

22 May 2017

Process for selecting Chapter participants in ISOC delegations and Beyond the Net projects

In a recent recommendation, the Chapters Advisory Council (AC) put forward a proposal for a more transparent selection of Chapter participants in ISOC delegations, the evaluation of the projects under the Beyond the Net programme and ISOC general elections. The last point is out of the scope of this document since ISOC elections are responsibility of the Board's nominations and elections committees.

This recommendation summarizes as follows:

1. Transparency in the selection criteria
2. Publication of the selection committee
3. Publication of the applicant names

The Board asked Staff to develop a recommendation on how to implement the Chapter AC proposal.

Staff comments and recommendation:

1. Chapters participants in ISOC delegations.

1.1. Transparency in the selection criteria.

- We agree that the selection process for selecting fellows should be transparent and that regular review of criteria is welcome.
- The staff will review all the ad-hoc fellow programs accordingly and bigger efforts will be made in order to ensure that our chapters know the processes and the criteria for each of our fellow programs in advance.

Having a strong representation at regional and international meetings is very important. For some meetings, there is sometimes the need to give priority to certain skills or countries to achieve the goal for that meeting, which should remain at the discretion of the selection committee and/or staff based on the outcomes aimed at for a specific meeting.

Strengthening ISOC's team at those meetings is important to increase our impact.

In other cases, fellowships programs are available to give opportunities to the members of our community to participate in those meetings. As said above, we agree that these programs should be transparent and based on well known criteria.

The most regular fellow programs, like IGF Ambassadors and IETF Technical fellows, are already based on transparent processes and have predefined and well known criteria.

1.2. Publication of the selection committee

- We believe that the names of the selection committees' members should remain confidential and that the selection committee needs to work independently and free from any pressure. This selection is an ISOC responsibility and not an individual responsibility of the members of the selection committee. In many cases the members of these committees are volunteers and it would not be fair to expose them to direct communications in ways that would be inappropriate.

1.3. Publication of the applicant names.

- While we support the request to publish the names of the selected Fellows for any given meeting, we believe that for reasons of privacy the names of the applicants should remain at the discretion of the selection committee and staff.

2. Beyond the Net Programme

2.1. Transparency in the selection criteria.

- We believe that the current process is transparent. We will continue working with the Chapter Advisory Council to review the process, ensuring its transparency and that the assistance we provide to the chapters continues to fit their needs.
- When we receive projects from non-Chapters applicants from countries or regions where there are Chapters, the chapters will be informed.

2.2. Publication of the selection committee

- Similar comments than 1.2

2.3. Publication of applicant names

- The list of applications for Medium and Large grants who pass the first screening will be published including the Chapter presenting the application and the title of the proposal. Additional requests for information will be treated in case by case basis.

The process for submission, evaluation and selection of projects under the Beyond the Net programme is transparent and based on publicly available criteria.

The staff in charge of this program organizes webinars to train Chapter members on how to prepare project proposals.

The staff also contacts the applicants in order to give them feedback and to assist them in how to improve their proposals.

Languages: Projects can be submitted in English, French or Spanish. The staff who deal with the projects as well as at least 2 members of the selection committee are fluent in those 3 language

