Project title: **Speaker for Squirrels: Through Internet Governance Towards Climate Justice**
Submitted 27. April to: https://www.sidnfonds.nl/internet-sustainability-call

Start date 1.12.2024
End date 1.5.2025.

My project has a primary impact on Strong internet users

1. Korte beschrijving project

Empowering Intersectional Greening of Internet Infrastructure Standards, Towards Climate Justice. Community Builder, speaking for: End Users, women, neurodivergents, squirrels.

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 , Computer Science
School of Electrical Engineering, Belgrade, Yugoslavia (now: Serbia)

Languages: English (professional level), 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.
https://github.com/becha42

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, Project Management, Diversity Advisor, Local Hubs facilitator

Links:
https://becha.unciv.nl/
http://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/User:Becha
https://labs.ripe.net/Members/becha

Email: BECHA@unciv.nl Mastodon: @becha@v.st

2. Aanleiding

What is the purpose of the project? Explain what problem the project is intended to resolve or what added value the project has for society. Indicate how you have ascertained that your solution serves a real need.

Together, let's contribute to Climate Justice, by "greening" Internet infrastructure standards, through empowering End Users from marginalised groups &"increasing DEI" (Diversity Inclusion Equity), via alternative formats of participation & publishing.

My vision is Internet that:
        * reduces own environmental impact &
        * becomes regenerative force for planetary health for all humans (with increased DEI & social justice) &
        * contributes to the harmony with non-humans: rivers, trees, animals… (symbolised by squirrels).

I am happy that SIDN is giving this grant, because I am already **quixotically** working on such subjects since 2012 [NN], and I would love to receive some additional support & recognition, by being a recipient of this grant, & by working together with other SIDN initiatives!

Problem statements:
• "the Internet" has not fulfilled its emancipatory promises - on the contrary, it has become an "ecocide machine" [AI].
• 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 marginalised through intersectional oppressions (gender, citizenship, education, race, neo-liberal capitalism);
• Various "DEI" initiatives are struggling to improve the situation [Cath] [Kaeo]

With this project, I continue to work towards these 3 high-level goals:
* Enrich technical standards for reducing environmental impact of the Internet
* Empower "End Users" from alternative communities, while considering non-humans
* … to Contribute to Climate & Social Justice, via Internet Governance

Through means of:
* Increased DEI in technical communities
* Enhanced accessibility by involvement of marginalised groups
* Shared Knowledge about Environmental Sustainability in Tech [1]

3. Aanpak

What activities will the project involve? How do they contribute to the intended outcome?

Project name comes from Sci-Fi books "Fifth Sacred Thing", "Word for World is Forest" & "Speaker for the Dead", & from my habit to "squirrel" information, which then grows in surprising new places. I am asking us to "consider the squirrels" when making decisions about technology.

Project activities can be summarised as "Community Building": SharingKnowledge, Participating in events, Advocating for non-humans.

* SharingKnowledge
- keeping the documentation about events & on multiple wiki pages [1]
- participating in many communication channels (see Question #8)
- Publishing (See Question #5)

* Participating in events
   * (see Question #5: events) & Question 7: DoelGroepen)

* Increasing DEI in technical communities by inviting & involving alternative groups (DeGrowth community, XR, social science students, artists) & marginalised groups (youth, women, refugees…)

* Enhancing Accessibility (covered in Doelgropen)

* Alternative publishing: hackathons, zines, stickers, art/activism…

* Advocate for non-humans, and against "Internet as Ecocide" [AI]

* Direct "Community Building" within [UnCiv]
   * in 2013, I have co-created "UnCivilization", critical-tech community, that has a mailing list & a wiki & in-person meet-ups.
   * I continue doing the project work through this group

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

The main difference that the grant would make for me, is that **I will be able to to take a sabbatical (unpaid) leave from my work, for 5 months**.

Budget: 10.000€ for 5 months of part-time work = 2000€/month = 500€/week
500 €/ 25 h = 20€/hour

For the sake of 2000 characters, I also refer you to Questions 5,7,8,11,12… since "Activities" are very closely connected with all of them.

