

Mobilized Community 2024



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Introduction

Around the world, the Internet Society's chapters work locally, regionally, and globally to keep the Internet a force for good: **open, globally connected, secure, and trustworthy.**

Our chapters organize training courses, build and operate community networks, campaign against harmful government policy proposals, protest against government-mandated Internet shutdowns, fight for access for marginalized communities, contribute to technical and infrastructure policy development, and help bring the unconnected online. They do all this as volunteers, some of them working in challenging and sometimes dangerous conditions. Our chapters can apply for grants from the Internet Society Foundation to support their activities, and with your donations, we can support even more of their work.

Find out more about our [chapters](#), and how they are contributing to keeping the Internet on and strong.

Our [organization members](#) collaborate and innovate with the Internet Society and a global network of peers to address the Internet's biggest challenges now and in the future. They raise their voices to protect online privacy and help secure our digital economies. They boost connectivity in various regions worldwide and bring together the right parties to support global decision-making to ensure that everyone has equal access to the Internet and the opportunities it brings.

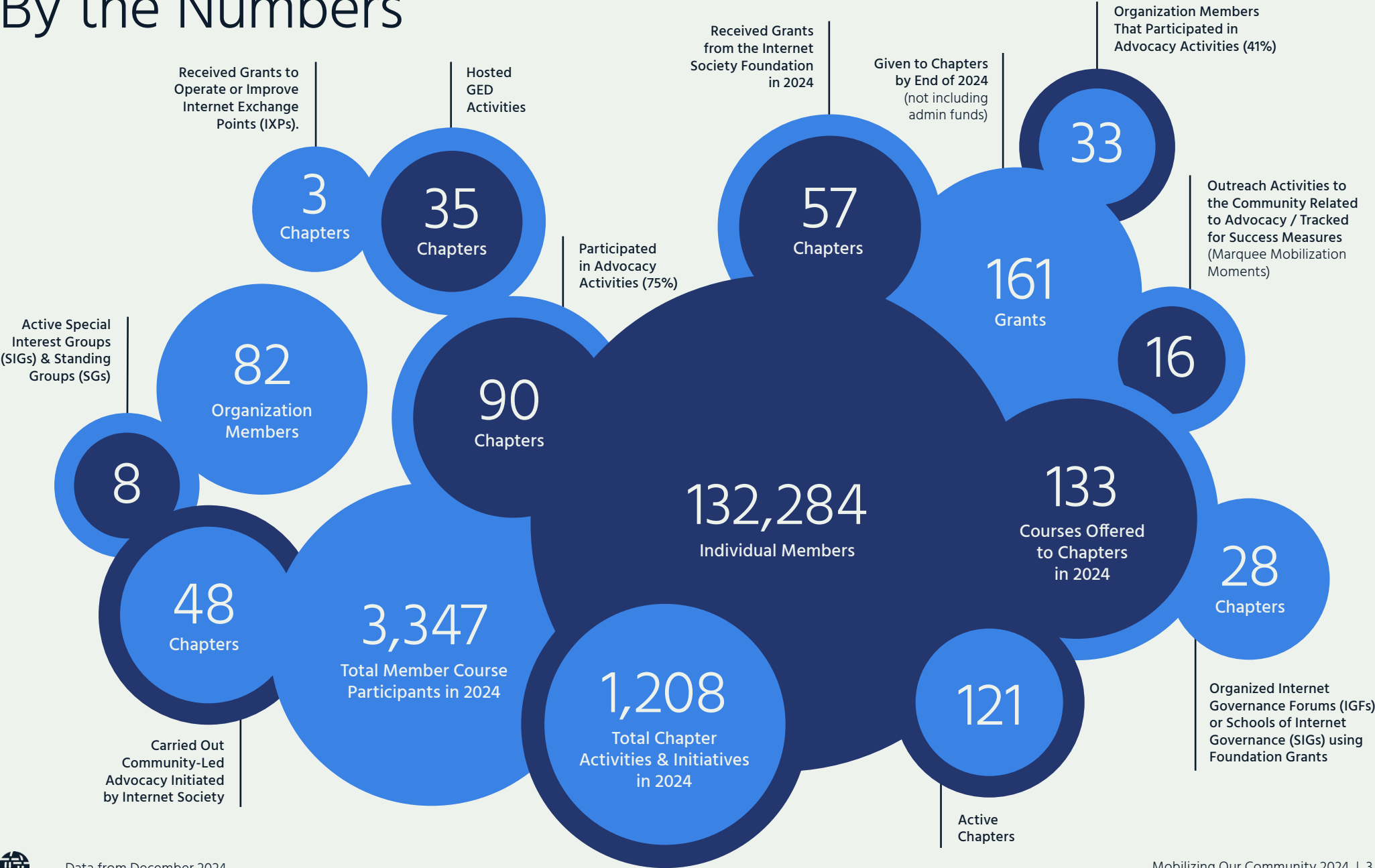
Find out more about our [organization members](#) and how they support the Internet Society's mission.

