

GISWatch
10th anniversary

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH

*National and Regional Internet
Governance Forum Initiatives (NRIs)*



ASSOCIATION FOR PROGRESSIVE COMMUNICATIONS (APC)

Global Information Society Watch

2017



Coordinating committee

Karen Banks (APC)
Valeria Betancourt (APC)
Deborah Brown (APC)
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Flavia Fascendini (APC)
Emilar Gandhi (Facebook)
Jac sm Kee (APC)

Project coordinator

Roxana Bassi (APC)

Editor

Alan Finlay

Assistant editor, publication production

Lori Nordstrom (APC)

Proofreading

Valerie Dee
Lynn Welburn

Graphic design

Monocromo
info@monocromo.com.uy
Phone: +598 2400 1685

Cover illustration

Matías Bervejillo

Financial support provided by



APC would like to thank the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for its support for Global Information Society Watch 2017.



Published by APC

2017

Printed in USA

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Global Information Society Watch 2017 web and e-book

ISBN: 978-92-95102-84-2

APC-201711-CIPP-R-EN-PDF-274

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the introduction, thematic, regional and national reports of GISWatch are not necessarily the views of APC or of its members.

A special edition of GISWatch, "Internet governance from the edges: NRIs in their own words", is being published as a companion edition to the 2017 GISWatch annual report. It looks at the history, challenges and achievements of NRIs, as recounted by their organisers. It is available at <https://www.giswatch.org>

A mapping of national and regional IGFs

Roxana Bassi

Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
<https://www.apc.org>

In 2005, during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Tunis Agenda established the basis for the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF):

We ask the UN [United Nations] Secretary-General, in an open and inclusive process, to convene, by the second quarter of 2006, a meeting of the new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue – called the Internet Governance Forum.¹

The same document also laid the foundation for the creation of similar national and regional processes:

We encourage the development of multi-stakeholder processes at the national, regional and international levels to discuss and collaborate on the expansion and diffusion of the Internet as a means to support development efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The first global IGF was formally announced by the UN Secretary-General in July 2006. That same year, some countries started organising initiatives at country level.²

Since then, the global IGF has inspired the development of numerous IGF initiatives at country, subregional and regional levels, known as NRIs. As the events started to grow in numbers, the IGF Secretariat in collaboration with NRI organisers developed a *Toolkit to assist communities in establishing the IGF initiatives*.³

The toolkit describes the basic requirements for an IGF initiative to be considered official and listed on the IGF website, including the fact that “NRIs should be multistakeholder, non-commercial, open and transparent”. It also offers suggestions about organising structures and processes.⁴

This report allows us to visualise the growth of local and regional IGF events over the period 2011-2017. To compile the information we have used the official pages of the IGF Secretariat on the IGF website,⁵ and have also consulted individual NRIs and their websites. We apologise if any information displayed is not accurate or complete.⁶

Observations

Regional IGFs have become more stable and organised over time, with most regions having held IGFs for the whole period, as can be seen in Table 1. Meanwhile, as illustrated in Table 2, although only a few countries have organised an IGF every year since 2011, national IGFs continue to proliferate, with numbers growing steadily year after year. There seems to be a dramatic growth of local events this year, with national events taking place in 52 countries.

1 <https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>

2 https://intgovforum.org/multilingual/system/files/filedepot/21/IGF2017_OC%20and%20MAG_NRIs%20Status%20Update.pptx

3 https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/3568/480

4 For additional information please see the report “NRIs and the United Nations IGF: A reciprocal relationship” in this issue.

5 <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>

6 There are, for example, contradictions in some online data, as in the case when national IGFs are only recognised retroactively by the IGF Secretariat. In these cases we have done our best to consolidate the information available from several sources.

