

2019 YEARLY REPORT ISOC SIG INTERNET OF FOOD

Dear members,

We live in troubling times, not only has the climate crisis exploded into most people's minds, but now also Covid-19. As with Covid-19, data has proven to be a key factor in how the ongoing crisis is assessed and how counter measures are deployed. Covid-19, apparently emanating from a so called wet market, is fully connected to our food system, as have many of the previous pandemics, including SARS and the Swine flu. People with pre-existing conditions, where some, such as diabetes and obesity, are connected to food, are more severely affected. The pandemic is predominately spread in urban areas - the new habitat of man - where some of our most challenging tasks lie ahead in the development of a healthy and sustainable food system.

As for the activities within the chapter 2019 was a year when individual members got more active in their personal capacities. We have members who raised substantial amounts for various food tech ventures and we have members who have initiated projects in areas such as food and data research projects. The chapter board has encouraged those initiatives and have agreed to cooperate as far as we're capable.

One of the projects where the chapter has taken a more formal role is being developed by the University of Stockholm, Department of Computer and Systems Sciences, and is led by prof Gunnar Wettergren. The ambition is to build new AI based algorithms that can assess the sustainability metrics of various food objects. The results will be open-sourced.

We do have an open approach to projects promoting the development of a digital infrastructure for food or its components, and will engage to the extent possible. We furthermore encourage all members to dedicate time to thinking about digital developments in the world of food and how those can be ensured to drift in an open and democratic direction.

During the year we have spoken at various events around the world on the topic of food and technology, including Food Tech Matters, London/UK, Sustainology Summit, New York/USA and Tasting India Festival, New Dehli/India. We have also held a webinar on the topic during the spring and participated in the ISOC chapter summit in Bucarest, Romania.

During the Sweden Foodtech Big Meet – our yearly main event – we discussed the topic on stage together with two chapter members who had flown in for the occasion; Oliver Oram of Chainwine and Troy Ruemping of Food Universe. Prof Gunnar Wettergren from Stockholm University was also present at a separate session in the program.

We were furthermore invited by ISOC-Georgia to do a seminar/webinar on the Internet of Food in December, but unfortunately that event was postponed. We somewhat made up for

that by going to Helsinki at the beginning of March at the invitation of ISOC-Finland in order to give a seminar ahead of their IGF, yearly held at the Finnish Parliament.

In addition to this, a number of individual meetings have been held with representatives from various parts of the food system in order to spread knowledge about the development of food and digital.

The main chapter struggle is not the insight, vision, connections, ideas or even presentational skills, but to find enough time and feet on the ground to provide a meaningful organization. Through the addition to the core team of Jacopo Pasquero and Mariona Collomer who have volunteered to drive communication efforts on behalf of the SIG, our hopes is that a stronger digital presence can be achieved.

For this election we therefore also would like you to cast an advisory vote on engagement platform:

- Mailing list
- Facebook
- Instagram

A core issue that has been identified over the past few years, but where the penny really dropped during 2019, is that the question of food and data should be a core question for ISOC as such and not just for a tiny Special Interest Group. Food is something that could be used to shift the Internet in the directions we all want, and to solve some of the issues so well described in the Global Internet Report.

The progress of the SIG work unfortunately continues to be limited to the time constraints of the board members as well as the limited efficiency of the mailing list used as a tool.

During 2020 the ambition is to:

- Hold at least two meetups/webinars
- Do an outreach to the other ISOC chapters to build knowledge and gain support
- Be present at various conferences
- Improve our digital communication presence

Financial status

The SIG current account states €2842.06. The year has only incurred minor expenses, mainly around board workshops, plus a cost of totally €1,500 for organizing and producing a webinar on the topic of food and digital during the spring of 2019. Since the chapter doesn't have any burn rate beyond direct activities, no further grants have been applied for from ISOC.

During the year no further funds have been received and their might be a question regarding half of the grants of EUR 3.400 we received in 2017 for two webinar activities in 2018, where only one of the activities the grant was explicitly provided for was held during the year (the activity in Georgia to which we were invited was supposed to be the second).

Membership status

The current number of members is consisted of 416 members, which is a sharp rise compared to 2018 (229) and proves that the upwards trend from 2017 (135) continues.

Board election

This yearly report also functions as a very belated invitation to elect the board of the ISOC SIG Internet of Food. The election should have been held in September of last year but has been delayed for personal reasons. We now however mend our ways.

The board currently consists of:

Johan Jorgensen (chairman)
Michael Daun (treasury)
Patrik Fältström

The members of the board are willing to continue in their roles for another year, stretching from May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021. The ambition is to hold the next elections during March of 2021.

The board should benefit from the addition of a member to fill the function of secretary, but should not extend beyond four persons at this point. The role of the added secretary would be to be the main organizer of outreach and event planning. The ambition going forward is to build a network with associates around the world that can push the necessary knowledge and need for more strategic thinking around data and food.

Members who would like to join the board are invited to take a more active role during the coming year in order to become eligible at next year's election.

Nominations for the board can be sent to the chairman, Johan Jorgensen, johan.jorgensen@gmail.com and should have come in no later than one week ahead of the elections.

On behalf of the board

Johan Jorgensen
Chairman