

A Stakeholder Journey: ICANN's Newcomer Programs

Seher Sağıroğlu Ayhan
Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager Central Asia & Middle East

3 November 2026

What is ICANN?

Unique Names and Number

Anything connected to the Internet – including computers, mobile phones, and other devices – has a unique number called an IP address. IP stands for Internet Protocol.





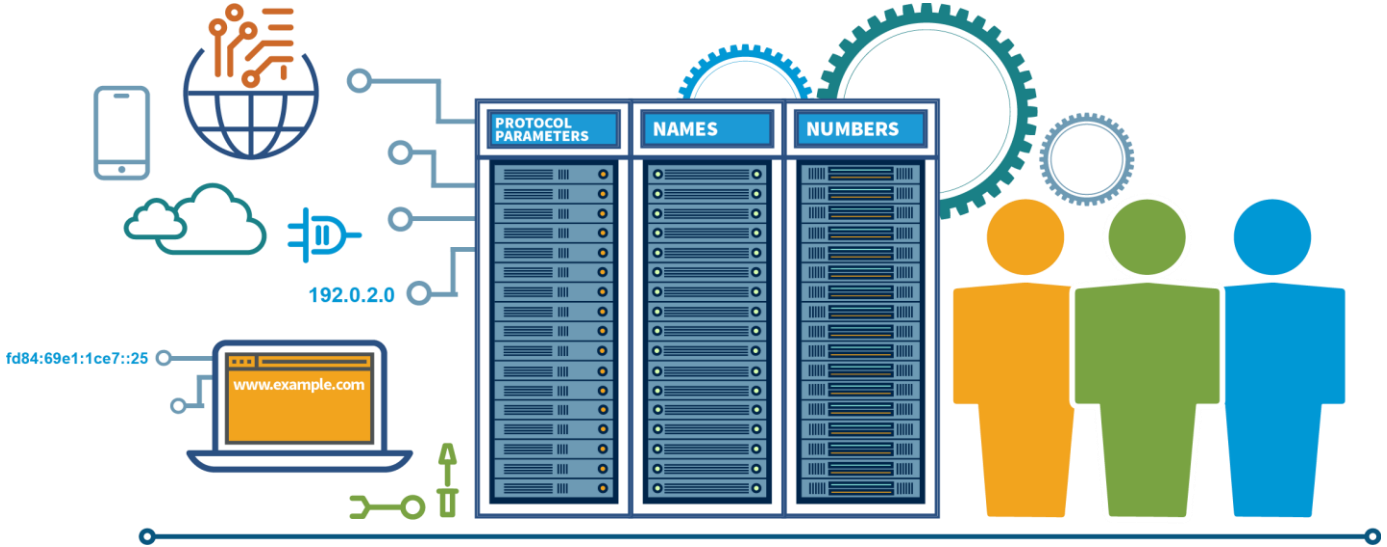
This address is like a postal address. It allows messages, videos, and other packets of data to be sent from anywhere on the Internet to the device that has been uniquely identified by its IP address.

IP addresses can be difficult to remember, so instead of numbers, the Internet's Domain Name System uses letters, numbers, and hyphens to form a name that is easier to remember.