TABLE 1.							
Regional IGF initiatives during the period 2011-2017							
Regional IGF	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
African IGF (AfIGF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arab IGF		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Asia Pacific IGF (APriGF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caribbean IGF (CIGF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Central Africa IGF (CA-IGF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Central Asia IGF (CAIGF)						✓	✓
Commonwealth IGF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
East Africa IGF (EA-IGF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Latin America and Caribbean IGF (LACIGF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Macao IGF						✓	
Pacific IGF	✓	✓				✓	✓
Persian IGF			✓	✓	✓		
South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG)					✓	✓	✓
Southern Africa IGF (SAIGF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
West Africa IGF (WAIGF)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

TABLE 2.							
National IGF initiatives during the period 2011-2017							
Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Afghanistan							✓
Albania							✓
Argentina					✓	✓	✓
Armenia					✓	✓	✓
Australia		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Austria					✓		✓
Azerbaijan			✓	✓	✓		
Bangladesh	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Barbados							✓
Belarus					✓	✓	✓
Benin			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bolivia							✓
Bosnia and Herzegovina					✓	✓	
Brazil	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cameroon			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Canada	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chad					✓	✓	✓
China							
Colombia				✓	✓	✓	✓
Costa Rica							✓

TABLE 2.

National IGF initiatives during the period 2011-2017 (cont.'d)

Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cote d'Ivoire	✓	✓					
Croatia					✓	✓	✓
Denmark	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dominican Republic					✓	✓	✓
Ecuador						✓	✓
Estonia						✓	
Finland	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Georgia						✓	✓
Germany	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ghana	✓				✓	✓	
Guatemala							✓
Indonesia		✓		✓		✓	✓
Italy	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Japan	✓	✓					
Kenya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lebanon							✓
Macedonia							
Malawi							✓
Malaysia				✓			✓
Malta		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Mauritius							✓
Mexico					✓		
Moldova						✓	
Mozambique				✓	✓		
Namibia							✓
Nepal							
Netherlands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Zealand	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Nigeria		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Panama							✓
Paraguay				✓	✓	✓	✓
Peru						✓	✓
Poland						✓	✓
Portugal	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Russia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Rwanda	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Senegal			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Slovenia						✓	✓
South Africa					✓	✓	
South Sudan							✓
Spain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

TABLE 2.

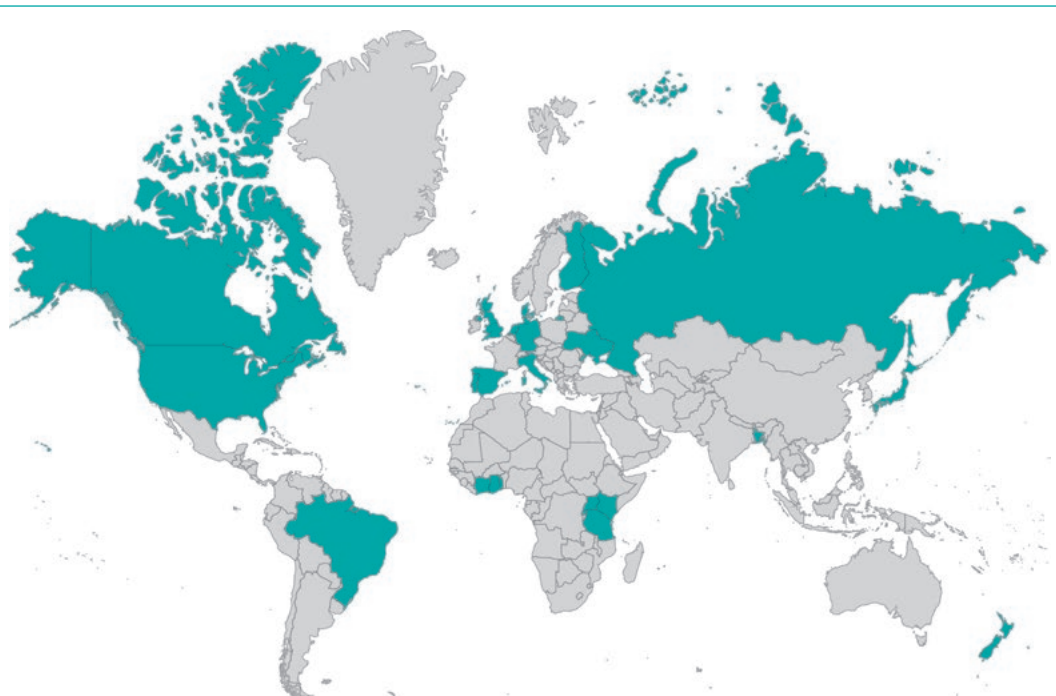
National IGF initiatives during the period 2011-2017 (cont.'d)

Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sri Lanka						✓	✓
Switzerland					✓		✓
Taiwan					✓	✓	✓
Tanzania	✓						
The Gambia		✓					
Togo	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trinidad and Tobago							✓
Tunisia			✓	✓	✓		✓
Uganda	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Ukraine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
United Kingdom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
United States of America	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Uruguay						✓	✓
Zimbabwe					✓		

2011

11 REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL AND 23 NATIONAL EVENTS*

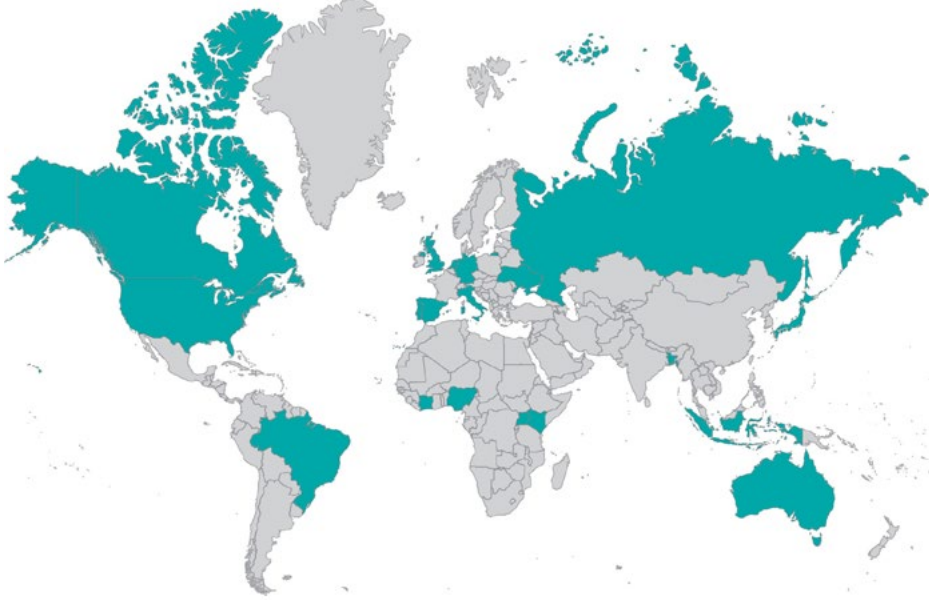
Map of national events 2011**

* <https://www.intgovforum.org/cms/component/content/article/114-preparatory-process/1214-regional-and-national-igf-initiatives-2011>** https://www.amcharts.com/visited_countries/#DK,FI,DE,IT,NL,PT,RU,ES,UA,GB,CA,US,BR,CI,GH,KE,RW,TZ,TG,UG,BD,JP,NZ

2012

12 REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL AND 21 NATIONAL EVENTS*

Map of national events 2012**



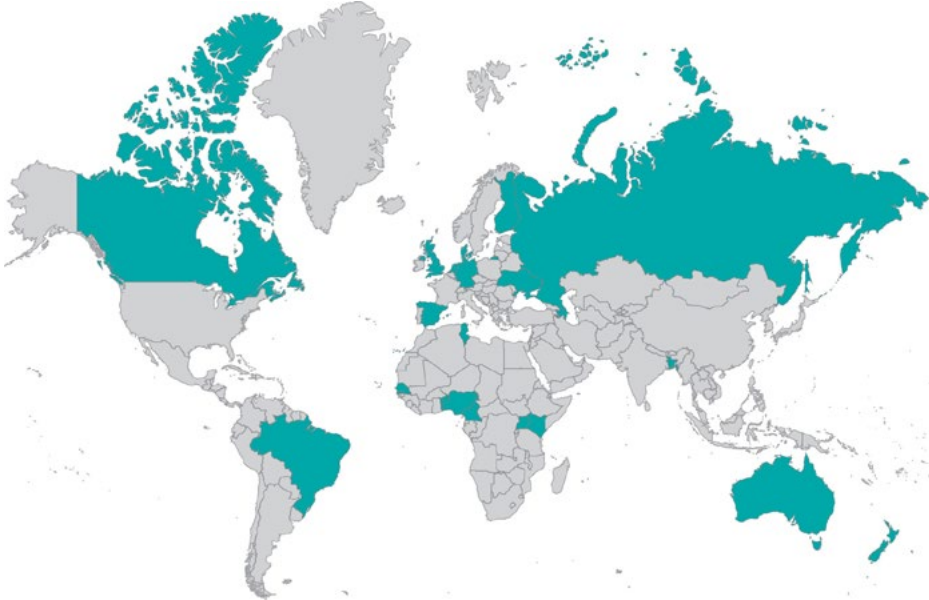
* <https://www.intgovforum.org/cms/component/content/article/114-preparatory-process/1281-igf-initiatives-2012>

