



Universal Acceptance

UA Day
#Internet4All



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ICANN



COORDINATION CENTER
FOR TLD.RU/PФ



ՀԱՄԱՆԴՅԱՆՈՒՐ ԸՆԴՈՒՄՍԱՆ ՕՐ
տարածաշրջանային համաժողով

UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE DAY
Regional Conference

28.03.2023



***Event title
(per the UA Day Sponsorship
Agreement)***

Universal Acceptance Day Regional
Conference on IDN and EAI mail

***Event organizer(s) and URL (per the
UA Day Sponsorship Agreement)***

ISOC Armenia NGO - <https://www.isoc.am/>

UASG - <https://uasg.tech/>

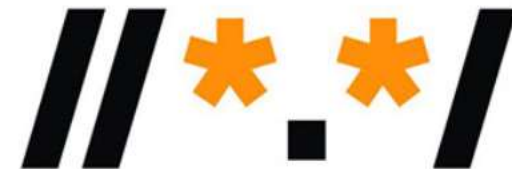
ICANN - <https://www.icann.org/uasg-en>

Coordination Center for TLD RU -

<https://cctld.ru/en/>

Event location (address, city, country)

Armenia, Yerevan, Amiryan str. 2,
Holiday Inn Yerevan - Republic Square



Was the event in-person, virtual, or hybrid?

The conference was organized in a hybrid format. In person and via zoom. Video-streaming of the event was provided on [Youtube](#) and Facebook.



YouTube Search

UA DAY Regional Conference 28.03.2023

ISOCAR... 26... Analytics Edit video

129 views Streamed 7 days ago

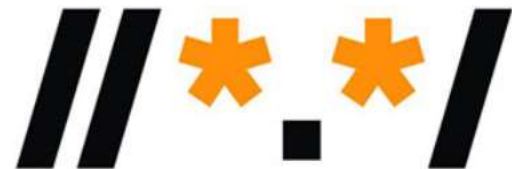
1 Like Share

What language was the session held in?

The primary language was Armenian, as well as we had interpretation



*Armenian-Russian,
Russian-Armenian,
Armenian-English,
English-Armenian.*



Event Agenda

9:00 – 10:00

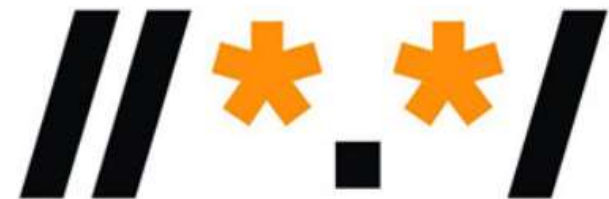
Registration and
welcome coffee



Opening ceremony

10:00 - 10:35

- **Avet Poghosyan** – Deputy Minister of the Ministry of High-Tech Industry
- **Igor Mkrtumyan** – .am/ .huuj Registry, ISOC AM board chair
- **Danko Jevtovic** – ICANN board (online)
- **Dr. Ajay Data** – UASG chair (prerecorded video)
- **Andrey Vorobyev** – Coordination Center for TLD RU, Director



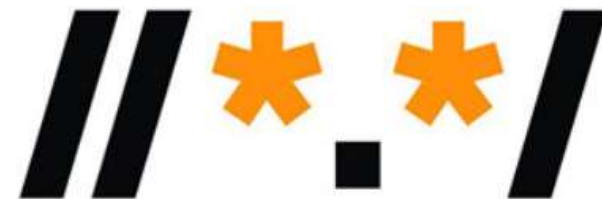


More pictures [here](#)

How to increase inclusiveness and multilingualism on the Internet?