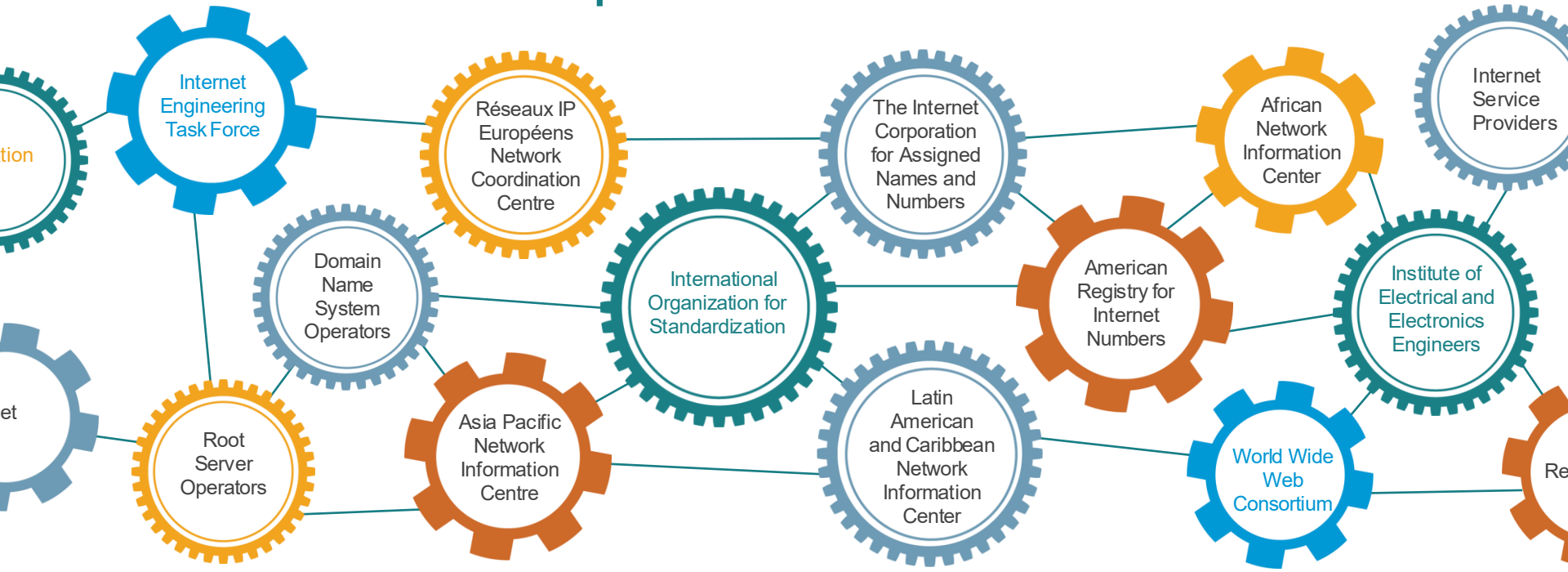
What ICANN Does

**Coordinating with our partners,
we help make the Internet work.**



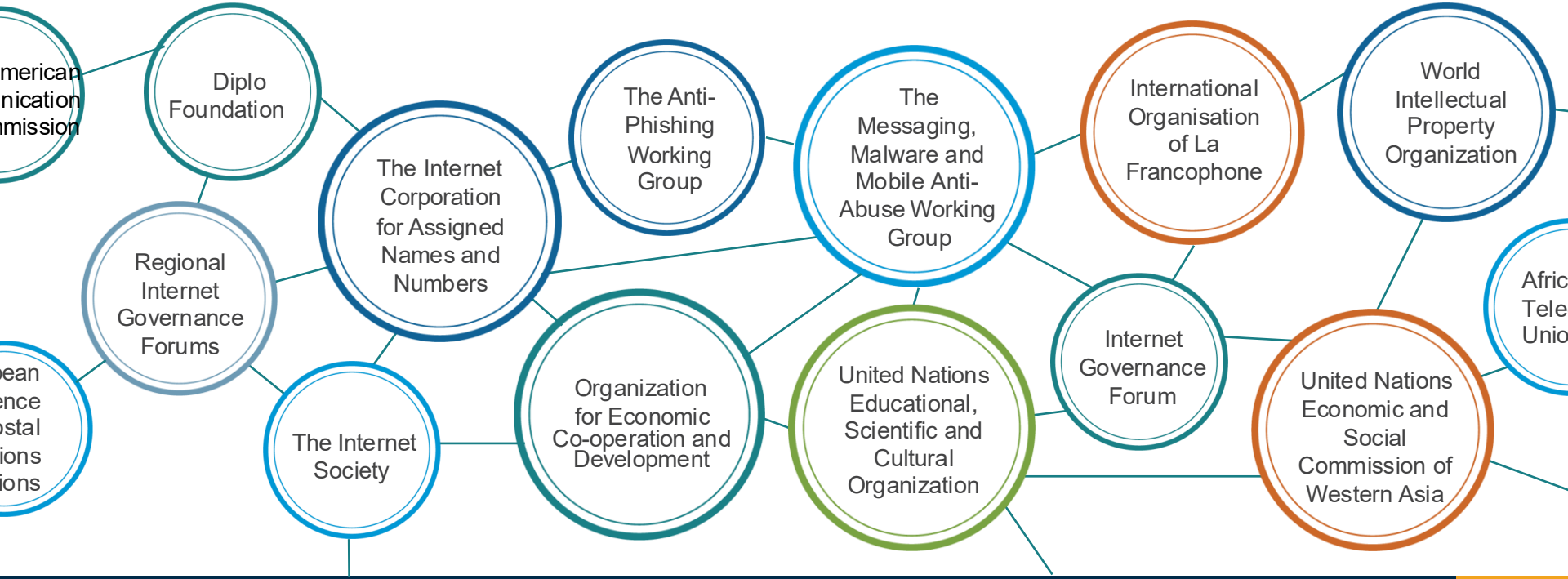
Our Technical Partners

Coordinating with our technical partners, we help make the Internet work.



