

ATLAS II Recommendation 19

N o.	Recommendation	Recipient	Thematic Group Source	Assignees	Status
19	Eliminate barriers to participation and engagement with ICANN processes and practices.	?	TG3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building Outreach & Engagement ALS Criteria & Expectations Technology Taskforce 	COMPLETED

Summary

Implementation Details

The At-Large Community -- especially the At-Large Capacity Building Working Group, ALAC Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee, and the At-Large initiated Cross Community Committee on Accessibility -- has closely collaborated with ICANN staff departments in the creation, implementation, and refinement of outreach and engagement programs that aim to eliminate barriers to participation in ICANN. Those programs and initiatives have been mentioned in Recommendation No.1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 12, 16, and 18.

Within ICANN the organization, a coordination team has been established to exert a concerted effort in implementing this recommendation. The team includes senior staff from the Policy Development Support, Global Stakeholder Engagement, Communications, Digital Engagement, Meetings Team, Development and Public Responsibility Department, and Global Domains Division.

Next Step

The At-Large Community will maintain a watching brief on ICANN staff's efforts in the elimination of participation barriers.

Actions:

05 Oct 2015:

- Capacity Building WG and Technology Taskforce to work with ICANN IT to make the webinar recordings easy to replay and share

Notes:

30 Sep 2015:

- There are a number of existing capacity building webinars, both At-Large wide and RALO specific
- Outreach & Engagement SC has been looking into such activities and efforts for engagement; [Ideas for Engagement Strategies](#) wiki page has been set up; the SC will discuss this issue in ICANN 54
- Capacity building should be more than online webinars. We should access RALOs and human capital for doing policy work and outreach. We should have some tools to engage membership and help them get involved. Staff should help hold more sessions to get more information about the inactive ALSes and learn about their interests. We need to adopt a gradual and systematic approach to engage the new and inactive ALSes.
- Judith Hellerstein and Glenn McKnight have identified a large group of ALSes who haven't attended any NARALO calls. They will reach out to them and conduct easy-flowing sessions to find out why they are inactive and give them an opportunity to ask questions.
- ALSes are often overwhelmed by emails and don't understand how to navigate the information and ways to get involved. To help ALSes understand ways to navigate through the overwhelming amount of information in At-Large can be one of the capacity building topics.

05 Oct 2015:

- It has been recognized that mentorship of new ALS representatives and the development of short tutorials (e.g. How to use Adobe Connect) can help address the on-boarding challenges
- Capacity building webinars can be leveraged to develop those tutorial/mentoring initiatives and educate newcomers and inactive At-Large members
- Pre-training of ALSes is important, including how to use Adobe Connect, etc., and they need to know that participate in teleconferences and webinars via AC is part of the ALS participation expectation

18 Oct 2015 (update from the GSE, [slides](#))

- Note on Slide: The work of the Stakeholder Journey sub team within the CEP team can help address this recommendation.
- Chris Mondini on the Stakeholder Journey program:
 - It looks at the challenge of getting more volunteers, but also more active volunteers
 - At a very high-level, GSE has looked at some data, to look at where people come from, where they may get stuck, what some of their challenges are. They looked at the structures across ICANN, because each structure approaches this question slightly differently, and each structure and constituency has slightly different needs. They have made some high-level observations about how we might attract people, by looking first at what their question areas are, what their issue areas are.
 - They have looked at some tools that they can provide to help community volunteers be partners in doing that outreach. GSE will solicit feedback from the community, especially the volunteers who have a passion for bringing on the next generation to having a succession plan, so that the sustainability of ICANN in this community is assured.

- Sally Costerton on the work of Community Engagement:
 - There has been coordination team inside the ICANN, co-chaired by Sally Costerton and David Olive, composed of senior staff that face the ICANN community. The team includes the Policy Team, the Engagement Team, the Communications Team, which is led by Duncan Burns, the Digital Engagement Team, led by Chris Gift, and the Meetings Team, led by Nick Tomasso. There are two frequent guests, which is DPRD, led by Nora Abusitta, and she has the Fellows Program under her remit in DPRD, which is a very important element of the Stakeholder Journey Program. Another guest is Cyrus Namazi, who leads engagement for the GDD Team. The goal is to try to make sure we have a much more holistic view about how ICANN, as a staffing organization, can maximize the resources at our disposal.
 - This team is to tackle some of these difficult challenges that the community faces as it matures and grows, such as the great deal of exhaustion in the volunteer community. You see a lot of the same faces popping up in different Working Groups, and while that's great in some ways, but it's also not sustainable.
 - It is also about providing people with tools, it's translations – it's access questions, generally, whether that be money to get on a plane, or stay in a hotel, whether it's language tools that allow you to participate in an even way, whether it's improving the search on the website so that it's a more friendly environment.
 - how do we take a holistic look, as staff, at all of the money that ICANN spends on volunteer support, community participation? Whichever word you want to use. Because we tend to view it in quite narrow pockets. There are particulate processes to apply for travel funding or special support work and so forth.
 - but we will be able to do so in due course – it's getting a real sense of, "How much in total, out of the overall ICANN Budget, do we have at our disposal? And how can we make sure that we match that, as effectively as possible, to this goal?"
 - we're trying to take what you're talking about, as a more strategic view of it, to say, "Are there other ways we could do things differently that would make it easier for unpaid participants in the community to have a more equal participation?"
- Siranush Vardanyan: GSE team should be connected to the Outreach calendars used in RALOs to see At-Large activities and explore collaboration opportunities.
- Rafid Fatani: How do we maintain the old, but also bring in the new and keep them in? One of that is actually maintaining and allowing them to grow within various leadership positions. I, in the ALAC, think personally that we have a problem with this.
- Sebastien Bachollet: I think it's good to have new people come in, but they need to be received, they need to be accompanied, they need to be sustained, supported, received in good conditions. Because if that's not the case, they are going to leave and go somewhere else.
- Sally Costerton: GSE will have regular calls with the ALAC Outreach & Engagement Sub-Committee. I'd be very happy to make myself and some of my team available, once, or regularly, to join that call. This may give us more time to get into more detail about some of the tactical things we need to do.

23 May 2016:

- There have been efforts to make conference recordings more accessible, such as MP4 conversion of meeting recordings to be uploaded to YouTube
- There has been significant progress in this recommendation, such as the revamp of At-Large website, implementation of captioning services, additional interpretation, LACRALO mailing lists, etc.