# NextGen@ICANN Program

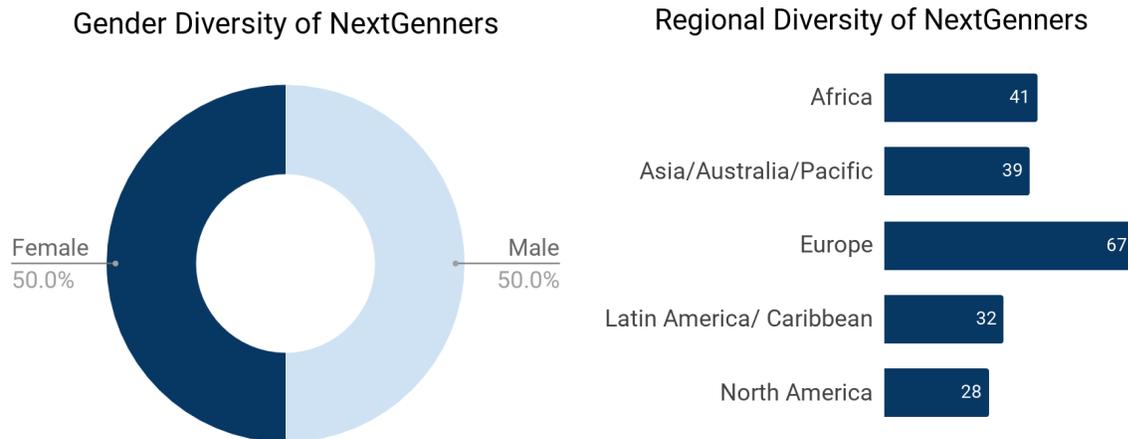## Community Consultation Process to Review Current Program

## Overview

The ICANN organization is initiating a review of the NextGen@ICANN Program to ensure that the program continues to evolve and meet community demands in an efficient and financially sustainable manner. The consultation will gather input on several aspects of the program, including its purpose, goals, processes, and synergies with the ICANN academic community. ICANN community groups are invited to respond to the questionnaire below by 9 September 2019. Feedback will inform the revised NextGen@ICANN Program draft that will go out for public comment in October 2019.

## Background

The NextGen@ICANN Program aims to broaden participation in ICANN by providing opportunities for university students to better understand ICANN and the Internet ecosystem. It is intended for students (ages 18-30) from the region where the ICANN meeting is taking place.

Since its inception in 2014, over 207 students from 106 countries have participated in the program. The following graphs provide a snapshot of the gender and regional diversity of NextGenners:



Gender Diversity of NextGenners

Female 50.0%   Male 50.0%



Regional Diversity of NextGenners

| Region | Value |
|---|---|
| Africa | 41 |
| Asia/Australia/Pacific | 39 |
| Europe | 67 |
| Latin America/ Caribbean | 32 |
| North America | 28 |

A total of 82 NextGenners completed the [NextGen@ICANN Five-Year Survey](). Survey data indicates that over 90% of the respondents (78) have supported regional academic outreach: 75% (64) spread the word about NextGen@ICANN at their respective universities, and a quarter of them (23) reached out to ICANN's local regional representatives to request that they come to their universities to speak about ICANN. Additionally, 39% of respondents (32) are engaged with their respective ICANN regional team, and 41% (34) are currently involved in one or more ICANN community group.

**Overview of Current Program Processes**

Application & Selection
- NextGen Applications open six to seven months prior to an ICANN Public Meeting to allow time for the candidates to apply and be selected four months in advance of travel dates.
- Applications are assessed by an independent selection committee that ensures eligibility criteria are met and ranks each application according to the selection criteria.
- Fifteen individuals are selected for each ICANN meeting: 12 NextGenners (students) and three Ambassadors (mentors).

