

About RIPE

RIPE (Réseaux IP Européens) is a collaborative forum open to anyone interested in wide area IP networks. There are no membership requirements for participation in RIPE. Its activities are performed on a voluntary basis and decisions are made by consensus.

About the Policy Development Process (PDP)

The RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP) formally tracks input into policy proposals submitted by the RIPE community. The PDP is transparent and consensus based. Everyone can participate. All discussions, proposals and policies are archived and are accessible to the public. Since its creation in 1989, RIPE has agreed on common practices on how decisions are made. These came in different forms:

- Best common practice (BCP)
- Recommendations to the community
- Requests to the RIPE NCC
- Recommendations to the RIPE NCC
- Policy

The RIPE community's secretariat, the RIPE NCC, provides administrative support for RIPE and administrates the RIPE PDP by tracking the process and providing any relevant statistics and analysis. Input comes from the RIPE community. The RIPE NCC itself does not make, accept or reject policies. To deal with any cases of conflict during the PDP process, there is a dispute resolution process in place.

How to Make a Policy Proposal

A proposal is usually submitted through the Chair of the relevant RIPE Working Group (WG) or the RIPE Chair.

There is a template to help create the proposal. You can find this at:

www.ripe.net/ripe/policies/proposals/template

Want to make or change policies?	
Need to attend RIPE Meetings?	NO
Need to pay a fee to submit a policy proposal?	NO
Need to be a member of the RIPE NCC?	NO
Need to have access to an email account?	YES

Step-by-Step

A proposal must pass through several stages to make sure that everyone in the RIPE community has a chance to read the proposal and make comments. The stages for every new policy proposal are:

1) Creating a Proposal: Anyone can submit a proposal at any time.

2) Discussion Phase: Once a proposal has been submitted, details are announced to the RIPE Policy Announcement Mailing List and to the relevant RIPE WG mailing lists. The proposal is published at:

www.ripe.net/ripe/policies/proposals

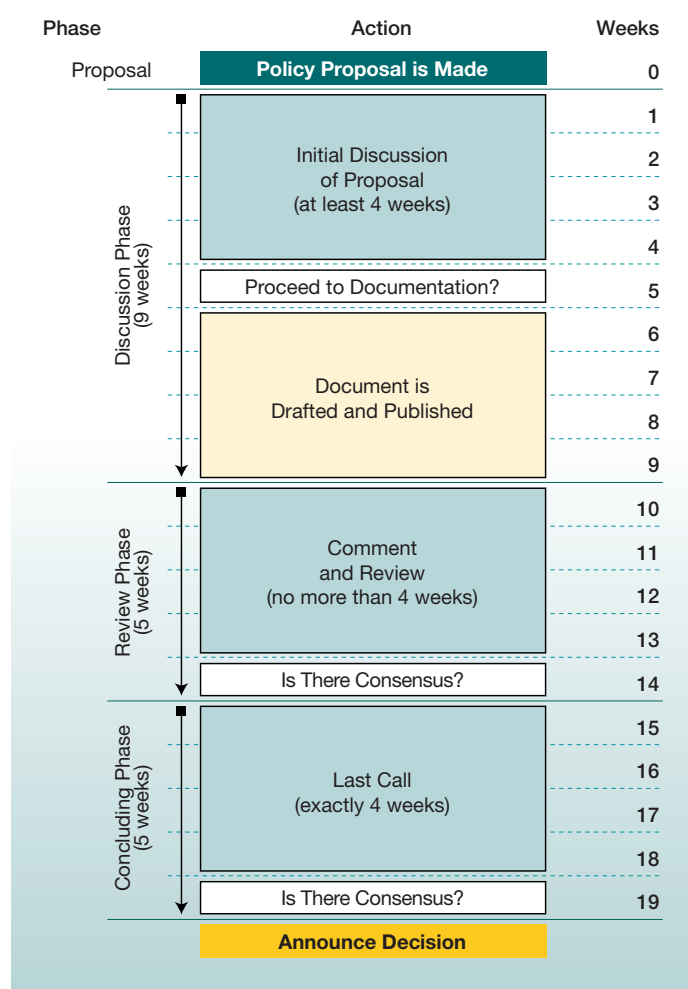
The main idea of the proposal is then discussed by the community for at least four weeks.