10:35 - 11:25

- **Anna Karakhanyan (moderator)** – .am/ .huuj Registry, ISOC AM board member
- **Igor Mkrtumyan** – .am/ .huuj Registry, ISOC AM board chair
- **Andrew Sullivan** – ISOC CEO
- **Leonid Todorov** – APTLD, CEO
- **Mikhail Anisimov** – ICANN



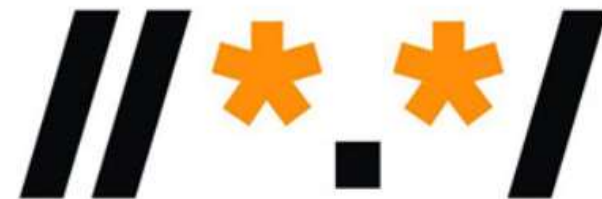


More pictures [here](#)

Universal Acceptance of IDNs and features of promotion

11:40 - 12:40

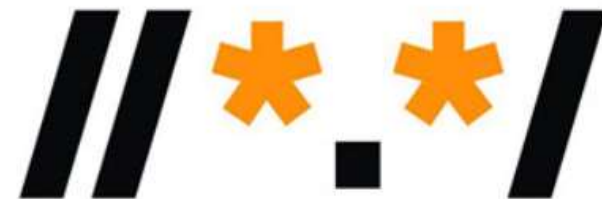
- **Katarina Gevorgyan (moderator)** – ISOC AM board member
- **Kristina Hakobyan** – .am/ .huuj Registry, ISOC AM board member
- **Maria Kolesnikova** – Coordination Center for TLD RU, Chief Analyst
- **Dejan Đukić** – Serbian National Internet Domain Registry Foundation (RNIDS), CEO
- **Mikayel Avagyan** – Avromic LLC, founder

