

Top Five Reasons Your Organization Should Join ICANN

5. It's the only international, worldwide forum in which Internet policy gets created and activated. Sure, there's a lot of talking about it, and its application is specific to certain aspects of the Internet, but policy formation includes discussion about some of the Internet's most interesting problems.
4. There's a growing consumer movement in ICANN, from the at-large community to the Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group. We need the leadership, experience, and access to consumers you can provide. In return, we can provide you help with the learning curve.
3. Good data helps make good policy, but it's difficult to find any on consumers and the domain name system. Your experience creating unbiased survey methodology and consumer dialog could help make powerful arguments on behalf of consumers.
2. We need to hear from new voices. The ICANN community provides an excellent place to network with technologists, government representatives, corporate executives and others who are interested in your message and your data.
1. Hundreds of companies around the world make billions of dollars from the domain name system. Their interests are very well represented throughout ICANN, and some even believe they speak for consumers. We need you to help balance the range of voices ICANN policy makers hear.

In a public call to action released on 13 February 2006, Annette Muehlberg, European member of At-large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and co-chair network new media asked for public support in building up a regional structure to represent individual's interests and concerns.

The petition with the title "Help to strengthen Civil Rights and Consumer Protection in ICANN's policies!" considers that:

"The question of how Internet Governance is shaped is one of the central sociopolitical tasks of the coming years. It will be a matter of how consumers and Internet users can become involved in the policy making of ICANN.

There is, nevertheless, a civil society element in ICANN, the At-large Advisory Committee (ALAC), composed to represent Internet users, five regions in world each providing 3 representatives. At this point these representatives are chosen by a nominating committee of ICANN. However, the goal is that the current ALAC members build structures to foster

participation in their respective regions, and furthermore facilitate the direct election of regional ALAC representatives.

This year, a European Regional At-Large Organisation (EU-RALO) will be build, to facilitate the broadest possible participation of European Internet users.

Current ICANN bylaws require organizational participants, who would like to build up a regional structure, to represent individual's interests and concerns. These organizations (or groups of people working on internet users' issues) are, in ICANN's terms, "At-Large Structures" (ALSes) and they form the so called "Regional At-Large Organisation" (RALO).

To reach the status of what ICANN refers to as an "At-Large Structure" (ALS), has a few simple requisites and a questionnaire to be filled.

There are already a few European organizations that have become ALSes, however, yet they are not representative for the diversity of European Internet oriented Human rights and consumer protection organizations.

With a Regional At-Large Organisation, we want to work issue oriented and influence ICANN's policies - with the profound knowledge of as many as possible European internet related consumer protection and civil rights organisations.

It would be helpful if you could use your individual and institutional contacts in north, south, west and east Europe to solicit for an inclusive civil society engagement and accrediting as At-large Structure."

The public call to action is open to signatures. It has already received support from several German EDRI-members.

Help to strengthen Civil Rights and Consumer Protection in ICANN's policies! (13.02.2006)
<http://www.wecann.de/2006/help-to-strengthen-civil-rights-and-consumer...>

Wiki for discussion of the best possible structure of a European Regional At-Large Organisation
<http://www.wecann.net/ralowiki>

Form to fill in order to get accredited to ALAC
<http://alac.icann.org/correspondence/structures-app.htm>

Form to fill in order to get accredited to ALAC (in Spanish and Italian)
<http://alac.icann.org/framework.htm>