Our Other Partners

We all work together in different ways to help make the Internet work.



What Does ICANN Mean for the End User?



The Domain Name System allows you to easily navigate the Internet. ICANN monitors for compliance with contracts, including review of complaints.



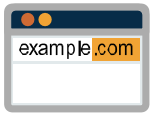
Policy Development is an inclusive, open and transparent process for the community to create effective rules for the Internet.



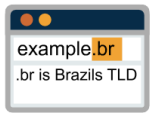
L-Root is one of the root servers that help keep the DNS stable around the globe.



Supporting and Growing the community ensures diverse participants contribute to bottom-up, multistakeholder, consensus-driven policy.



Generic Top-Level Domains provide choice in the domain name space.



Country Code Top-Level Domains allow countries to host their own websites.



Protocol Parameters allow computers to talk to each other.



Internet Protocol Addresses are the numbers that identify devices.



Root Zone Management keeps the DNS running smoothly.

IANA Functions

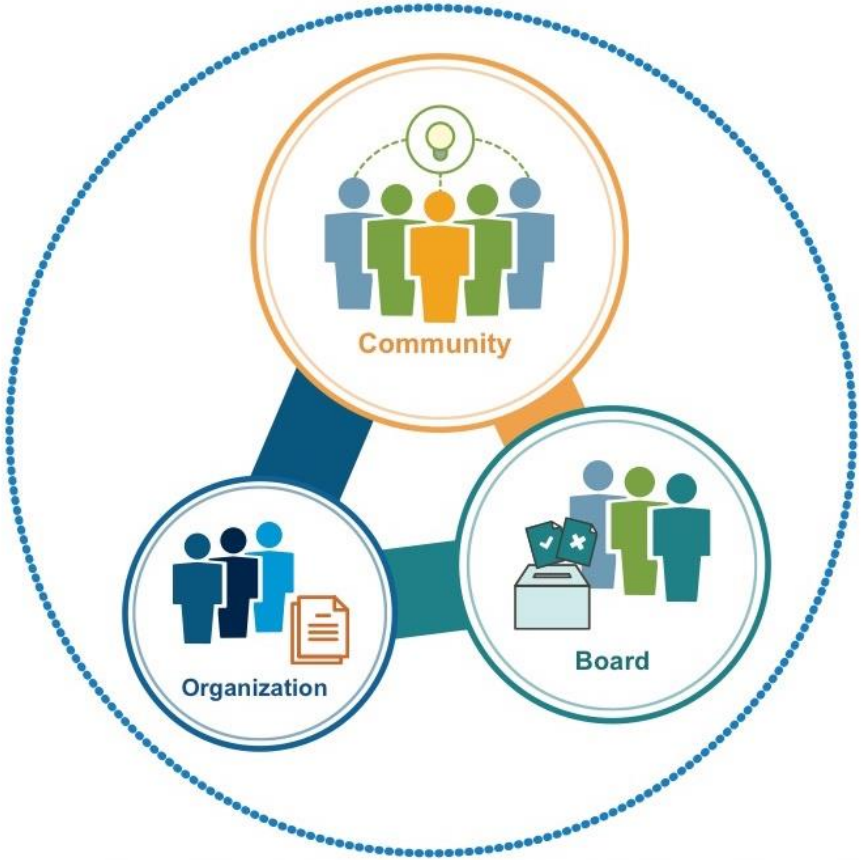
The ICANN Multistakeholder Community

ICANN follows a bottom-up, multistakeholder model in which individuals, non-commercial organizations, industry, and governments play important roles in its community-based, consensus-driven, policymaking approach.



Learn More ▶ https://www.icann.org/community

ICANN Ecosystem



The ICANN Multistakeholder Community

MAKING POLICY:

Three Supporting Organizations (SOs) are responsible for developing policy recommendations in the areas they represent: IP addresses, generic top-level domains (gTLDs), and country code top-level domains (ccTLDs).



PROVIDING ADVICE:

Four Advisory Committees (ACs) give advice and make recommendations on ICANN topics. The ACs are made up of representatives from: governments and international treaty organizations, root server operators, Internet security experts, and Internet end users.



ICANN Stakeholder Journey: ICANN's Newcomer Programs

Newcomer Programs: Goals and Objectives

Fellowship

Global capacity development program to support ICANN's multistakeholder community; online application process is open three times per year to participate in an ICANN Public Meeting.