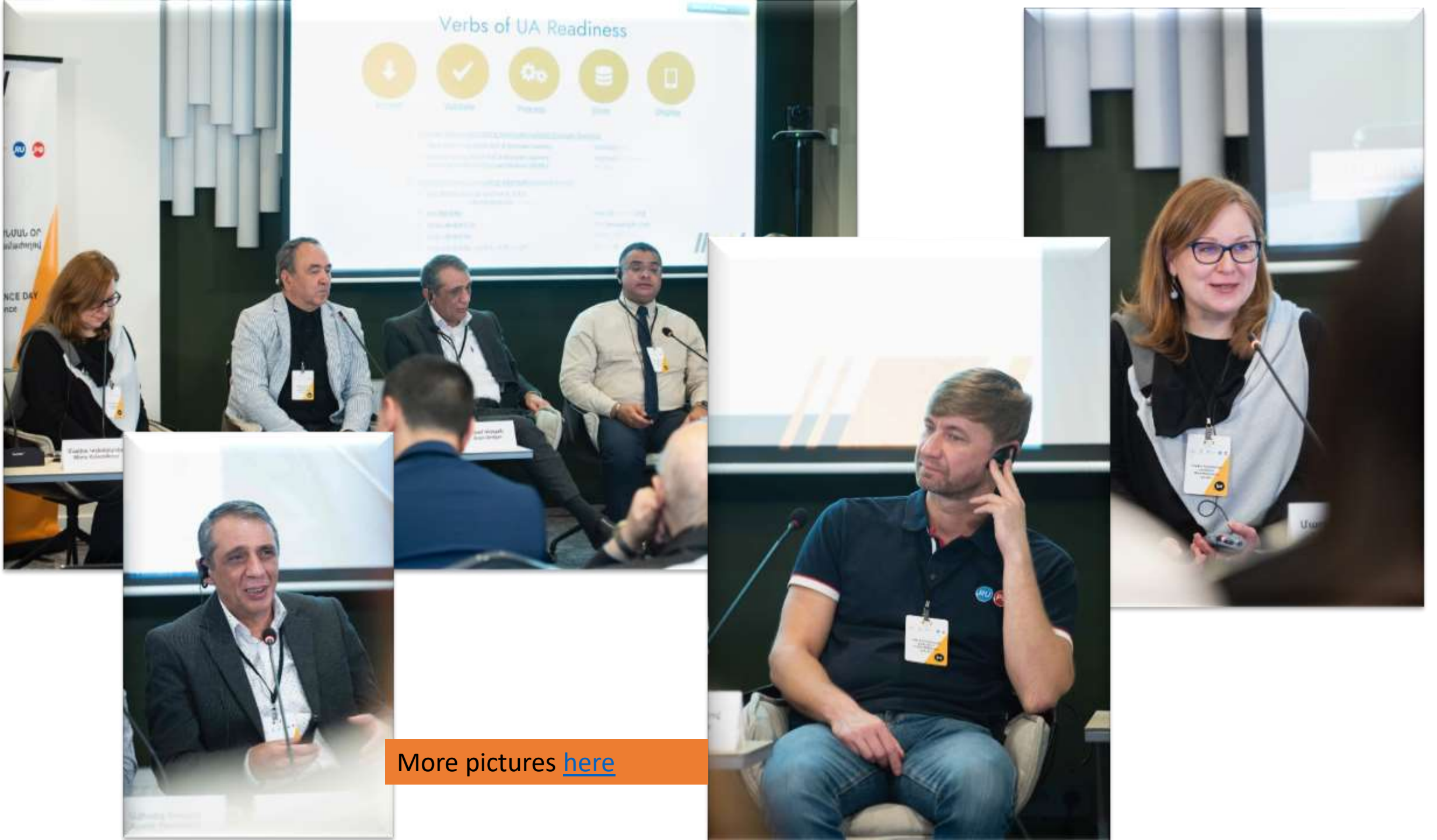


Implementation of IDN and EAI

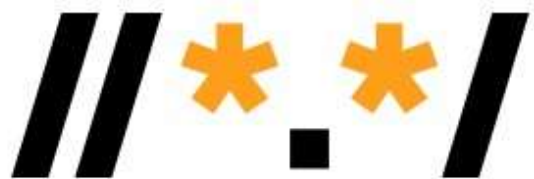
12:40 - 13:55

- **Maria Kolesnikova** (moderator) – Chair, UA Local Initiative – CIS-EE
- **Eduardo Alvarez**(online) – ICANN, Director, Tech. Services Operations
- **Abdalmonem Galila** – UASG, Vice Chair
- **Aram Verdyan** – .am/ .huuj Registry, ISOC AM board member
- **Avetik Yessayan** -Shirak Technology LLC, Founder
- **Vadim Mikhailov** – Coordination Center for TLD RU, Technical manager at Поддерживаю.РФ project





More pictures [here](#)



13:55 - 15:00

Lunch

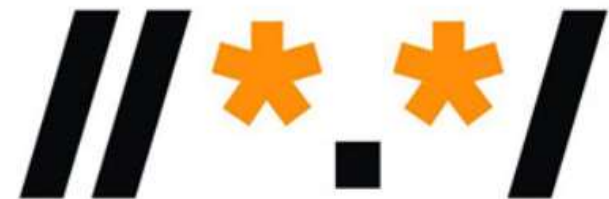
Technical Training on EAI

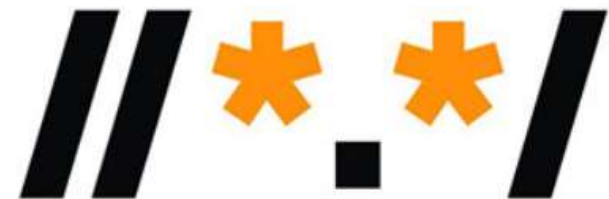
➤ **Abdalmonem Galila** –
UASG, Vice Chair

15:00 - 18:30|

The training included the following topics:

- how to configure email systems to support EAI
- how to design and develop applications and systems to support UA
- how UA issues impact the community,
- how best to address these issues, and highlight business opportunities by being UA-ready





Participants

92 in person and 23 online



What industries did the participants represent?

- **Private sector** - domain name registrar companies, hosting servers and Internet service providers, local and foreign companies
- **Technical community** - system administrators, developers
- **Government** - representatives and the deputy minister of the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the republic of Armenia,
- **Academia** - students from different universities, professors
- **Civil Society** - representatives of NGOs
- **Media** - journalists

Participants from the following countries

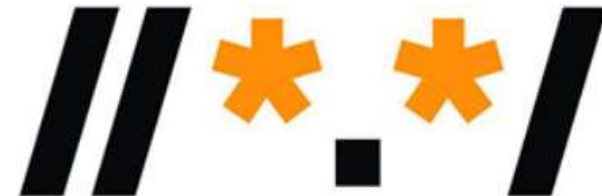
Armenia 

Uzbekistan 

Russia 

Serbia 

Egypt 



What was the main goal/purpose of the event (related to UA)?