Increased support for Chapters

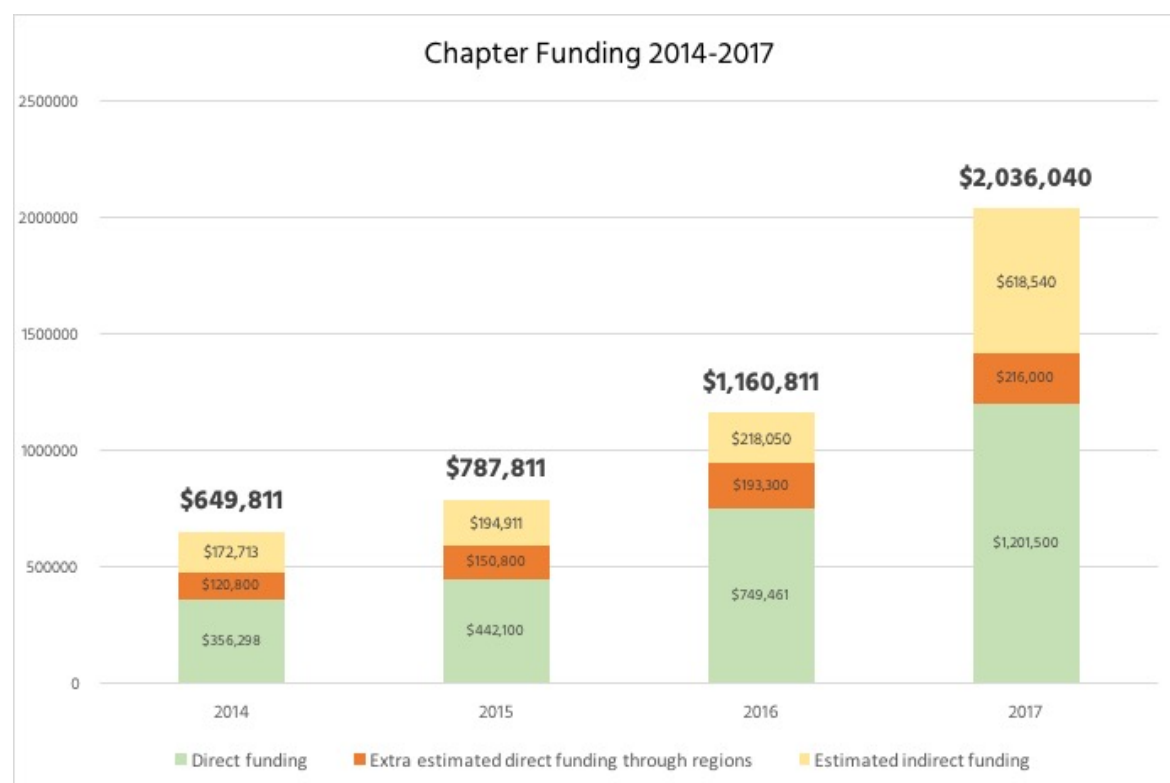
In a second recommendation, the Chapters Advisory Council (AC) put forward a proposal to increase support for Chapters

This recommendation summarizes as follows:

1. Create a financial support programme for ongoing cost of Chapters
2. Simplification of application process for small project funding (has been addressed)
3. Create a funding programme for outreach activities
4. Create new Fellowship programme for IGF and other national and regional meetings

Staff comments and recommendations:

The overall financial support to our Chapters has consistently increased over the past years to sustain and develop our Chapters in the important work they do.



Note: The direct funding includes funding directly supporting Chapter activities and are funds disbursed directly to Chapters for Chapter specific programmes (Beyond the Net, Chapter workshops, Chapter Admin funding). These also include non-recurring funding for Beyond the Net (2016) and non-recurring funding supporting Chapters for the 25th Anniversary (2017).

Estimated budget through the regions includes funding for regional specific programmes, supporting Chapter participation in meetings or chapter member engagement activities.

The indirect funding includes funding dedicated to chapter activities carried out by staff (e.g. chapter tools development, translations of materials for Chapters, etc.). These include non-recurring funding for the Chapter engagement and brand launch (2017).

These numbers do not include staff salaries..

However, budget limitations and annual programmatic priorities approved by the BoT impose to be selective.

In 2016 we have introduced a systematic Chapter Performance Evaluation with the consent of the Chapters AC. The criteria set for the Performance Evaluation are used to identify the level of financial support Chapters receive.

Those criteria remain open for adjustments with the appropriate participation of the Chapters AC. Considering the investment made in Chapters it is also important that we look at the ROI, as we are increasing the support and tools for Chapters to perform better, it is also expected to see an increase of the return in the way the Chapters are supporting ISOC to advance its mission and objectives.

