

A Stakeholder Journey: ICANN's Newcomer Programs

ICANN Public Responsibility Support

September 2026

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

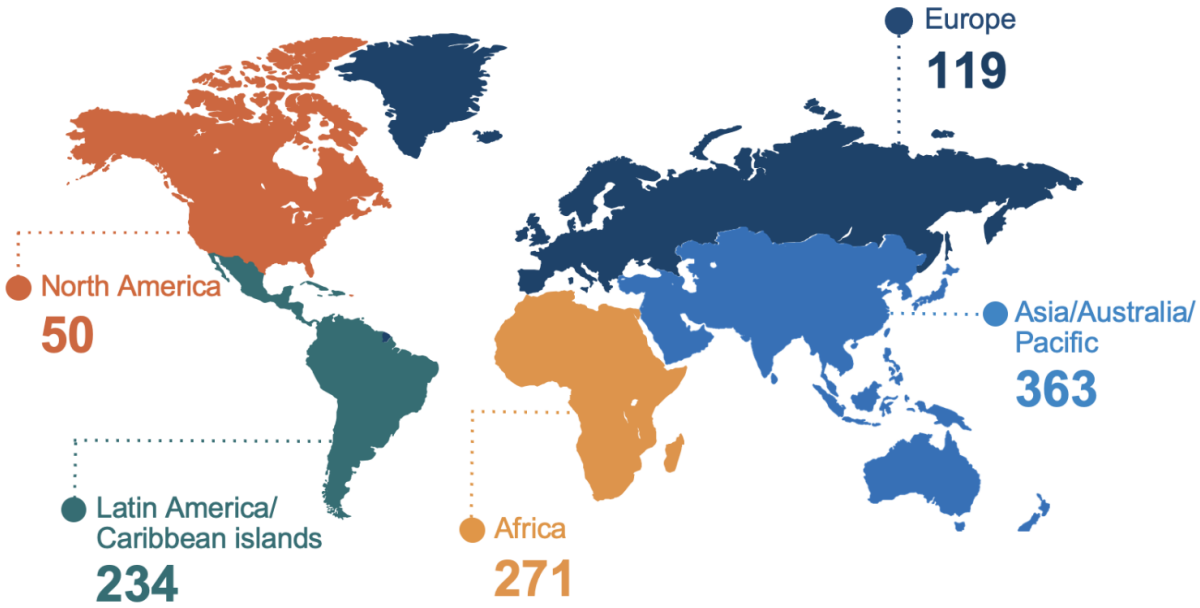
- Fosters opportunities for individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities to become active participants
- Online application process happens three times per year (for each ICANN meeting), but the Policy Forum is for alumni only
- Up to 40 fellows are selected for each round; 5 mentors 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

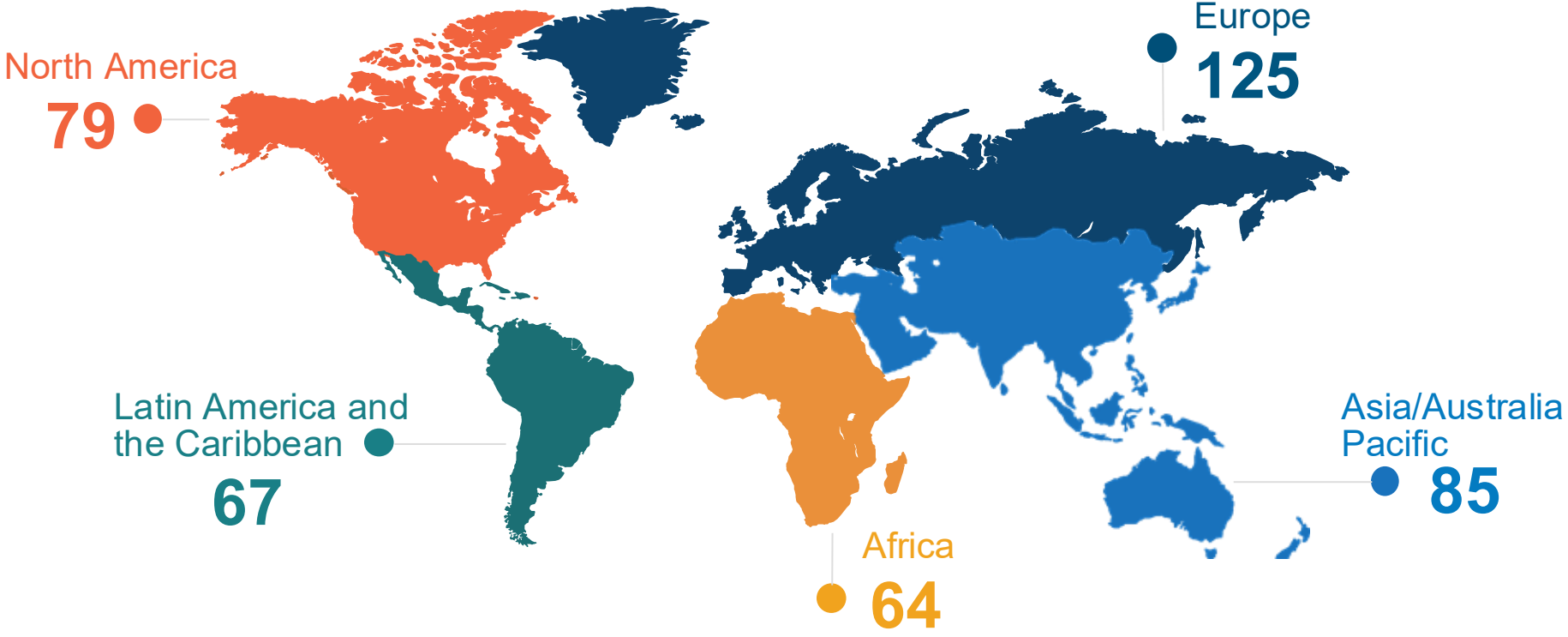




NextGen@ICANN Program | Statistics

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

Engage with ICANN

Thank you!

Email us at:
engagement@icann.org

- icann.org
- @icann
- facebook.com/icannorg
- youtube.com/icannnews
- flickr.com/icann
- linkedin.com/company/icann
- instagram.com/icannorg