NextGen

Regionally based program to create awareness and promote future discussions within universities and other regional forums; online application process is open three times per year to attend an ICANN Public Meeting.

Beginners

Program dedicated to those entering the ICANN community. Options are self-study using the ICANN For Beginners web page or participation in person or remotely at an ICANN Public Meeting.

Watch Fellowship and NextGen video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrV_ZkDEfIQ

Watch Newcomer video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da1RQt9-e-g

How Program Funding Works



Fellowship

Travel, accommodations and stipend provided to cover some costs of attending an ICANN Public Meeting



NextGen

Travel, accommodations and stipend provided to cover some costs of attending an ICANN Public Meeting



Beginners

No funding offered, but opens doors to communication and learning through ICANN Learn, other resources, and engagement@icann.org

Fellowship Program | At-a-glance

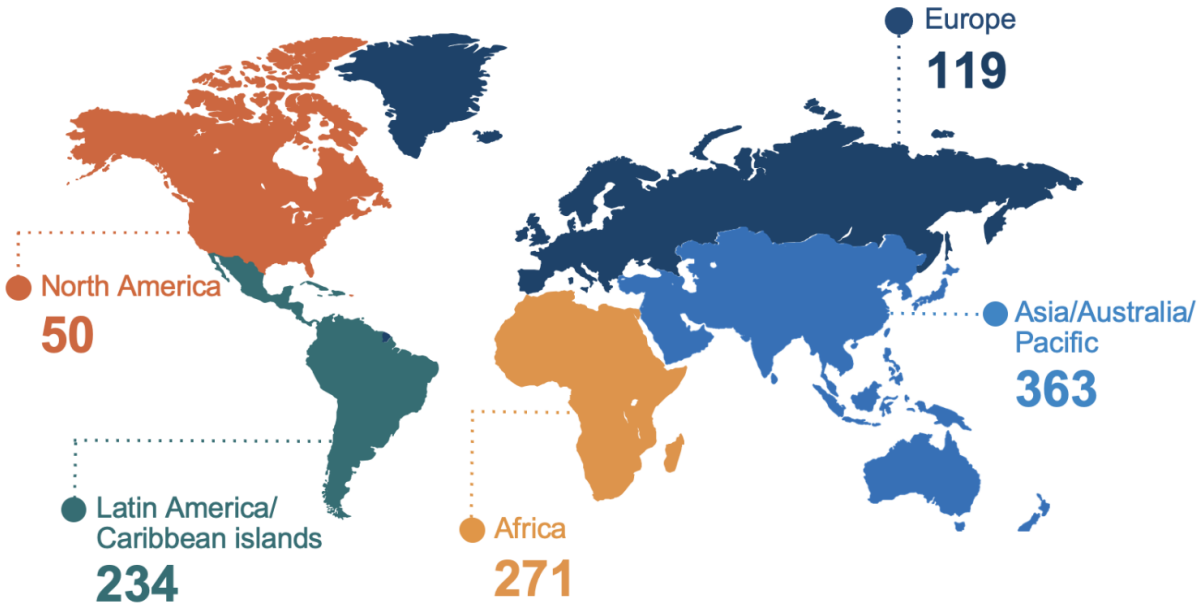
- Fosters opportunities for individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities to become active participants
- Online application process happens three times per year (for each ICANN meeting), but the Policy Forum is for alumni only
- Up to 40 fellows are selected for each round; 5 mentors are appointed by SOs/ACs
- Important source for identifying potential active new community participants and in further honing the skills of returning program participants





Fellowship Program | Statistics

1,805 fellowships **1037** fellows **162** countries represented



NextGen@ICANN Program | At-a-glance

- Key source for identifying new ICANN community participants
- Up to 12 slots per ICANN meeting
- Mentorship by community members
- Participants encouraged to share ICANN information and insights