There are currently a variety of support programmes in place to support the Chapters:

1. Beyond the Net:
 - a. Small Grants, up to 3,000 USD
 - b. Medium and Large grants, up to 30,000 USD per project (with selection process)
 - c. Chapterthon, 2,000 USD (introduced in 2016)
2. Fellowship programmes for:
 - a. Regional meetings, like EuroDIG, LACIGF, AfPIF, national or regional IG related meetings, etc.
3. Chapter Admin support, up to 3,000 USD per Chapter linked to Chapter performance (introduced in 2016)
4. Chapter meetings support, like INETs, Asia Internet Symposium, Chapters regional advocacy meetings., etc..

Addressing the different components of the Chapters AC's recommendations:

1. Create a financial support programme for ongoing cost of Chapters

Based on the discussion with the Chapters AC and ongoing conversations with the Chapters, staff has launched an ongoing yearly Chapter Admin programme in October 2016.

This allows Chapters to apply for up to 3.000 USD depending on their Chapter Evaluation Performance score.

While this is lower than the requested amount in the recommendation (5% of the ISOCs budget and, for each chapter, at the total divided by the number of active chapters), we believe this is addressing the most pressing needs.

In 2016, 76 Chapters applied for the programme for a total amount of 209.000 USD.

Chapters can apply online via <https://www.internetsociety.org/chapter-admin-funding>

We will evaluate the impact of the programme at the end of 2017.

In addition, we have created regional Zoom accounts for Chapters that they can request for the use of Chapter events or meetings.

2. Simplification of application process for small project funding

Based on the ongoing discussions with the Chapters AC we have simplified the form and process for the Small grant applications.

<https://www.internetsociety.org/beyond-net-funding/chapter-small-projects>

We remain committed to introduce other changes based on Chapters AC recommendations in order to ease the access to funding.

3. Create a funding programme for outreach activities

We don't have a special funding programme for funding. However, the grants allocated through both, Beyond the Net (small grants) and the recently launched Administration Funding Programme, are used for outreach activities like events, websites, brochures and videos among other things. Additionally, in 2017 we plan to spend non-recurrent US\$ 520k to support the chapters on branding related issues to allow them to take advantage of the ISOC re-branding and to join the ISOC 25th celebration at local level. Those could be considered outreach activities.

We recommend that we evaluate the impact of these programmes that will be made available this year and that we analyse the increase of budget for outreach activities based on budget availability and the impact result of the existing programmes.

4. Create new Fellowship programme for IGF and other national and regional meetings

Currently there are a number of Fellowship programmes which include Chapter members:

- IGF Ambassadors
- Youth @ IGF programme
- IETF Fellowship programme
- Fellowships to regional meetings (e.g. Apricot,
- Fellowships to Regional Chapter Advocacy meetings

Additionally, ISOC is inviting Chapter members to join ISOC delegations for meetings. For example, in 2016 we had 3 Chapter members joining the ISOC delegation during WTSA.

In average, 40% the participants of our most popular fellows' programs (IETF Tech fellows and IGF Ambassadors) are chapter members. While they are not chapter oriented programmes, chapter members are benefiting from them.

We will however introduce two changes in our programmes in order to increase the impact of our existing programmes trying to better fit the Chapter AC expectations.

- In consultation with the Chapters AC we will ensure that one of the selection committee members of our fellows' programmes belong to the Chapters community. While inclusion of a Chapter representative has been the standard procedure for the Tech Fellows to IETF for more than 5 years, we look forward to working with the AC to identify selection committee prospects for IETF and IGF fellowships moving forward.
- We will try to as much as possible to collocate the regional Chapters Advocacy Meetings with relevant regional Internet Governance events, so the participants in the workshop can also benefit of participation in those IG events. The selection of the most appropriate venue will be decided in consultation with the chapters of the region. This is already a common practice, but we will try to hold almost every meeting according to these criteria. Where possible we will support the participation of Chapter leaders to those IG events either through an extended Fellowship or provide participation at reduced cost.