3) Review Phase: After the initial discussion phase, a draft RIPE Document is published so that the RIPE community can review the full policy document with the proposed idea integrated. At the end of the review phase, which takes about four weeks, the relevant WG Chairs decide whether consensus has been reached or not. If consensus cannot be declared, the proposal can be withdrawn, sent back to the Discussion Phase or the Review Phase can be extended.

4) Concluding Phase: When consensus is declared by the WG Chairs at the end of the Review Phase, the proposal is moved to the Concluding Phase for a "Last Call for Comments". Any last minute objections can be made during this phase. All the RIPE WG Chairs are then asked to declare consensus. If this occurs, the RIPE NCC announces that the proposal has been accepted and implements the policy. If consensus is not declared, the proposal can be sent back to a previous phase or withdrawn.

The Process and Timeline

Suggested timelines for the various phases of the PDP are shown below. Individual proposals may use different timelines and the RIPE NCC will document the actual time scales chosen by the WG Chairs.



Who Makes Policy?

Anyone in the RIPE community can suggest a new policy or a change to an existing policy. You do not have to be a RIPE NCC member to do this.

Anyone can start a discussion. Participants are welcome to discuss ideas as well as make detailed policy proposals.

The process is **open to all**. Everyone interested in the well-being of the Internet may propose a policy and take part in the discussions.

The process is **transparent**. All discussions and results are documented and freely available at:

www.ripe.net/ripe/policies/proposals

All conclusions are reached by **consensus**.

Administrative Support

The RIPE NCC provides administrative support for the RIPE Policy Development Process, including:

- Making the status and history of policy proposals clear
- Making it easy to follow and to participate in policy development
- Simplifying the process of proposing policy change
- Making it easier to understand the content of policy documents
- Supporting the discussions by providing relevant facts, statistics and an assessment of the work involved in implementation of a proposal

All proposals and supporting documentation can be found at: www.ripe.net/ripe/policies/proposals

The Policy Announcement Mailing List

Once a proposal has been submitted, details will be announced on the Policy Announcement Mailing List. Anyone can subscribe to this mailing list at:

www.ripe.net/mailman/listinfo/policy-announce

The announcement will mention where discussion about the proposal will take place. As no discussion can take place on the RIPE Policy Announcement Mailing List, discussion will take place on the relevant working group mailing list. Proposals are also discussed during RIPE Meetings. An overview of RIPE Working Group mailing lists can be found at:

www.ripe.net/ripe/maillists

RIPE Working Groups

The RIPE Working Groups discuss aspects of policy for the RIPE NCC service region. Policy discussions take place on the various Working Group mailing lists and during RIPE Meetings (see below). Anyone can subscribe to the mailing lists at:

www.ripe.net/ripe/maillists

Current RIPE Working Groups

- Address Policy Working Group
- Anti-Abuse Working Group
- Cooperation Working Group
- Database Working Group
- DNS Working Group
- EIX (European Internet Exchanges) Working Group
- ENUM Working Group
- IPv6 Working Group
- RIPE NCC Services Working Group
- Routing Working Group
- Test Traffic Working Group

More information about each of the RIPE Working Groups can be found at:

www.ripe.net/ripe/wg

If a working group does not exist to discuss the aspect of policy you have in mind, it is possible to create a new working group.

To start this process, you can contact the RIPE Chair, Rob Blokzijl. Send an email to: chair@ripe.net



RIPE Meetings

RIPE Meetings are five-day events that bring together Internet Service Providers (ISPs), network operators, governments, regulators and individuals to discuss IP networking. The meetings are open to anyone. The meetings are held twice a year in the RIPE NCC service region.

If you cannot attend the meeting, you can still take part in discussions. The RIPE NCC provides webcasts, podcasts and transcripts of all RIPE Working Group sessions and you can participate in the sessions remotely through Jabber and IRC channels. You can find out more about RIPE Meetings at:

www.ripe.net/ripe/meetings

Quick References

Information about the RIPE Policy Development Process:

www.ripe.net/ripe/policies

www.ripe.net/ripe/docs/pdp.html

The RIPE Document Store:

www.ripe.net/ripe/docs

RIPE and RIPE NCC Website:

www.ripe.net