Please also see "Bibliography" & CV in the attachments.

4. Innovatie

What added value does the project have? What makes it innovative/distinctive? Provide a brief context analysis, explaining what is already being done in the field and what your project will add. Where relevant, say what earlier initiatives or developments the project builds upon.

Context:

Within Internet Governance (IG), there is a raising awareness that "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].

At the same time, there are concerns about lack of consideration for End User [RFC8890], increased focus on "human rights" [RFC8280], & need to "increase diversity" [RIPE-TF], [systers].

And, as activists for Digital Rights & Climate Justice, we are working on own approaches to "Green Tech" [CJ].

Innovation:

I am in unique position to be a "translator" (mediator, negotiator) between "techies" & "activists", since I belong to both groups.

I am also part of the IG **"adjacent"** communities that are dealing with similar issues; therefore I am proposing orthogonal / innovative solutions:
* Sustainability is not enough - we want Regeneration & DeGrowth & Climate Justice! [Labs1]
* Consideration of End Users is not enough - we want empowerment! [Labs-2] .
* Diversity is not enough - we want (social) Justice! [Labs3]
* Human rights are not enough - we need to expand our inclusion to non-humans! [eco]

As a "Speaker For Squirrels" I am speaking for the End Users, for the women & for Nature.

I am co-creator of [UnCiv] Community, and this remains one of the cornerstones on which the current project will be built upon.

Between now & December 2025, I have already planned several innovative activities:
* I am giving talks & workshops at [AMRO24] & [ETC]
* I am attending a training in Berlin to learn about "methodology" for further research
* my zines were accepted for [ICT4S] & [MTH]

Whether or not I get this grant, I will continue working on all of those, and innovate further.

(I can add 110 chars!!!)

5. Projectresultaten

What is the project intended to achieve? As far as possible, the results should be described in concrete, measurable, quantitative terms.

In reference to these high-level goals from Question 2, these are the concrete outcomes:

Enrich technical standards

I will be engaging participants from alternative communities, in order to **publish**, together:

* 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
* production of stickers, comics, stories, videos, zines
* articles on RIPE Labs
* additions to the wiki [1] documentation about BCPs, events & funding opportunities
* addition content to [UnCiv] : https://wiki.unciv.nl/index.php?title=Speaker_For_Squirrels

Empower "End Users"

I am giving interactive / immersive workshops at various events.

Through giving workshops at these 3 **events**, I will be empowering participants to join IG:

* CCC (Hamburg, December 2024)
* 2D.H5 festival in Holland (February 2025)
* OFFDEM (Brussels, February 2025)

Contribute to Internet Governance (by focusing on Climate & Social Justice)

As an engaging speaker, I will be also sharing knowledge by giving presentations at events:
* (online) in IETF hackathon (February 2025)
* at one NOG event (e.g. NLNOG in April 2025)
* plus events listed in "Innovation" also count, even if they are not within "project period"

Please also refer Question 3: Activities.

Please see "Bibliography" in the attachments, for my previous achievements towards these goals.

(I can add 430 chars!)

6. Aansluiting doelstellingen fonds

How does your project support (one of) the objectives of SIDN fonds? And explain how it aligns with the objectives of this themed call.

My project has primary impact on the objective of "Strong internet users", with a secondary impact on "Internet and society" objective.

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.

This is why my project combines both:
- 1. Promotion of end users' insight and awareness
- 2. Increasing developers' scope for action

With the additions of:
- not only "developers' " but also "network operators / engineers"

and
- empowering End Users to take part in Internet Governance,

while
- including marginalised groups and alternative / adjacent communities

thereby
- increasing DEI of the technical governance communities

and
- sharing knowledge via alternative ways of participation, publishing, engagement.

For example, I have already contributed to following RFCs:
* RFC7962 (2015-2016) https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc7962
* RFC9547: (2022-2024) https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9547

I have invited technical communities to embrace DeGrowth, and DeGrowth community to take part in Internet Governance:

May 2023: my talk & article: "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/

In August 2023 I attended a DeGrowth conference in Zagreb: here's a report:
https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:9th_DeGrowth_Conference_Zagreb_August_2023_February_2024.pdf

(i can add 410)

7. Doelgroep

What people or groups is your project relevant to? How will you involve them in realisation of the project?