This is a small selection of just some of the advocacy, mobilization, and capacity-building activities that our community organized, supported, or participated in throughout 2024. Keep up to date with what's going on throughout the year by [subscribing to our mailing list](#).



Internet Society Community

By the Numbers



January

India Chennai Chapter kicks off bespoke learning course "Introduction to Network Operations."

India Bengaluru Chapter facilitated the "Know your rights, protect your data" webinar.



Accessibility Standing Group holds the Disability Leadership Training on Internet Governance for Persons with Disabilities workshop in Pakistan.

UK England Chapter join other local groups to prepare [a briefing](#) for the House of Lords on the amendment to the Investigatory Powers Act to address proposed mass surveillance of Internet users.



Lebanon Chapter Takes Over .lb ccTLD Operations

With funding from an Internet Society Foundation Beyond the Net grant, the Lebanon Chapter took over the management of the [.lb country code Top Level Domain \(ccTLD\)](#).



Why It Matters

Operating a ccTLD contributes to the stability, security, and safety of the Internet. It ensures equitable access to domain names and that the policies and procedures that apply to the ccTLD are managed by a locally representative organization.



February

Dominican Republic Chapter holds a forum with multiple stakeholders to discuss the peer-reviewed draft of the UNESCO Internet Universality Indicators project it has been working on prior to final submission.

Venezuela Chapter celebrates Safe Internet Day by launching an [online campaign](#) using the Global Encryption Coalition's [Parents' Guide to Encryption](#). The chapter also held a seminar for journalists, equipping them with the knowledge needed to stay safe online.

Mali Chapter launches a national digital literacy campaign, alongside Orange Mali and Internet Society Foundation, to educate thousands of children in over 40 schools on the responsible use of the Internet and social networks in schools.



India Bengaluru Chapter hosts an awareness-building session for children and teachers in recognition of Safer Internet Day.

India Chennai Chapter holds an "Innovative Ideas Competition" inviting its members to pitch their best ideas related to strengthening the Internet.

India Hyderabad Chapter holds a seminar on Digital Footprints at the University of Hyderabad.



Senegal Chapter Defends the Internet Against Shutdowns

In response to a previous Internet shutdown that lasted almost four days, the Senegal Chapter [published a statement](#) in a local newspaper asking the government to keep the Internet on and strong.



Why It Matters

Using the [NetLoss](#) calculator to demonstrate the impact of a shutdown on a country's economy, the chapter informed the government and the public of the devastating effect that Internet shutdowns have on people, the economy, and the global Internet Infrastructure.



February

Benin, [Kenya](#), [Uganda](#), [Zambia](#), [Zimbabwe](#), and many other Chapters celebrate Safer Internet Day 2024 through local awareness campaigns and events.

Ghana Chapter hosts the 9th edition of the Ghana Network Operators Group (GHN OG) Workshop using funding from the Internet Society's [Sustainable Technical Communities Funding Program](#).