** https://www.amcharts.com/visited_countries/#AU,BD,BR,CA,CI,DE,ID,IT,JP,KE,MT,NL,NG,PT,RU,ES,GM,UG,UA,GB,US

2013

12 REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL AND 23 NATIONAL EVENTS*

Map of national events 2013**



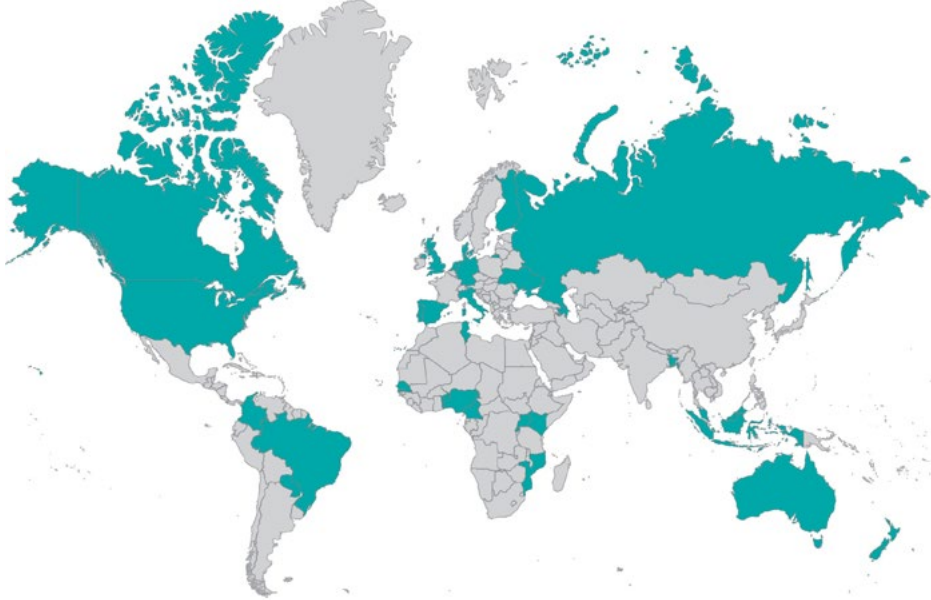
* <https://www.intgovforum.org/cms/national-and-regional-igf-initiatives-2013>

