

Any Global Member in good standing may complete an application. When it is completed the application should be submitted by email to chapter-application@isoc.org.

Please note that SIG applications are valid for 6 months. The Chapter formation process, including receipt for all documents mentioned above, needs to be completed within this timeframe, after which the application will expire.

If you have any questions please contact the Chapter Support staff.

SIG Application Requirements

A. Proposed name of the SIG

The SIG name must include both "Internet Society" and "Special Interest Group". These may be translated into your local language.

Internet Society Community Networks Special Interest Group

B. Community of Interest the SIG will serve

Please state the "Special Interest" that you want to form a community around. What is the potential community that may be joining the Special Interest Group (NOTE: keep in mind that the SIGs are meant to be not geographically limited, meaning that preference will be given to a cross regional or global community reach).

This group is formed around the need that Community Networks from all around the world have to create an entity within the Internet Society, through which they can work together to strengthen and promote the Community Network model, draft common strategies and present their views on topics like community development and connectivity, socio-economic development and sustainable development.

As stated by the Declaration on Community Connectivity, Community Networks (CNs) are crowdsourced networks "structured to be open, free, and to respect network neutrality. Such networks rely on the active participation of local communities in the design, development, deployment, and management of shared infrastructure as a common resource, owned by the community, and operated in a democratic fashion. Community Networks can be operationalized, wholly or partly, through individuals and local stakeholders, NGO's, private sector entities, and/or public administrations." (see <https://www.comconnectivity.org/article/dc3-working-definitions-and-principles/>)

Critically, CNs are increasingly considered as a reliable model to expand connectivity in a sustainable fashion.

This group will thus be open to all Community Networks and their representatives from around the world as well as to trusted advisors, particularly on community development, policy and technology issues. Trusted advisors will be proposed and accepted by the Community Network members via democratic procedures.

C. Purpose and scope of SIG

It is important to indicate how you intend to serve your community of interest and why a SIG of the

Internet Society is a good way to do it.

Community connectivity has become a topic that has attracted lots of attention lately. The creation of the IGF's Dynamic Coalition on Community Connectivity (DC3) was a stepping stone on the path to gain recognition from the global governance community. IGF Dynamic Coalitions by design are expected to be a space of open participation, as they are suited for debate and exchange of perspective. However, they are not convenient in terms of strategic planning and agile project organization and implementation. We consider the creation of an Internet Society Special Interest Group a natural next step in the consolidation of the CN movement, with the capacity to represent its own views and needs.

In the Final Report of WTDC 2014/Dubai, it was deliberated in Recommendation 19 that reducing inequalities in digital excluded areas is directly related to community networks, and in 2016 CITEL published Resolution 268 in the Final Report of the 28th Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies; San Salvador, El Salvador. Resolution 268 stipulates the implementation of Recommendation 19 in the Americas region.

The DC3 will keep on being a space for open debate, while the CN-SIG will allow to concretely put into action ideas by CNs and for CNs, in coordination with other entities, to move forward the policy debate, to experiment and to implement community network models, while advancing technical and community-based solutions for regional and global CN development.

Important agenda points that need to be addressed and for which the formation of a SIG plays an instrumental role:

- 1) identifying the policy trends that are harmful and beneficial for CNs, and ensuring we support and push for the latter, while we present well-documented arguments against the former;
- 2) identifying the technologies that CNs use which could benefit from openness and standardization, and creating a better understanding of each case and how we can help it happen;
- 3) conducting and promoting research on new technologies which can foster CN growth;
- 4) identifying the different CN models that exist, and understanding their strengths and weaknesses in different scenarios and contexts;
- 5) conducting and promoting research on new Community Networking models;
- 6) identifying the governance forums and global institutions where debate on CNs could be useful/necessary and where awareness on CNs should be raised;
- 7) mapping stakeholders that can become allies of CNs and identifying how to reach out or partner with them;
- 8) mapping resources from which CNs may benefit, with particular regard (but not limited) to funding opportunities, informational resources and capacity building opportunities;
- 9) exchange ideas, challenges and experiences;
- 10) identifying, highlighting and promoting best practices among CNs;
- 11) researching and reporting on: CN impact on local communities, socio-cultural integration of CNs to local communities, etc;
- 12) promoting the potential role for CNs as local infrastructures for local services and applications (beyond affordable Internet access) for resiliency, education, social cohesion, self-determination and more;
- 13) create a continuous agenda to do political and regulatory incidence to debate and propose policies and regulations that benefit CNs.