Burkina Faso Chapter held the first-ever National Internet Security Forum, bringing together ISPs, Network Operators, and all the stakeholders to discuss best practices and recommendations for a secure and trustworthy Internet in Burkina Faso.

Nigeria, Kenya, and Zimbabwe Chapters collaborate to organize an online webinar on Data Privacy to share experiences on personal data protection and privacy in their respective countries.



Organization Member Google Supports Latest Internet Security Research

Google once again showed its support for the application and deployment of security technologies by sponsoring the Network and Distributed System Security (NDSS) Symposium in 2024.



Why It Matters

Facilitated by the Internet Society since 1993, the NDSS Symposium brings together hundreds of security practitioners from all over the world to support open, accessible, and collaborative security and research to help strengthen the Internet. Google's continued support of this event reaffirms its commitment to keeping the Internet secure and to foster the next generation of Internet security experts.

Niger Chapter organizes a training workshop on website development and local content production using open-source tools to help boost locally relevant content.

Kenya Chapter holds first-ever [National Summit for Community Networks](#) in Nairobi to discuss the role of community networks in developing Kenya's digital economy.



March

Kyrgyz Chapter kicks off a [project](#) in partnership with the European Union and the European Neighbourhood Council to increase digital literacy and promote equal economic opportunities for youth and women in rural Kyrgyzstan.

South Sudan Chapter is chartered, opening up opportunities for Internet users and defenders across the country.



Cameroon, Ghana, Somalia, and Togo Chapters issued statements to underline the importance of a [resilient Internet](#) in the wake of an Internet outage across Western and Southern Africa after the failures of multiple sea cables.



Colombia Chapter Partners with Leading NGO to Keep Children Safe Online

The Colombia chapter seized an opportunity to work alongside Red Papaz to champion the Global Encryption Coalition's (GEC) Parents' Guide to Encryption.

Why It Matters

Encryption keeps us all safe online, and it's essential that parents understand how they can ensure their children's online safety, as well as effectively explain to them why it matters and how they can protect themselves. The Internet Society is a founding member of the GEC, and over 90 chapters are also GEC members.

Philippines Chapter collaborates with the Philippine Computer Society (PCS), holding an event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Internet in the Philippines.

India Bengaluru Chapter signs MoU with the Bengaluru Institute of Technology (BIT) and starts an academic hub to champion future Internet leaders across the region, and to increase students' awareness of the importance of Internet standardization.



March



Ghana Chapter holds an event for International Women's Day, with over 1,200 secondary school girls learning about the Internet.

India Mumbai Chapter hosts a webinar, "Changing the Face of Travel: Role of the Internet," to explore the Internet's transformative power in shaping travel's future.

Benin Chapter partners with local company and launches a national study on "[Internet Usage in Benin](#)" to help maximize the benefits of the Internet while mitigating the risks associated with using it.



Senegal Chapter hosts a hybrid conference to discuss the human, economic, and technical consequences of recent Internet shutdown and discourage future government-mandated shutdowns.

Brazil Chapter signs [open letter](#) in collaboration with the Institute of Technology and Society) to campaign against network fees and to promote net neutrality.

Zimbabwe Chapter holds a webinar on unlocking the potential of Internet of Things (IoT) in Zimbabwe.

Egypt Chapter launches a series of webinars, with the first session tackling [digital diplomacy](#). The event attracted over 100 attendees.



April

Honduras Chapter creates [video](#) showcasing the importance of supporting and empowering girls in celebration of Girls in ICT Day.

Belgium Chapter launches its “[Digitally Aware Elections](#)” event series in conjunction with the Brussels School of Governance.

Nepal Chapter reopens with a new group of local leaders and the motto: leaving no one behind.

Guatemala Chapter holds a community networks boot camp with workshops led by regional experts and a dedicated session for Indigenous communities.

Armenia Chapter launches newly developed [digital library](#) designed to run on low-power computers and available in multiple languages.