There are 3 types of focus groups for my project:

7.1 Majority: technical governance communities: IETF, NOGs, FLOSS developers, RIPE…

7.2 Adjacent groups: academic researchers, hackers, Internet Governance communities, students, DeGrowth academics …

7.3 Marginalised groups: refugees, artists, women, youth, persons of color, activists, rural citizens… and squirrels! (symbolising all non-humans)

I am already involved with all of them; the challenge of the project is to cross-connect them, and to bring them in closer cooperation with each other.

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 Internet Governance.

My approaches there are:
- demystify the processes of participation in *"technical governance communities"*
- point to the existing grants & fellowship opportunities for youth & "adjacent groups"
- and, when that does not work: be a representative for those from marginalised groups that can not be there (Speaker For Squirrels)

Examples of previous focus on non-humans:

• 2014: https://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/File:Nature-speaking-on-future_of_the_internet-RIPE69.pdf
• 2016: Post-Singularity of Mycelium : Speaker for Squirrels: https://becha.home.xs4all.nl/Speaker_for_Squirrels-GogBot-2016.pdf
• [eco] 2021: RIPE Community Resilience: Nature is Healing https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-community-resilience-nature-is-healing/
• 2023: https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Vesna_IAB-BIAS-Workshop-Basic_Internet_And_Squirrels.pdf
• 2024: https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Bolzano-Squirrels-Vesna_xs.pdf

(I can add 330)

8. Communicatie

How do you envisage communicating with your target audience? What networks, media and/or channels do you envisage using?

Referring to the 3 types of target audience from Question 7, here are the communication channels I am already part of and active on:

7.1 Technical governance communities:
- mailing lists: e-impact, RIPE-list, NLNOG list
- conferences: IETF meetings, NOG meeting
- publications: RIPE Labs, IETF drafts

7.2 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!

7.3 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)

And, parallel to all of them: UnCiv community [UnCiv]

I am keeping documentation about all of these here:
* mailing lists: https://wiki.techinc.nl/Sustainability#Mailing_Lists
* events https://wiki.techinc.nl/Sustainability#Events
* publications: https://wiki.techinc.nl/Sustainability#Documentation

9. Toegankelijkheid

We attach great importance to accessibility. We believe that the internet should be accessible to everyone, including people with limited literacy skills, impaired vision and other disabilities. If relevant, what will you do to maximise the accessibility of your project?

Since my project is not meant for creating one web site, I have not been working on the "classical" web accessibility issues much.

I consider accessibility part of DEI, and I strive to organise my events with accessibility in mind.

Furthermore, economic "accessibility" is very important for me: I prefer not-for-profit & non-commercial events, employers, communities; I am an advocate for FLOSS (free and open source software) and I insist in open licences every time when I organise a hackathon.

For this project, all the documentation I create is shared in an economically accessible way: it is published in open & transparent way, using FLOSS tools (wiki, forum, mailing list, git), mostly in text format.

However, I will take notice of other criteria you mention, and give it more priority in the future.

I am going to use the rest of this space to add links to "External References":

[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
[systers] https://www.ietf.org/participate/ietf-systers/

[Cath] https://criticalinfralab.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/LoudMen-CorinneCath-CriticalInfraLab.pdf
[Kaeo] https://www.ietf.org/blog/report-experience-of-women-participating-in-the-ietf/

[AMRO24] in Linz, 8-11. May 2024 https://www.radical-openness.org/en/programm/2024/internet-squirrels
[ETC] Berlin, June 2024 https://www.eclectictechcarnival.org
[ICT4S] Stockholm / online, June 2024
[MTH] online, September 2024 https://morethanhumanfreedom.wordpress.com

10. Delen kennis & resultaten

SIDN fonds supports projects that help to make the internet stronger for everyone. We attach great importance to the open sharing of knowledge and results, such as (where relevant) the source code developed by a project. What results will the project yield that will be useful to others, e.g. as a basis for further development? How will those results be shared? Will your source code be open?