The event's major objective was to significantly raise community knowledge of the problems, solutions, and possibilities related to universal acceptance. This served as a forum for experts to exchange knowledge and present the outcomes of work that had already been completed.

Universal Acceptance (UA) is aimed at making the internet more inclusive and accessible for all, regardless of language, script, or region. In Armenia, the goals of UA include:

- Ensuring that all internet users in Armenia can access websites and applications in their own language, including those written in non-Latin scripts such as Armenian.
- Encouraging the use of internationalized domain names (IDNs) in Armenia, which allow users to register domain names using their own language and script.
- Promoting the development of UA-compliant websites and applications in Armenia to ensure that everyone can access online services and information regardless of their language, script, or region.
- Providing training and support to website and application developers in Armenia to help them create UA-compliant products.
- Raising awareness among policymakers, businesses, and the general public in Armenia about the importance of UA and the benefits of an inclusive and accessible internet.

By achieving these goals, Armenia can help to ensure that everyone has equal access to the internet and can participate fully in the digital world.

What were the major discussion points during the event?

The promotion of using Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and email addresses in Armenian were the primary issues of the Universal Acceptance Day in Armenia.

In addition to the potential advantages of Universal Acceptance for enterprises, organizations, and people in Armenia and throughout the world, debates about its technical and policy aspects have been a part of the event. The conference also covered the difficulties and possibilities of establishing universal acceptance in Armenia and other nations.

The major discussion points of the event were:

- Increasing the Internet access that the IDNs development will bring to the users, who don't speak English
- The importance of developing the content on the Internet in local languages, especially for small nations.
- How to increase inclusiveness and multilingualism on the Internet and why it is that important.
- What actions were taken to promote the IDNs
- What systems are the emails with IDNs work with?
- How to make the websites UA ready
- What can Government, Internet users, technical community and businesses do to achieve a multilingual, multicultural, and interoperable Internet?
- The necessity to provide universal access to the Internet for all users and the role of the government in solving the problem.
- How to increase the number of domain registrations in national IDN.

What did the event speaker discuss?

At the event, three significant sessions were held, and the **UASG Vice-Chair Abdolmanem Galila** prepared a three-hour training on EAI.

The development of IDNs and EAI was emphasized during the opening ceremony by representatives of the **Ministry of High-Tech Industry of RA, ISOC Armenia, ICANN, UASG, and the ccTLD for .RU/.PФ.**

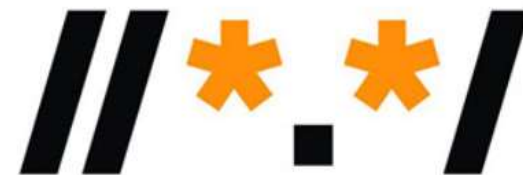
They also stated how important it is to make Internet systems, applications, and various platforms get ready for Universal Acceptance in order to increase the number of people who use the Internet.

The plenary session about how to increase inclusiveness and multilingualism on the Internet was pretty actively discussed.

ISOC Armenia board chair **Igor Mkrtumyan** stressed that along with the UA, governments should care about providing broadband Internet access to the population of rural areas and cost policy to escape the digital divide.

Leonid Todorov from **APTLD** said that even if UA will be implemented, the English language will retain its leading position on the Internet.

Representatives from Armenian, Russian, and Serbian ccTLD and IDN registries and Mikayel Avagyan, speaker representing private sector, presented the actions they take to promote IDNs in their regions.



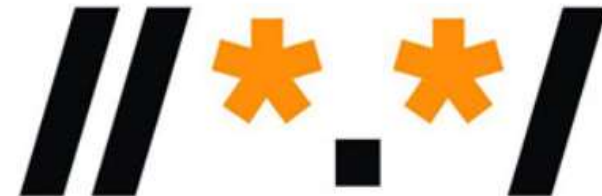
A representative of **AMNIC Aram Verdyan** presented a pilot project of an EAI mail server based on the Roundcube webmail demonstrating the possibility of implementing EAI mail in Armenian.

Avetik Yesayan, the representative from the technical stakeholder group shared the almost-ready project on EAI.