Catalonia, Portugal, and Brazil Chapters join 48 other NGOs to sign a letter calling on the Council of Europe not to weaken encryption and legitimize mass surveillance on the proposed CSA (Child Sex Abuse) Regulation.

Taiwan Chapter supports the Taiwan Network Operators’ Group (TWN OG) 5.0 event with support from an Internet Society Foundation grant.

Spain Canary Islands Chapter host a webinar, “What’s New at the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).”

Guatemala and Honduras Chapters gather over 30 regional representatives to coordinate the installation of RIPE Atlas probes on their networks in their respective countries.



April

Armenia Chapter holds event 'Women's Leadership in STEM: Revealing the Formula for Success', attracting students from Yerevan high schools and professional colleges.

Brazil Chapter holds workshop on Digital Sovereignty in partnership with FGV São Paulo.



Argentina Chapter holds first training on network management for the Villa Soldati community network technical team.



Mexico Chapter holds course for elderly citizens to help ensure their safety online.

Suriname Chapter holds event to celebrate Girls in ICT Day encouraging girls to pursue STEM careers and promoting the need to foster a more inclusive tech environment.

Bangladesh Dhaka, Dominican Republic, Haiti, India Hyderabad, Pakistan Islamabad, Hong Kong, Panama, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay hold events to support [Universal Acceptance](#), defending the essential protocols and standards that allow everyone to remain globally connected.



May

Bénin Chapter

organizes a webinar on Internet Governance in Africa, highlighting the advantages of community engagement.

Tanzania Chapter holds an all-day Encryption event in Dododma for policymakers, educating on the basics of encryption, its importance for personal and national security, and current trends and policies.



Lebanon Chapter holds a NetNite titled “The Intersection Between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Intellectual Property (IP): Impact and Considerations”.

Bolivia Chapter holds seminar to celebrate Internet Day.

Kenya Chapter co-organizes the “Multistakeholder Internet Governance: Enabling a Sustainable Digital Future” session at the UN Civil Society Conference on the Summit of the Future in Nairobi.



UK Chapter Defends the Internet From Government’s Harmful Mass Surveillance Policy Proposal

The UK Chapter called upon the UK government to scrap proposed amendments to the Investigatory Powers Act, warning that citizens’ privacy, security, and safety could be put at risk.

Why It Matters

The proposed amendments to the act would prevent technology companies from deploying end-to-end encryption or require them to introduce systemic vulnerabilities to decrypt or compromise messages. The UK chapter, alongside other allies, demonstrated to the UK government how this would impact the security of the Internet, which, in turn, would compromise the security of citizens, the trustworthiness of UK online services, and the digital economy.



June

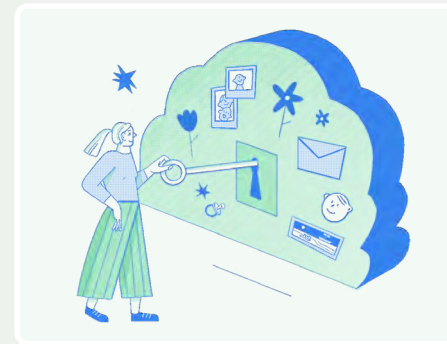
Zimbabwe Chapter participates in the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education's event, "Embracing Digital Teaching and Learning," presenting on equitable access to digital education.

India Mumbai Chapter holds an Introduction to Internet Governance event in its Internet Governance Praxis Series.

The Netherlands Chapter supports the local community by providing an analysis on candidates standing in the EU Elections whose values align with the chapter's values and goals for the global Internet.

Lebanon Chapter participates in the National Identification workshop, held under the patronage of the President of The Council of Ministers, presenting on the importance of data privacy and data protection laws.

India Trivandrum Chapter holds session on 'Trademark Issues and Internet Domain Names' in partnership with Digital University Kerala.



Bolivia Chapter holds seminar to educate and promote the Global Encryption Coalition's (GEC) [Parents' Guide to Encryption](#).