Program Activities - Expectation for NextGen@ICANN participants:
- Attend the ICANN meeting and required activities, including but not limited to NextGen@ICANN sessions; participants are provided with a stipend, economy class airfare, and hotel accommodations
- Complete ICANN Learn courses prior to the meeting and engage in the NextGen@ICANN mentoring process prior to, during, and after the meeting
- Give a 5-10 minute presentation during the meeting they attend. It should cover topics related to ICANN's work and it can come from a research project, a thesis, etc.
- Complete the post-meeting survey to provide feedback on the program
- NextGen@ICANN participants are encouraged to support regional academic outreach, including delivering presentations at local universities about their experience at ICANN, produce written materials, raise awareness and understanding about ICANN, establish partnerships with relevant academic stakeholders, etc.

## Proposed Consultation Plan and Timeline

ICANN org has drafted the following questionnaire to begin the community consultation. Public Responsibility Support (PRS) team members are available to speak remotely with community groups about the current NextGen@ICANN Program and the questionnaire. Responses to the survey will be collected through 9 September 2019.

ICANN org will draw from the resulting feedback and questionnaire to revise the current NextGen@ICANN Program, consulting with relevant community groups as necessary. A draft proposal for program improvements will be posted for public comment sometime in October 2019, allowing for the standard 40-day (minimum) process.

Once all feedback is received from the community groups and the public comment proceeding, ICANN org will prepare the final draft of the proposal for program improvements and recommend a target implementation date. Note that the NextGen@ICANN Program schedule is planned six months in advance, so implementation of improvements will take effect at least two meetings after the final program processes are published.

**Timeline**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9 July 2019 | Initiate Community Consultation process |
| 9 September 2019 | Community Consultation questionnaire responses due |
| Oct - Dec 2019 | Public comment process |
| December 2019 | Publish new program processes |

# Questionnaire

Please send questionnaire responses and any questions to prs@icann.org by 9 September 2019.

This questionnaire only refers to the NextGen@ICANN Program, the goal of which is to broaden participation in ICANN by providing opportunities for university students from the region where the ICANN meeting is taking place to better understand ICANN and the Internet ecosystem.

Please do not provide feedback on other newcomer programs, such as the ICANN Fellowship Program, the goal of which is to strengthen the diversity of the multistakeholder model by fostering opportunities for individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities to become active participants in the ICANN community.

## **Program Goals and Vision**

1. In your group's opinion, is this current program goal clear and well understood? What improvements would you suggest?

2. Does your group believe that the NextGen@ICANN Program is often confused with the Fellowship Program? If so, do you have any suggestions on how to reduce confusion between these two programs?

3. What does your group believe should be the objective of the NextGen@ICANN Program moving forward? What would successful implementation of that objective look like?

## **Assessment of Program**

4. Are you aware of the contributions of NextGenners to the ICANN community? If so, where/how has the community benefited from the contributions of NextGen participants?

5. Have NextGenners contributed to the work of your group? If so, please describe.

6.  How could the NextGen@ICANN Program evolve to enhance the future participation of NextGenners in ICANN?

## Selection Processes

*The NextGen program manager selects the five-members of the NextGen@ICANN Selection Committee. Each committee member spends approximately 10 hours reviewing applications during an application cycle.*

7.  Should Selection Committee members be appointed by the community, in a manner similar to the [Fellowship Program Selection Committee](#)?

8.  Would your SO/AC group be prepared to nominate a Selection Committee member who would contribute the necessary time?

The *NextGen@ICANN Program Ambassadors (i.e., mentors) are selected by the NextGen@ICANN Selection Committee. Each Ambassador spends 40 hours to help with activities before, during, and after the meeting.*

9.  Do you think the Ambassador selection process should be kept as is or be replaced by a process that allows the community to identify and nominate mentors?

10. Would your SO/AC group be prepared to nominate a mentor who would contribute the time required?

## Synergies

11. Given the academic nature of the program, do you have any suggestions on how to improve synergies between NextGenners and the ICANN academic community?

## General Questions

12. Do you have any other questions or suggestions about the NextGen Program?

You are welcome to share any general comments on the NextGen@ICANN Program community consultation.