

## **Overview of the Proposed Voting Procedure for RIPE NCC Executive Board Elections**

### **Introduction**

The members of the RIPE NCC Executive Board are elected for three-year terms through elections that take place at RIPE NCC General Meetings. In order to increase the involvement of RIPE NCC members in these elections (currently less than 5% of the RIPE NCC membership participate), the RIPE NCC has been tasked with examining the possibilities for a voting system that will enable members to vote remotely.

Upon request by its Executive Board, the RIPE NCC has investigated a variety of voting systems including postal and electronic voting. The purpose of this work has been to compare the advantages and disadvantages of different voting systems together with the implications they would have on the election procedures at RIPE NCC General Meetings.

The RIPE NCC proposes that the voting system be modified to enable electronic voting through the RIPE NCC LIR Portal. Such a system will be transparent, user friendly and easily accessible through a secure web interface that can authenticate members and their respective voting rights.

### **Details of the Proposed Voting Procedure for RIPE NCC Executive Board Elections**

- Members will be able to view the webcast of the General Meeting (GM) through the RIPE NCC LIR Portal.
- Members who want to vote by electronic means need to pre-register. At the pre-registration stage identification and authentication will take place.
- All members who are pre-registered for the GM will be allowed to cast their votes electronically via the RIPE NCC LIR Portal unless they are physically present at the GM or have appointed a proxy.
- Voting for Executive Board elections whether at the GM or via electronic means will take place in real-time.
- Members who are not able to attend the GM may still decide not to cast their vote electronically, but be represented at the GM by a proxy. Proxy voting will only be valid for members physically attending the GM. Proxy voting online will not be allowed.
- Instant Run-Off Voting will be the new election method for the Executive Board election. This determines the winning candidate by requiring a majority vote from all of the votes cast for the election candidates. Voting members rank the candidates in order of preference. If, after the votes are collected, no candidate has an absolute majority, the candidate with the least number of votes is dropped and all votes assigned to that candidate are recounted. The next preference of each of

those voters who voted for the dropped candidate is used to reassign these votes to one of the remaining candidates. This process is repeated until a candidate achieves an absolute majority vote. This method only requires a single round of voting for each vacant seat on the Executive Board.

- The calculation of the Executive Board election results will take place automatically at the GM. These results will be announced at the closure of the GM.
- The results of the Executive Board elections will be final and cannot be contested on grounds of problems related to casting electronic votes including but not limited to network failure and loss of connectivity.

*Note: The exact voting procedure will only be drafted after the adoption of the Articles of Association based on the new Articles of Association and input received from the membership.*