- 14) develop talking points and white-papers on CN activities or contribute to same to help others better understand community networks
- 15) contribute to technical work in the IETF and IRTF and any other relevant technical body.

D. Outline of key priorities for the first year of the SIG

It is important that besides drive and vision, there are also some concrete plans for what the SIG will achieve in its first year of operation.

Key priorities during the first year will revolve around the consolidation of this group as a focal point for collective assessment of CNs needs and delineating of a concrete action plan to move forward a collective agenda. This may imply but not be limited to:

- 1) CNs participation in the governance ecosystem;
- 2) CNs relationships with national administrations in regards to CNs promotion and regulation;
- 3) Assessment of common needs and priorities in the technical, organizational, regulatory, social and economical aspect of CNs;
- 4) Outreach to existing CN projects, to invite them to take part in this group;
- 5) Outreach to other stakeholders (private sector, academy, etc.) to explore opportunities for cooperation.
- 6) Advise ISOC and other organizations regarding their CN-related work

E. Founding members of the SIG

Please list complete contact information and affiliations for all persons who will be working together to create the SIG. A minimum of 25 Internet Society members is required for a Charter. Please supply their names. A cross regional or global approach is encouraged.

The initial proposal for the SIG is to have three representatives from each organization

AlterMundi:

Nicolás Echániz (ISOC #132582)

Nicolás Pace (ISOC #147993)

Flor López Peze (ISOC #177872)

Rhizomatica:

Peter Bloom

Erick Huerta

Karla Velasco

Coolab would be the entity, but not sure if they are ISOC members either individually or as orgs

Thiago Novaes?

Marcelo Saldanha?

Bruno Vianna (ISOC# 176213)

Rodrigo Troian (ISOC# 671857)

Atalaya Sur

Manuela González Ursi?

Damián Cejas?
Iván Camacho?

Guifi.net:
Roger Baig ?
Pau Esrich ?
Al Cano ?
Gio Mazzuco ?

Zenzeleni:
Jay?

GramMarg:
Sarbani Banerjee (ISOC# 169229)
Jaspreet (ISOC# 134504)

Fantsuam Foundation:
John Dada (ISOC# 5900)
Theresa Tafida (ISOC# 177870)
Seyi Eseyin-Johnson (ISOC# 177873)

Ninux:
Claudio Pisa
Ilario Gelmetti
Federico Capoano?

Sarantaporo.gr:
George Klisiaris (ISOC #176474)
Vasilis Chryssos (ISOC #177622)
Nicholas Kourtzis (ISOC #176467)
Panayotis Antoniadis (ISOC #177700)

First Mile Institute:
Rob McMahon
Mat Rohanan

Trusted advisors:
Strategy, Governance and Legal:
Luca Belli
Andrés Piazza

Policy:
Steve Song?
Bia Barbosa?
Mike Jensen?
Panayotis Antoniadis?
Felix Treguer?
Arthur Messaud (LaQuadratureDuNet)

academic:
Leandro Navarro?
Mariela Baladron? (Observatorio)
Federica Giovanella?

technical:
Pau Esrich?
Elektra?
Terry Gillet?
Kino ?

standards:
Christian O'Flaherty

outreach:
Jane Coffin

F. List of supporters and partner organizations

Please list complete contact information for any organizations or groups who will be supporting or partnering with the potential SIG. We strongly encourage SIGs to take a “multi-stakeholder” approach to forming a SIG.

AlterMundi, Rhizomatica, Guifi.net, Atalaya Sur, Zenzeleni, Gran Marg, Observatorio Comunicación y Derechos Humanos(UBA), Indian Institute of Technology?, Sarantaporo.gr, LACNIC?, Instituto Bem Estar Brasil?, FGV?

G. Membership

Please outline how you propose to communicate, engage, and interact with the members of the proposed SIG. A steady stream of new members and volunteers serves a SIG with a regular pool of energy and talent as well as new leadership.

The main communication channel for the SIG will be a members mailing list. Most community network organizations are already connected through technical forums and events both at global and regional levels. We expect the CN SIG to have an active role in those spaces through its members, which will help promote new members participation.

H. Additional information

Please indicate here any additional information you believe would be helpful to our initial review.

There is quite an important interaction already happening among CNs, albeit in a self-organized, rather not coordinated manner. The proposed SIG is expected to also build on this dynamic and undertake a coordinating role aiming to facilitate interactions.

I. Your contact information

Please provide complete contact information for yourself, including affiliation, postal address,

phone numbers, and email address.

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Las Acacias S/N, José de la Quintana (5189), Córdoba. Argentina