Eduardo Alvarez director of technical services operations from ICANN presented “Email Address Internationalization (EAI) Support Survey tool” via zoom.

The topic “UA readiness guidelines” presented by **Abdolmanem Galila** was a real instruction for website developers and system administrators. And the “Universal Acceptance Initiatives of the Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.PФ” was presented by **Vadim Mikhailov**.

All the presentations can be downloaded from the website uaday.am.



What did participants discuss?

The main topics the participants discussed were the possibility of having email addresses with the local language (IDN) and also how can the community get united to solve the technical issues and promote the IDNs.

Were specific local languages discussed regarding UA, IDNs, or internationalized email?

The speakers from Armenia, Russia, Egypt, and Serbia discussed the issues regarding UA and IDNs in local markets. As well as they provided the results they had on the implementation of internationalized email addresses.

Anything else about the session you would like to share...

Seven big companies - Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Alibaba, Microsoft, and Tencent (GAFAAMT) - each have more users than the population of most countries. They have taken over the Internet.

Most probably they will implement the Universal Acceptance and EAI mail. Their mail server will be able to send emails to any EAI mail address.

However, each country should care about its national mail servers, where users could create their EAI mails.

A summary plan for the next steps

What were the main follow-up action items that resulted from the session?

The next stage will be to continue working with the local community to assist them in starting to register the IDNs and use them to start creating email addresses after having the pilot(updated) version of the email addresses supporting the Armenian language and with Armenian IDN. The various concerns that call for involvement from the government or the entire Internet ecosystem will be taken into account and cooperative solutions will be found.

Would you host another UA event? If yes, what type?

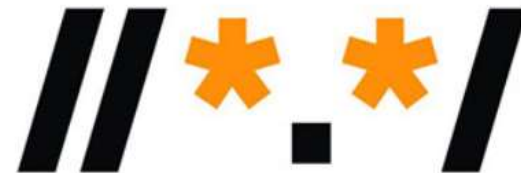
We are planning to work with small groups to share the training details we received from UASG trainer Abdolmanem Galila.

Would you host another UA Day event in 2024?

We are ready to host another UA Day event in 2024.

Outline any next steps regarding UA that came out of the session

The primary takeaway from the sessions was that since the Internet is open to everyone, we must behave as a team, share our knowledge, and assist especially the technical community to understand the significance of the concept of Universal Acceptance.



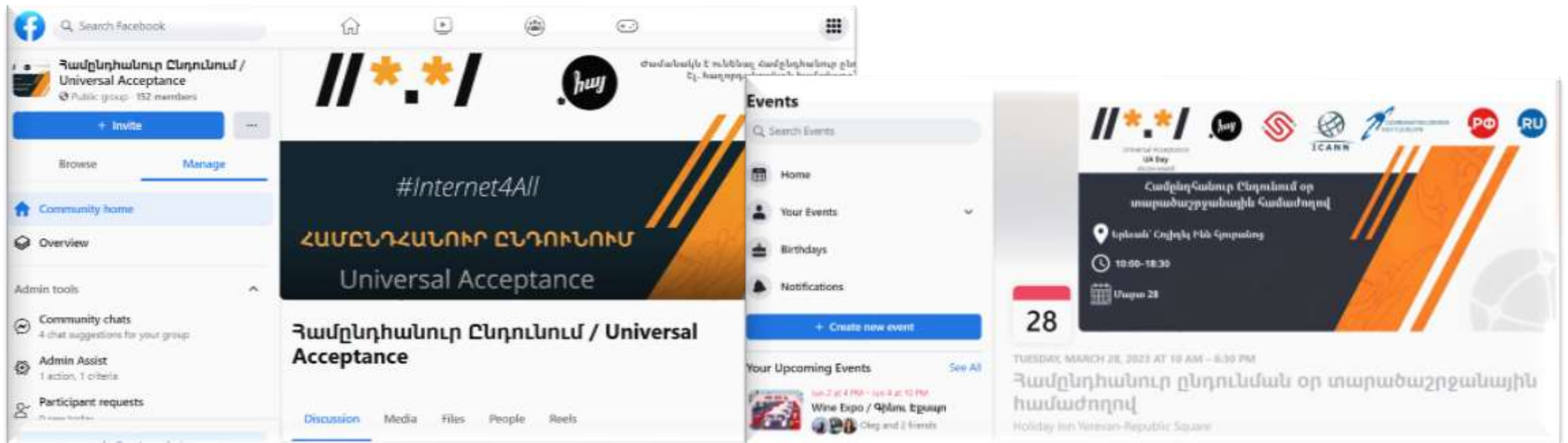
Links to UA Day event social media posts made by the organizer