** https://www.amcharts.com/visited_countries/#AU,AZ,BD,BJ,BR,CM,CA,DK,FI,DE,KE,MT,NL,NZ,NG,RU,SN,ES,TG,TN,UG,UA,GB

2014

11 REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL AND 32 NATIONAL EVENTS*

Map of national events 2014**



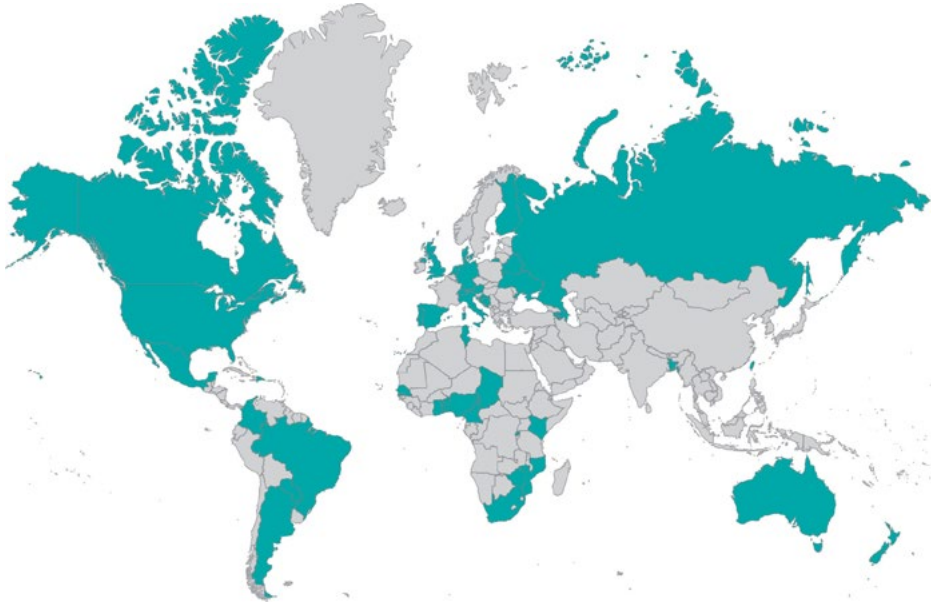
* <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/national-and-regional-igf-initiatives-2014#overlay-context=user>

** https://www.amcharts.com/visited_countries/#AZ,DK,FI,DE,IT,MT,NL,PT,RU,ES,UA,GB,CA,US,BR,CO,PY,BJ,CM,KE,MZ,NG,RW,SN,TG,TN,UG,BD,ID,MY,AU,NZ

2015

13 REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL AND 43 NATIONAL EVENTS*

Map of national events 2015**



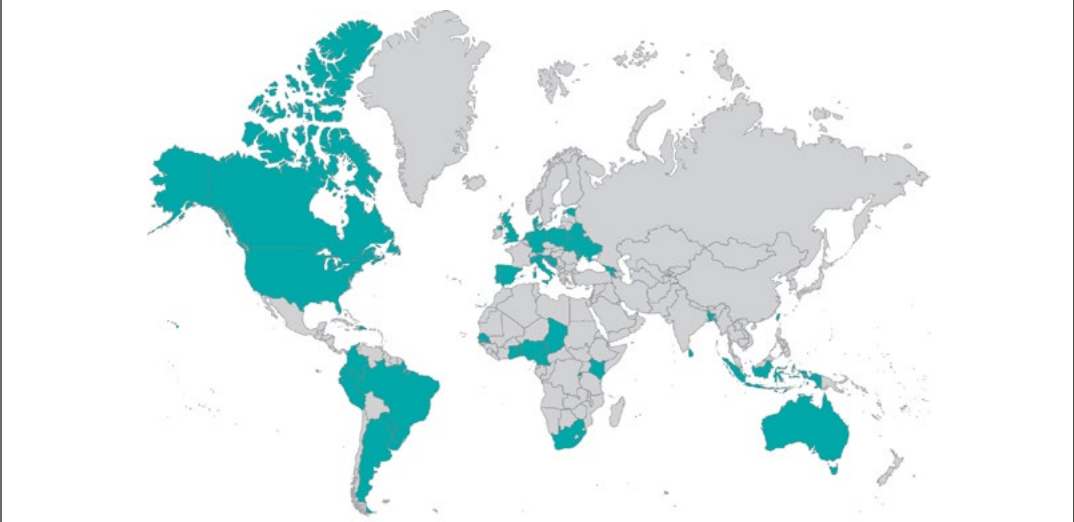
* <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/national-and-regional-igf-initiatives-2015>

** https://www.amcharts.com/visited_countries/#AR,AM,AU,AT,AZ,BD,BY,BJ,BA,BR,CM,CA,TD,CO,HR,DK,DO,FI,DE,GH,IT,KE,MT,MX,MZ,NL,NZ,NG,PY,PT,RU,SN,ZA,ES,CH,TW,TG,TN,UA,GB,US,ZW,RW