* SharingKnowledge

- keeping the documentation about events & funding opportunities on multiple wiki pages
    - https://wiki.techinc.nl/MeshNet#Funding
    - https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/events2023
    - https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/DigitalDisobedience

- participating in many communication channels (see Question #8)

My publications, referenced in this project proposal:

* [1] https://wiki.techinc.nl/Sustainability
* [NN] 2012: http://becha.home.xs4all.nl/hackers-philosophers-utopian-network-dec-2012-becha.pdf
* [AI] 2023: AI is ecocide https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/AI_is_ecocide
* [CJ] 2022: https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/ClimateJusticeDigitalRights2022
* [IG&H] https://wiki.techinc.nl/Internet_Governance_and_hackers
* [R85] 2022: https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/building-bridges-between-diverse-communities-at-ripe-85/
* [Labs1] https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/environmental-impact-of-internet-urgency-de-growth-rebellion/
* [Labs-2] https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/the-internet-is-for-the-empowerment-of-end-users/
* [Labs3] https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/data-feminism-from-data-ethics-to-data-justice/
* [eco] 2021: RIPE Community Resilience: Nature is Healing https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-community-resilience-nature-is-healing/

* [UnCiv]
    * unciv.nl
    * wiki.unciv.nl
    * mailing list: https://lists.puscii.nl/wws/info/uncivilization
    * events: https://wiki.techinc.nl/LikaCamp2016
    * publications: https://wiki.techinc.nl/Hackers_tribes
    * Project Page https://wiki.unciv.nl/index.php?title=Speaker_For_Squirrels

11. Team / Diversity

Briefly describe the project team. Who will be working on the project or involved as partners? What expertise do they bring? SIDN Fund attaches great importance to team diversity.

Preference is given to teams that are diverse in terms of gender, cultural background, etc.

I am proposing this project as an individual.

My "team" can be seen as many cross-connected communities where I am embedded.

Personally, I also find diversity & inclusion very important, this is one of the goals of my project - and one of the "means", too!

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

Here are three of my relevant publications; you can see my "diversity" qualifications in my CV:

* wiki page: https://wiki.techinc.nl/Ladies_Night
* [R85] 2022 article
* video from NLNOG 2021 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ycrl7Nl8sOY

However, diversity & inclusion are not enough - final goal is social justice, and Climate Justice.

Within myself, I am already embodying multiple diversity aspects:
- cultural background: I am BOTH from South-Eastern Europe, AND from Amsterdam ;
I used to live in a rural/collectivist society without functioning state mechanism and through two wars, AND I do have experience with the "democratic"/capitalist/neoliberal country - that were colonisers.
- and I am BOTH with educational background in engineering (Computer Science), AND working as a "soft skills" professional (Community Builder)
- gender: I belong to marginalised group within technical & hackers communities, due to my female gender
- neurodiversity: I am self-diagnosed with ADD/Autism, I feel comfortable within groups of people on neurodiversity spectrum
- disability: I suffer from myopia, chronically illness (RSI) & C-PTSD, and therefore I fight for accessibility along multiple categories

On the other hand, I am also part of the problem: white, old, educated, from Global North, and economically belonging to the "top 10%" globally, that are responsible for most of the CO2 emissions within my lifetime.

On the other other hand, I am a parent of young people who will inherit this planetary mess, and I am strongly motivated to improving their future!

12. Duurzaamheid

How (financially) viable is the project beyond the period covered by the requested grant? How do you envisage the project developing.

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 beyond May 2025 with:
- help from other grants
- within the established communities, now enriched with alternative contributions
- additional participation by the new, empowered "End Users"

In the future, I plan to take part in these events:
- WirelessBattlemesh, June 2025
- IETF in Madrid, July 2025
- TBD, small hackers festival in Amsterdam, July 2025
- DeGrowth conference, Summer 2025
- CCC, December 2025

And these are the plans already in progress:
* publishing RIPE BCP on "environmental sustainability consideration in network operations"
* multiple IETF drafts
* podcasts & zines

Whether or not I get this grant, I will continue working on all of those.

