blog/report-experience-of-women-participating-in-the-ietf/>

In the future, I will be using resources from the “partnerships” & “target groups” mentioned later in this form.

4. What is the specific context / project / community that will be targeted with your research and why is the intervention needed? * Enter up to 400 words.

There are 3 types of focus (target) groups for my project:

4.1 Majority: technical IG communities: IETF, NOGs, FLOSS developers, RIPE...

4.2 Adjacent communities to the first group: academic researchers, hackers, other Internet Governance communities, students, DeGrowth academics ...

4.3 Marginalised groups (with regards to 4.1): youth, women, FLINTA, refugees, artists, persons of color, activists, rural citizens... and non-humans (symbolised by "squirrels")

Why are the interventions needed?

4.1 Technical governance communities have great powers in shaping the future of the Internet (and therefore: future of society), and they also have great responsibilities to consider Climate Justice in their standards, protocols and policies , e.g. for reduction of environmental impact

They/we also must work on reducing disparities based on intersection of oppressions : increasing DEI.

Since I am already involved with all 3 groups, the intervention is to better cross-connect these groups, and to bring them in closer cooperation with each other.

4.2 Interventions within adjacent communities: co-empowerment & sharing of knowledge; using DeGrowth principles to shape IG.

4.3 The most challenging will be to empower the marginalised groups, since they have immediate existential needs that are not leaving space nor energy to get involved in the IG. At the same time, IG can learn the most from the experiences & needs of these groups.

Examples of my previous relevant talks:

* February 2024: ICANN's Euralo panel: <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=303202361>

* October 2022: Bits & Bäume, Berlin: <https://media.ccc.de/v/bitsundbaeume-19907-greening-ripe-though-activism-and-empathy-en->

* September 2017: BalCCoN, Novi Sad: Ethics in Technology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQ2VwVoK-Go>

5. Please (briefly!) summarise your proposed work and the key activities that you will undertake *Enter up to 400 words.

My 3 high-level goals are specified in the “vision” question.

Key activities :

5.1 Sharing Knowledge about Sustainability in Tech [1] within technical community (4.1.)

5.2 Taking part adjacent communities (4.2) & Inviting their members to join technical communities

5.3 Cross-connecting those two & co-creating , learning from each other (with 4.3.)

Those activities will produce results listed under question about “impact” & “outreach”

* posts to the collective knowledge platforms (mailing lists, forums, GitHub)

* presentations at conferences (slides, videos, transcripts)

* publications (papers, articles, zines, wiki pages)

* new connections made & experiences gained through events: workshops, hackathons, conferences

These activities are enhancing each other and there are overlaps between them.

5.1. Sharing Knowledge:

- posts to mailing lists: e.g. https://wiki.techinc.nl/Sustainability#Vesnas_Links

- keeping documentation about events e.g. : <https://wiki.techinc.nl/Sustainability#2024> & <https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/climate-justice-in-tech-events-calendar>

- maintaining multiple wiki pages e.g. https://wiki.techinc.nl/Hackers_tribes

5.2. Participating in Events: these are planned for the 14 months of the project:

* October Bremerhaven / Germany: <https://2024.fiffkon.de>

* IETF meeting, November 2024 (online)

* CCC (Hamburg, December 2024)

* 2D.H5 festival in Holland (February 2025) & * OFFDEM (Brussels, February 2025)

* (online) in IETF hackathon (February 2025) * * at one NOG event (e.g. NLNOG in April 2025)

- Computing Within Limits, June 2025 & - WirelessBattlemesh, June 2025

- IETF in Madrid, July 2025 & - TBD, small hackers festival in Amsterdam, July 2025

- DeGrowth conference, Summer 2025 & - CCC, December 2025

5.3. Co-creating:

* contribution to 3 IETF draft

* <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-irtf-nmrg-green-ps/>

* <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-almprs-sustainability-insights/>

* <https://github.com/mallory/draft-beyond-carbon>

* submitted paper for Computing Within Limits conference 2025

* publish articles on RIPE Labs

* contributing to DEI initiatives (curator at RIPE, member of [systers] & part of [ETC])

* additions to the wiki [1] documentation about BCPs, events & funding opportunities

* addition content to [UnCiv]

* giving talks & workshops e.g. at [AMRO24]

* alternative publishing: zines were accepted for [ICT4S] & [MTH]

Project in itself is part of my “usual” activities as a Community Builder / hacker / facilitator, that I have been doing this since 1996/2012/2018...