2016

11 REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL AND 42 NATIONAL EVENTS*

Map of national events 2016**



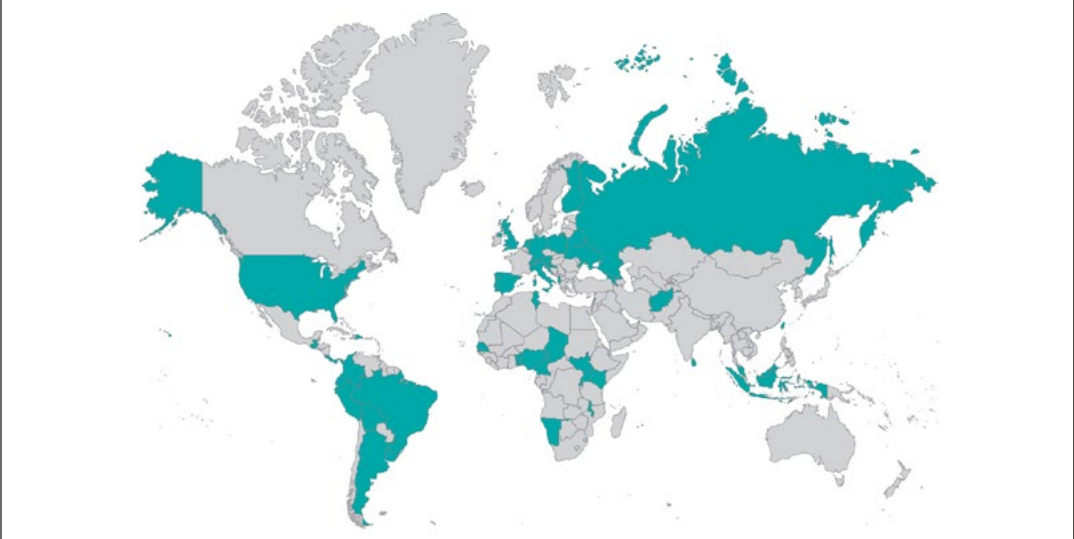
* <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/regional-igf-initiatives>; <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/african-regional-group>; <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/asia-pacific-regional-group>; <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/eastern-european-regional-group>; <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/latin-american-and-caribbean-regional-group-grulac> and <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/western-european-and-others-regional-group-weog>

** https://www.amcharts.com/visited_countries/#AR,AM,AU,BD,BY,BJ,BA,BR,CM,CA,TD,CO,HR,DK,DO,EC,EE,GE,DE,GH,ID,IT,KE,MD,NL,NG,PY,PE,PL,PT,SN,SI,ZA,ES,LK,TW,TG,UA,GB,US,UY,RW

2017

10 REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL AND 53 NATIONAL EVENTS*

Map of national events 2017**



* <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/regional-igf-initiatives>; <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/african-regional-group>; <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/asia-pacific-regional-group>; <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/eastern-european-regional-group>; <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/latin-american-and-caribbean-regional-group-grulac> and <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/western-european-and-others-regional-group-weog>

** https://www.amcharts.com/visited_countries/#AL,AM,AT,BY,HR,FI,GE,DE,IT,NL,PL,PT,RU,SI,ES,CH,UA,GB,BB,CR,DO,GT,PA,TT,US,AR,BO,BR,CO,EC,PY,PE,UY,BJ,CM,TD,KE,MW,MU,NA,NG,RW,SN,SS,TG,TN,UG,AF,IE,LD,IB,MY,LK,TW

Note: Several national IGFs are likely to be missing, as events are still being organised for 2017.

National and Regional Internet Governance Forum Initiatives (NRIs)

National and Regional Internet Governance Forum Initiatives (NRIs) are now widely recognised as a vital element of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) process. In fact, they are seen to be the key to the sustainability and ongoing evolution of collaborative, inclusive and multistakeholder approaches to internet policy development and implementation.

A total of 54 reports on NRIs are gathered in this year's Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch). These include 40 country reports from contexts as diverse as the United States, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Colombia.

The country reports are rich in approach and style and highlight several challenges faced by activists organising and participating in national IGFs, including broadening stakeholder participation, capacity building, the unsettled role of governments, and impact.

Seven regional reports analyse the impact of regional IGFs, their evolution and challenges, and the risks they still need to take to shift governance to the next level, while seven thematic reports offer critical perspectives on NRIs as well as mapping initiatives globally.

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2017 Report

<https://www.GISWatch.org>