Canada Chapter hosts first of two Internet Policy Forums to map the current Internet landscape in Canada and take stock of areas of focus.

New York and Washington DC Chapters host joint webinar in Collaboration with Access Now on Internet shutdowns and their economic and social impacts.

Brazil Chapter develops an Internet Impact Brief regarding Bill 2630, supported by a small grant from the Beyond the Net program. Bill 2630 proposes the Brazilian Law for Freedom, Accountability and Transparency on the Internet.



July

Kyrgyzstan Chapter conducts a two-day intensive [training course](#) on Internet Governance and Artificial Intelligence Policy-making for civil society.



UK England Chapter submits a [joint submission](#) with Internet Society responding to the OFCOM Consultation: Protecting children from harms online.



Lebanon Chapter holds the [Gaby Deek Internet Innovation Award](#) ceremony, with four students winning cash prizes for their innovative ideas. The Award aims to harness the knowledge and expertise to advance the mission of a safe, secure, trustworthy, and open Internet across Lebanon.



Slovenia Chapter Collaborates with NLNet Foundation to Further Support an Open Internet for All

Internet Society Slovenia [announced its collaboration](#) with [NLNet Foundation](#) to support those who contribute to an open Internet for all through open hardware, open software, open standards, open science, and open data.



Why It Matters

The foundations of the Internet are based on open, non-proprietary standards. They are key to allowing devices, services, and applications to work together across the Internet. By ensuring anyone, anywhere can access, use, develop and deploy Internet-enabled solutions that work for them and their communities, the Internet remains a place of permission-less development and opportunity.



August

Switzerland Chapter hosts [Public Policy Sessions 2024](#) to address critical Internet policy and regulation aspects in Switzerland.

Netherlands Chapter signs “About Information Spoken” manifesto, which focuses on promoting transparency and accessibility of information within the public sector as part of the chapter’s commitment to promoting an open and accessible Internet for all.

Switzerland Chapter publishes an open letter to the European Commission protesting its decision to cut this funding to the Next Generation Internet initiative that has supported Free Software projects with funding and technical assistance since 2018.



Mali Chapter holds [in-person training course](#) for over 30 girls, enabling them to master the set up of Internet connections. The participants were selected from over 80 who took part in an online session held previously.



Libya Chapter Launches Country’s First School on Internet Governance

With the support of an Internet Society Foundation Grant, the inaugural [School on Internet Governance](#) took place in Libya in August. The School, held in hybrid format, kicked off with four weeks of online training using the Internet Society’s Learning Platform, followed by an immersive three-day in-person session in Tripoli for 30 participants, selected from over 230 applicants.

Why It Matters

Equipping the next generation of Internet leaders with in-depth knowledge on the policies, standards and practices that coordinate, shape and govern the operation of global Internet is vital to ensure that the Internet remains available and accessible for the future generations.



Nicaragua Chapter installs computers, printers and networking equipment in its Digital Community Center for Lower Income Families project in Reparto La Virgen Nueva, helping to bridge the digital divide in this under-connected community.



September

Senegal Chapter holds an Internet Exchange Points (IXP) and Interconnection awareness day, with the support of SENIX and HubsIX, bringing together key players from the peering ecosystem, as well as network infrastructure operators from across the country.

Guinea Chapter holds the first preparatory school for the planned Guinea Internet Governance Forum in Guinea, bringing together players in the Guinean Internet ecosystem to gain a better understanding of IGF themes.



Zambia Chapter holds [workshop on Encryption](#) at the University of Zambia, Department of Computer Science.



Cameroon Chapter holds a [webinar](#) focusing on Online Safety: Navigating safely in online spaces: Strategies to combat gender-based harassment.

Canada Manitoba Chapter publishes article on **Barriers to Meaningful Connectivity** in the Journal of Community Informatics (CI), a periodical dedicated to the study and the practice of enabling communities with Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).

Jamaica Chapter holds seminar to explore the transformative impact of AI and Web3 technologies on the education sector.