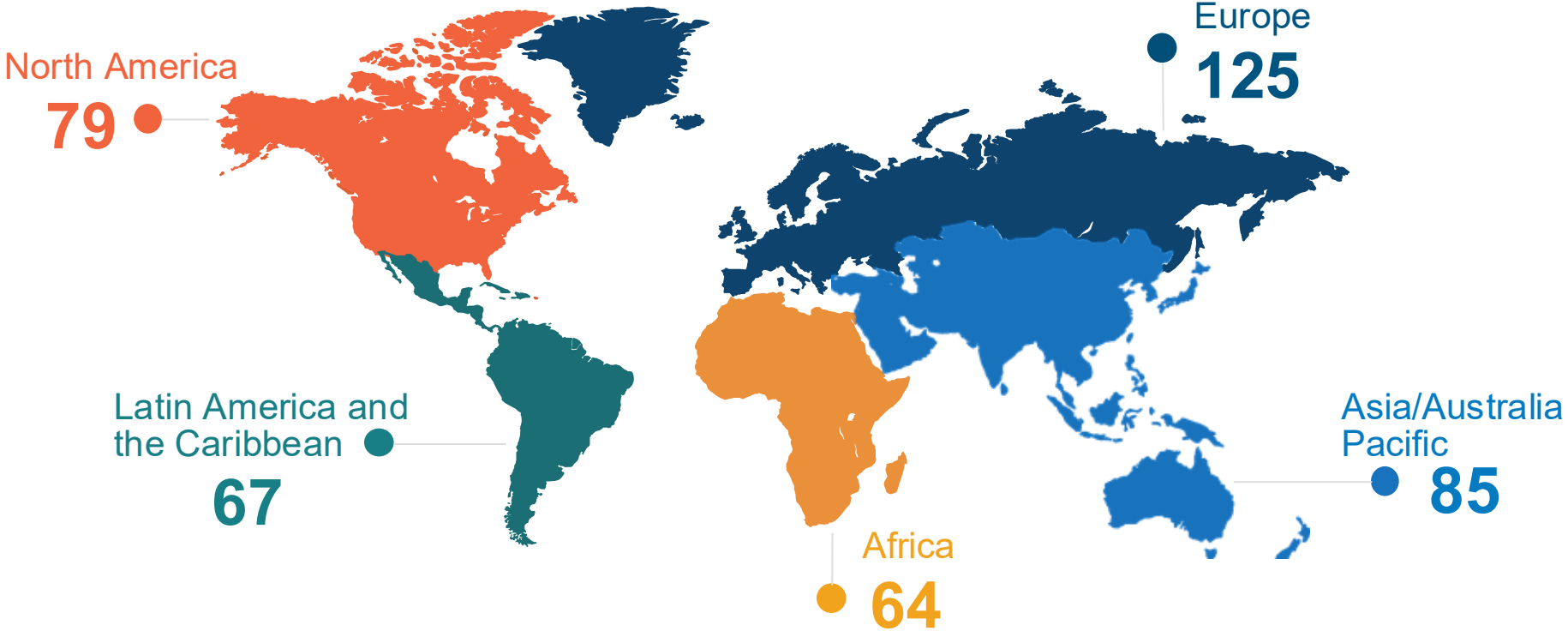




NextGen@ICANN Program | Statistics

420 participants

95 countries represented



Timeline of How the Programs Work

Outreach and Promotion

- Outreach of application rounds opening
- Social media promotion

Application

Online applications open

Selection

Committee of SO/AC appointees reviews applications and selects participants

Pre-Meeting Preparation

- Mentors appointed by SOs/ACs
- Participants take ICANN Learn courses
- Personalized plan for the Meeting

On-Site Responsibilities

- Participants attend mandatory sessions and those identified w/ mentors
- Engage and network with the community

Post-Meeting Requirements

- Post-meeting survey and report
- Continued engagement

How Fellowship Differs from NextGen@ICANN

Fellowship Program

- Focuses on global capacity development to support representation and active involvement in ICANN's multistakeholder community
- 21+ years old from underserved and underrepresented communities

NextGen@ICANN Program

- Focuses on education, awareness and future engagement and invites the next generation to engage with ICANN
- 18–30-year-old students from the region where the ICANN meeting is taking place

Learn More About the Newcomer Programs

Fellowship	https://www.icann.org/fellowshipprogram
NextGen	https:\\www.icann.org/public-responsibility-support/nextgen
Beginners	https://www.icann.org/en/beginners

Other Resources for Newcomers



- Free online courses on ICANN Learn: https://learn.icann.org
  - Learn about ICANN groups and processes
  - Build skills to enhance participation
  - Discuss concepts with fellow learners



- ICANN org Regional Newsletters: https://info.icann.org/LP---Regional-Newsletter.html



- ICANN social media



- Other useful webpages:
  - ICANN Acronyms and Terms: https://www.icann.org/icann-acronyms-and-terms/en/nav/A
  - ICANN Communities: https://www.icann.org/community
  - Policy Development Support: https://www.icann.org/policy
  - Technical Functions: https://www.icann.org/technology

Thank you!


icann.org


@icann


facebook.com/icannorg


youtube.com/icannnews


flickr.com/icann


linkedin.com/company/icann


instagram.com/icannorg