Internet Society Foundation

Internet Governance Forum Events

As the Internet evolves rapidly, so do the laws and policies that govern it. Without collaborative knowledge exchange and multistakeholder convenings to discuss these changes, the decisions about the laws and policies which affect many risk falling into the hands of few.

Since mid-2021, the Internet Society Foundation has been running a standalone Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Event Sponsorship program with the goal of encouraging open and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues on Internet policy issues at national and regional levels around the world. Through this program, funding is available to IGF Secretariat-recognized National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) as well as National and Regional Schools on Internet Governance (SIGs).

2023
BY THE NUMBERS

7%
increase in the number of sponsorships made in 2023 over 2022

42
sponsorships were made valued **at USD $335,750**

25 NRIs and 16 Schools on Internet Governance sponsored worldwide

Impact:

2023 was the second full year that the Internet Society Foundation administered this program and the first year the full budget was disbursed. The Foundation sponsored 16 National IGFs globally, making this our most frequently funded event type.

Enhanced Reporting for Understanding Impact

Thanks to strategic revisions to our sponsorship application and reporting forms, we've been able to collect meaningful data about NRIs and SIGs on issues that matter such as inequality.

This data can easily be aggregated and shared with the broader community which aims to promote the multistakeholder model of Internet Governance. As a prominent funder in this space, we are uniquely poised to contribute to discussions on the impact that these events have at a high level. In next year's report, we will further explore trends in participation, including aggregated stakeholder group and gender participation across regions and events.

Reach

Our 2023 sponsorship recipients collectively engaged 6,100 participants in their events and produced 629 graduates of National and Regional Schools on Internet Governance.
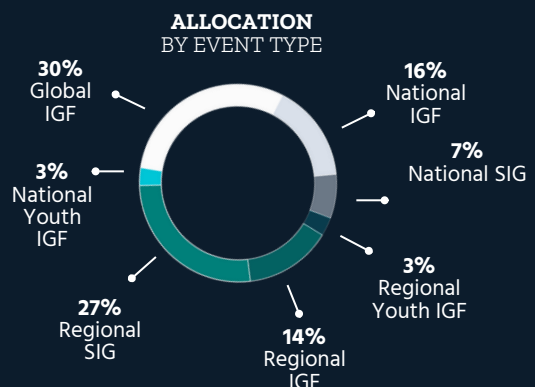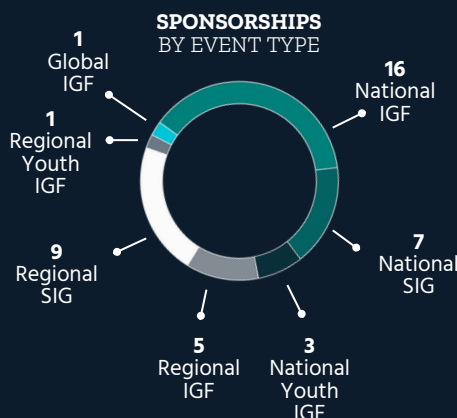
Supporting Applied Learning

We proudly support a diverse array of Schools which continue to evolve and pursue innovative and engaging approaches. Some schools have had their students develop and publish influential documents, including:

- Guidelines to inclusive, multistakeholder implementation of the African Union Data Policy Framework – developed by the 2023 AfriSIG Fellows
- Follow-up Statement on the Global Digital Compact – developed by the 2023 EuroSSIG Fellows
- Privacy, Digital Rights, and Human Rights Issues & Towards a Secure and Inclusive Digital Future for Nigeria – developed by the 2023 Nigeria SIG Fellows
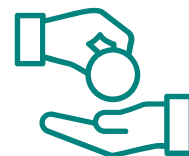
In Latin America, we additionally supported the 6th edition of the Diploma en Gobernanza de Internet and the 15th South School on Internet Governance, both of which offer participants pathways to formal university diplomas in Internet Governance.

2023

SPONSORSHIPS
BY EVENT TYPE

1 Global IGF
1 Regional Youth IGF
9 Regional SIG
5 Regional IGF
3 National Youth IGF
7 National SIG
16 National IGF

ALLOCATION
BY EVENT TYPE

30% Global IGF
3% National Youth IGF
27% Regional SIG
14% Regional IGF
3% Regional Youth IGF
7% National SIG
16% National IGF

Grantee Spotlight:
significant outcomes

"It was an honor for me to have experienced the SSIG 2023. It was an incredible experience to be able to [be with] so many professionals sharing different Internet governance opportunities in addition to the chosen panelists."

DINÁ SANTANA SANTOS
Brasil, 2023 South School on Internet Governance participant

Inaugural Youth IGF -
Democratic Republic of Congo

As a leading funder in the field, our program offers critical support to new or growing NRIs when it matters most. In 2023, we sponsored the inaugural Youth IGF Democratic Republic of Congo (YIGF DRC), organized by one of Internet Society's 2023 Youth Ambassadors and in collaboration with the Internet Society DRC Chapter. This new forum facilitated productive discussions between representatives of all stakeholder groups as well as meaningful engagement between youth and the national telecommunications regulator. As a result of their participation, representatives of the regulator agency (ARPTC) underscored the need for further discussions to prevent abuse of the Internet during elections and called for follow-up multistakeholder meetings to address them.

Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF

Another one of our 2023 sponsorships supported the relaunch of the Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF (BH IGF) following a 5-year period of inactivity. In response to rapid developments in technology and legislation which holds important ramifications for human rights, the Balkan Investigative reporting Network Bosnia & Herzegovina (BIRN BH) led the reformation of the BH IGF to facilitate multistakeholder discussions of these issues. Their 2023 forum subsequently gathered 110 participants representing all stakeholder groups, garnered significant local media coverage, and led to plans to develop a local School on Internet Governance.

Countries where
we sponsored events

Armenia	Colombia	Germany	Mauritius	Tanzania, the United Republic of
Australia	Congo (the Democratic	Ghana	Moldova (the Republic of)	Uganda
Bangladesh	Republic of the)	Guyana	Nepal	United States of America
Benin	Croatia	Haiti	Nigeria	Uruguay
Bosnia and	Ecuador	Japan	Oman	Vietnam
Herzegovina	Finland	Lebanon	Rwanda	Zambia
Brazil	France	Libya	Switzerland	Zimbabwe

The names shown on this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Internet Society Foundation concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area of its authorities. We use ISO 3166 country codes and names.

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Program Page

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