UA DAY Live on YouTube channel - <https://rb.gy/Opemm>

UA DAY event and social Pictures - <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAyGq4>

<https://www.facebook.com/ArmenianInternetSociety>

The Universal Acceptance movement group-page was created to promote the event



Coverage of the event

First Channel News - <https://rb.gy/5a6n6>
Interview on TV with ICANN regional representative - <https://rb.gy/lgcmb>

Ministry Of High-Tech Industry of The RA- <https://rb.gy/amp3>

Mediamax Media Company -
<https://itel.am/am/news/14248>

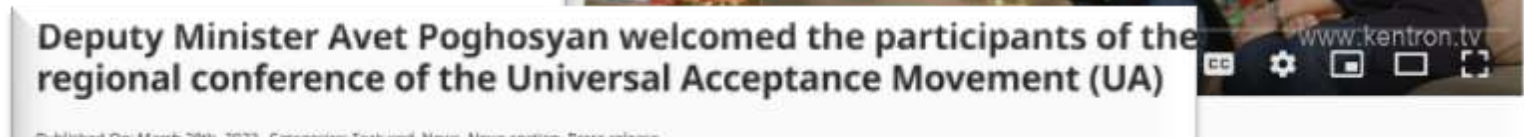
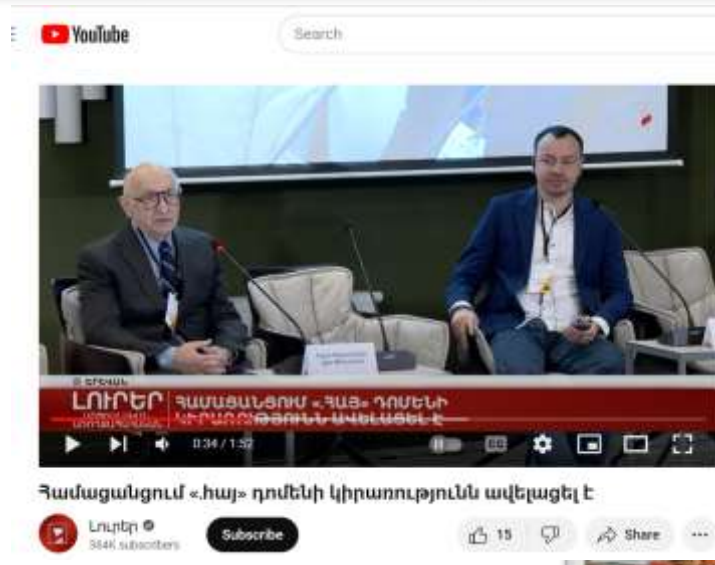
Republican Radio of Armenia -
<https://rb.gy/252b>

Armenian Business News -
<https://rb.gy/zbod>

Lragrogh_com - <https://rb.gy/t1yb>

Aravot_am - <https://rb.gy/gb14>

Hetq media company - <https://rb.gy/cg3a>
Armenpress - <https://rb.gy/hwnp>



Share your input on where the process worked well and where it can be improved for the next UA Day.

At the event, a high percentage of participation was guaranteed. 92 persons were present in person, and 23 through Zoom. The participants were split roughly 48% male and 52% female.

The next year, we will promote the part of the technical training better to have a higher number of participants. As well as a group of volunteers got involved.



What can the UASG or ICANN provide that can help you for the next UA Day?

First of all, on behalf of the event's organizers, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the ICANN and UASG representatives for their assistance.

The ongoing updates on UA and technical trainings provided by ICANN and UASG that can be shared with the community will be very helpful to attract more people from different stakeholder groups for the next year.