Colombia Chapter holds Network Design and Implementation training course, equipping 50 students and professionals with basic knowledge of computer hardware and software systems.



October

Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mexico, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uruguay, US-San Francisco Bay Area, Zambia, and Zimbabwe Chapters hold [local events](#) during Global Encryption Day to promote, protect and defend strong encryption.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chapter hosts the 6th SVG Internet Governance Forum (IGF), in collaboration with Fortinet of Trinidad and Tobago, themed “Network Resilience in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl”.



Finland Chapter Gives Expert Testimony on Proposed Regulations to Combat Online CSAM

The Finland chapter was invited to give expert testimony at the Committee on Transport and Communications on proposed regulations to combat online Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM).



Why It Matters

The chapter successfully highlighted often-overlooked negative aspects of the proposed regulation, including the impact of client-side scanning on decentralized and volunteer-run services like IRC, email servers, and forums. It also outlined the regulation’s effect on people’s privacy, basic rights, and the potential to misuse scanning mechanisms.



November



Chad Chapter launches an [e-commerce training course](#) initiative to strengthen women's digital skills. The training was attended by 30 young girls.



Nigeria Chapter conducts an [Encryption Workshop](#) for members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists to equip journalists with essential skills and knowledge to enhance their digital security and protect their communications.

Rwanda Chapter conducts three-day [digital business training](#) for rural entrepreneurs. The participants were trained on essential digital marketing skills and analytical thinking techniques to help them boost their online businesses.



November

Egypt Chapter launches a series of seminars on the critical role digital infrastructure plays in shaping the future of economies worldwide.

Puerto Rico Chapter organizes multiple events to celebrate "Internet Day," underscoring the Internet's critical role in the island's socioeconomic progress.

Ukraine Chapter holds seminar at The University of Custom and Finance to train scientists, students, IT and regulatory policy specialists on the concept of Internet governance at the global, regional and local levels.

Organization Members Enhance Policymakers' Understanding of Standards Development

The Internet Society's [Internet Engineering Task Force \(IETF\) Policymaker Program](#) is an effective educational advocacy program designed to protect and defend the Internet. Established in 2013, the program helps policymakers better understand the Internet and how technical standards are crucial to its foundation.

At the three IETFs held in 2024, experts from Internet Society Organization Members Amazon, APNIC, Comcast, Ericsson, FutureWe, LACNIC, Mozilla, NLNetlabs, and WIDE Project supported the program by contributing to educational sessions tailored to this important audience.



Why It Matters

The program creates a rare opportunity for policymakers to witness how Internet standards are developed, meet and interact with experts in the Internet technical space, and learn how different components of the Internet work.



December

Egypt Chapter holds two sessions with policymakers and then begins work on the Internet Impact Assessment Brief ([IIAB](#)) on the GDPR law.



Libya Chapter submits Internet Impact Assessment Brief ([IIAB](#)) on the impact of Libya's Digital Crime Law.



Portugal Chapter Debates Cryptography

Portugal chapter held a debate on [Cryptography: the need and the dilemma](#) in December to raise awareness of proposed legislation to regulate Internet content. Cryptography is a critical element that keeps the Internet secure. It also ensures that private communications online remain private.

Why It Matters

Many governments believe that cryptography aids criminal activity online. At the heart of debate is the problem of child sexual abuse content (CSAM), which has given rise to proposals to increase regulation of online content. These proposals, however, will introduce significant technical flaws and compromise the security of the Internet and violate users' privacy.



Donations

In 2024, members and chapter leaders gave over \$30,000 through 110 donations. Chapter representatives from all regions helped co-develop a fundraising campaign focused on supporting Beyond the Net grants, which give funding directly to chapters.

Together, we can create a future where the Internet truly empowers and enriches every life it touches.



Donate today to keep the momentum going.





The Internet Society is a U.S. 501(c)(3) charity (EIN 54-1650477) with a multi-year top 4-star ranking from Charity Navigator.

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