13. Privacy

When proposals are assessed, SIDN fonds will place considerable emphasis on the responsible handling of personal data. Does the project involve the processing of personal data, and how will such data be secured?

Not applicable - there will be no collection of personal data.

14. Security

Good security, security (in particular information security) and the use of modern, reliable internet standards are important for a safe internet. How do you deal with security within your project?
Tip: if a website is part of your project, test it on internet.nl after completion.

Not applicable - there will be no tools nor web-sites being built.

15. SIDN fonds

How did you come across SIDN Fund? Where did you first hear/read about us?

Budget

Itemise the various cost types (fees, materials, etc) so that we have a full picture of the project budget. For each item, indicate whether you are seeking support from SIDN fonds and/or from other sources, or covering the cost of the item yourself. You have the option of submitting your budget in the form of a separate attachment.

NB: SIDN fonds assumes that applicants' project budgets are based on reasonable hourly rates of pay, appropriate for funding by a non-profit foundation. As a guideline, we suggest a maximum of €50 per hour for internal hours, and €80 for external hours.

10.000 for 5 months of part-time work = 2000/month = 500/week = 500/25= 20€/hour

- Lectures:
- I teach students on the subjects of Internet Governance & Environmental Sustainability:
- 2024: https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Xs-all-vesna-IG-traces-of-power.pdf
- 2023: https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Smaller-LOCOS-seminar-march-2023-vesna.pdf
- 2022: https://wiki.techinc.nl/images/c/cf/Vesna-green-internet-ripe_ncc-SIGCAS-compressed.pdf

- Presentations / Videos:
  * 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

- Presentations / Slides:
- February 2024: ICANN's Euralo panel: https://community.icann.org/pages/ viewpage.action?pageId=303202361 & https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Vesna-euralo-SDG-2024.pdf
- 2023: Internet Governance, Climate Justice & "Scientist Rebellion" https://www.ripe.net/about-us/press-centre/publications/presentations/2023/internet-governance-climate-justice-scientist-rebellion/
- December 2022: IAB e-impact workshop: https:// wiki.techinc.nl/images/8/84/IAB-workshop-e-impact-societal-aspects-2.pdf
- November 2022: HRNOG, Zagreb: "Killing the Planet with Cat Videos" Greening RIPE: Internet Governance, Environmental Sustainability & Climate Justice https://nog.hr/files/meetup1/2022-11-10_Meetup01_2_VesnaManojlovic_cats-planet.pdf
- October 2022: RIPE85, Belgrade: Equity, Ethics and the Environmental Sustainability of the Internet https://ripe85.ripe.net/wp-content/uploads/Ethics-Environment-Equity-Empathy_Vesna.pdf
- March 2022: IETF 113, GAIA (online) : https://www.ripe.net/about-us/press-centre/publications/presentations/2022/the-resilience-of-the-internet-in-ukraine-ietf-113

- Articles:
- June 2023: PS Magazine: AI is Ecocide https://www.project-syndicate.org/magazine/ai-climate-change-what-role-paris-targets-2023-09
- December 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/
- October 2022: Towards Climate Justice in Tech https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/towards-climate-justice-in-tech/
- 2021: https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-community-resilience-nature-is-healing/
- August 2021: RIPE Community Resilience: Every Society Has the Internet they Deserve
- https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/ripe-community-resilience-every-society-has-the-internet-they-deserve/

- Conference reports:
- November 2023, IETF 118, Prague https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Smaller_IETF_118,_Prague_2023_-_Report_with_Pictures_.pdf
- June 2023, Computing Within Limits https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/computing-within-limits-2023/

Focus on Activism, Peace, Justice, Feminism
- I have been active in peace movement & feminist actions since 1994 in Yugoslavia.
- I also have training in NVC, consensus building, empathic listening, intersectional liberation & conflict resolution:
- 1998-2022: NonViolent Communications https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/NVC#Degrees
- 2016: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion training, Budapest
- 2023: Code Of Conduct Team training, Amsterdam