I will continue doing this, whether or not I get this grant. And I will be very grateful for your help if you grant me the funding!

6. Which partnerships and programs are critical to this work and how do you envision outreach activities? * Enter up to 400 words.

For each of the mentioned “target groups”, here are specific outreach formats & channels:

6.1 Technical governance communities:

- mailing lists: e-impact, RIPE-list, NLNOG list
- conferences: IETF meetings, NOG meetings
- publications: RIPE Labs, IETF drafts

6.2 Adjacent groups:

- mailing lists: hsnl (Dutch Hackerspaces), academics , FaDa (Feminists & DeGrowth)
- forums: Matrix (for DeGrowth community), Discourse (ActivityPub)
- conferences: CCC meeting; EuroDIG / ISOC ;
- publications: zines!

6.3 Marginalised groups

- personal contact / Signal Groups: women, youth, rural citizens, activists, squirrels!
- alternative events: OFFDEM (hosted by asylum seekers), 2D.H5 (organised activists & anarchists), camping festivals (e.g. LikaCamp), protests
- federated social media (Mastodon)

Direct links are listed on the wiki page [1].

All of those are ongoing & possible future partnerships; if I have to choose critical ones, I would single out:

- DeGrowth <https://wiki.techinc.nl/Sustainability#DeGrowth>
- NOGs (e.g. GNA (Global NOG Alliance) <https://nogalliance.org>)
- youth / students

As a concrete example of engaging youth: here are links to **my recent lectures to students on the subjects of Internet Governance & Environmental Sustainability**:

- 2024: Rotterdam <https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Xs-all-vesna-IG-traces-of-power.pdf>
- 2023: Glasgow <https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Smaller-LOCOS-seminar-march-2023-vesna.pdf>
- 2022: USA https://wiki.techinc.nl/images/c/cf/Vesna-green-internet-ripe_ncc-SIGCAS-compressed.pdf

And these are 3 specific communities I am an active member of, that combine members of all 3 “focus groups”:

* [UnCiv] <https://unciv.nl> is a critical-tech community.

I have co-created “UnCivilization” in 2013; we have a mailing list & a wiki & in-person meet-ups.

* <https://wiki.unciv.nl>

* mailing list: <https://lists.pusci.nl/wws/info/uncivilization>

* events: <https://wiki.techinc.nl/LikaCamp2016>

* [Offdem] <https://offdem.net> is a community (series of events; forum; publications) that sprang out of the protest to a-political content & commercial sponsorship of FOSDEM.

* [TechInc] <https://techinc.nl> is a hackerspace in Amsterdam, that I have been an active member of since its creation in 2011.

Other activities are listed under 5.1. - 5.3.

7. What is your vision of success and what impact might your project have? * Enter up to 300 words.

I believe that the Internet Governance bodies can be influenced to consider the **reduction of environmental impact** on the level of standards, protocols and policies.

My utopian vision is of the Internet [NN] that:

- * reduces its own environmental impact &
- * becomes regenerative force for planetary health for all humans (social justice) &
- * contributes to the harmony with non-humans: rivers, trees, animals... (symbolised by squirrels).

I am working towards these 3 high-level goals:

- * *Enrich technical standards for reducing environmental impact of the Internet*
- * *Empowered alternative communities & Increased DEI in technical communities*
- * *... to Contribute to Climate & Social Justice, via Internet Governance*

The impact of the project will come through these results:

Enriched technical standards

- * contribution to 3 IETF draft
- * published BCP on “environmental sustainability consideration in network operations”
- * production of posts to the collective knowledge platforms (mailing lists, forums, GitHub)
- * delivery of presentations at conferences (slides, videos, transcripts)
- * publications (papers, articles, zines, wiki pages)

Empowered communities

- * increased participation from adjacent & marginalised communities in “technical internet governance”
- * increased DEI in “technical IG”
- * new connections made/ experiences gained through events: workshops, hackathons, conferences

ultimately: (long-term — not within duration of my project) Reduced Environmental Impact of Internet Infrastructure

- * with the participation of diverse “actors” in Internet Governance, direction of development of Internet protocols & policies will **bend** towards increases Climate & Social Justice
- * such impact is difficult to quantify or measure, however, in this part of the goals I am focusing on considering the “big picture”, not only looking at measurable impact
- * environmental sustainability problems will not be solved through the technological fixes; the solutions to our problems are social, political, ecological and spiritual solutions.

8. Tell us more about the project team (and potential collaborators) * Enter up to 400 words.

What prior experiences and expertises ensure that the project becomes a success?

While I am a member of many organisations & communities, I am applying for this research grant without a team.

There are many ongoing & potential collaborators: [UnCiv] [OffDEM] [TechInc] , as well as communities mentioned in “partnerships”.

Short CV:

Vesna Manojlovic (she/her) is a hacker, mother, engineer, artist, feminist, Community Builder, activist, mediator, émigré from ex-Yugoslavia.

Vesna lives and works between Amsterdam & Lika (Croatia).

Education: 1991-1998 , Bachelor of Science , Electrical Engineering, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Languages: English (professional), Dutch (conversational) , Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian/Montenegrin (native)

Social Skills: People Connector; Superb Networker; Mediator; Engaging Speaker

Organisational Skills: Events Organisation, Project Management, Maintaining Documentation

Technical skills: I can teach about BGP, IPv4, IPv6, DNS, RPKI, RPSL; I use CLI tools, bash, awk, sed; PGP, wiki; HTML.

Employment: @ RIPE NCC, Regional Internet Registry: ripe.net, Since 1999

Current position: Senior Community Builder

Responsibilities: Outreach & gathering feedback, Speaker, Organising hackathons, Writing articles, Managing a team (2011-2016), Leading cross-departmental teams, Diversity Advisor, Local Hubs facilitator

<https://becha.unciv.nl/>

<http://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/User:Becha>

<https://labs.ripe.net/Members/becha>

Mastodon: @becha@v.st

Expertises:

Activism / Feminism

- I have been active in peace movement & feminist actions since 1994 in Yugoslavia.
- I co-organised a series of lectures “Hacking Feminism” at LAG Hacklab
- Data Feminism <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/data-feminism-from-data-ethics-to-data-justice/>
- I have training in [NVC], consensus building, empathic listening, intersectional liberation & conflict resolution (in 3 languages): 1998-2022: <https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/NVC>

Diversity:

* I have been working on the improvement DEI within hackers community, RIPE community & IETF since 1996.

* I organised series of women-focused events at TechInc & I maintain wiki pages: https://wiki.techinc.nl/Ladies_Night & https://wiki.techinc.nl/Female_experts

* I attended “DEI” training in 2016 & have been part of RIPE “Trusted Contacts” team

* I have been part of “awareness team” at TechInc& OffDEM .

• I attended “Code Of Conduct” training & have been part of RIPE “CoC Team” since 2023

* I’ve been curating RIPE “Diversity in Tech” sessions since 2022 <https://ripe88.ripe.net/programme/meeting-plan/diversity-equity-inclusion/>

• <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/building-bridges-between-diverse-communities-at-ripe-85/>

• <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-community-resilience-embracing-neurodiversity/>

* video NLNOG 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ycrl7NI8sOY>

IETF :

contributed to:

* RFC7962 (2015-2016) <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc7962>

* RFC9547: (2022-2024) <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9547>

• I wrote about RFC8890: <https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/the-internet-is-for-the-empowerment-of-end-users/>

DeGrowth:

* May 2023: “Environmental Impact of Internet: Urgency, De-Growth, Rebellion”

<https://ripe86.ripe.net/archives/video/1001/>

<https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/environmental-impact-of-internet-urgency-de-growth-rebellion/>

* August 2023: DeGrowth conference in Zagreb report: [https://wiki.techinc.nl/](https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:9th_DeGrowth_Conference_Zagreb_August_2023_February_2024.pdf)

[File:9th_DeGrowth_Conference_Zagreb_August_2023_February_2024.pdf](https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:9th_DeGrowth_Conference_Zagreb_August_2023_February_2024.pdf)

*** I am an active member of multiple DeGrowth mailing lists & chat groups.**

more about my prior experiences : https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Vesna_CV_Bibliography_May_2024.pdf

9. In which cost tier (incl. overhead costs) do you expect this work to sit? * Between 50K and 75K

How many months do yo expect this work to take? * for part-time projects: up to 14 months