The PDP Process and Timeline

Suggested 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.

The RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP)

Phase	Action	Weeks
	Policy Proposal is Made	0
Discussion Phase (9 weeks)	**Initial Discussion of Proposal (at least 4 weeks)**	1
		2
		3
		4
	Proceed to Documentation?	5
	Document is Drafted and Published Together with the Impact Analysis for the Proposal	6
		7
		8
		9
Review Phase (5 weeks)	**Comment and Review (no more than 4 weeks)**	10
		11
		12
		13
	Is There Consensus?	14
Concluding Phase (5 weeks)	**Last Call (exactly 4 weeks)**	15
		16
		17
		18
	Is There Consensus?	19
	Announce Decision	

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 currently held twice a year throughout the RIPE NCC service region.

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

Email: pdo@ripe.net
Tel: +31 20 5354444
Fax: +31 20 5354445

For more information about the RIPE NCC, see:
www.ripe.net
or contact:
ncc@ripe.net

Social media pages:
www.ripe.net/social

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RIPE PDP

Policy Development Process

Information about the **RIPE Policy Development Process**

RIPE

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 by 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.

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**

How to Make a Policy Proposal

A proposal can be submitted to a RIPE Working Group (WG) by contacting the Chairs of the relevant WG. A formal discussion will start when the proposal is published on the RIPE website and it is announced in the relevant WG.

There is a template to help create the proposal. You can find this at:
http://www.ripe.net/ripe/policies/ripe-policy-proposal-template

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 on the WG mailing lists or at RIPE Meetings 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 conclusions are reached by consensus. All discussions and decisions are documented and freely available at:
www.ripe.net/ripe/policies/proposals

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, depending on the WG Chairs' decision.

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. The relevant Working Group 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.

Appeals Procedure
Anybody who believes that a policy proposal has not been handled correctly or that the WG chair has determined consensus incorrectly should first raise the matter with the WG Chair. If the dispute cannot be resolved with the WG Chair, then the Appeals Procedure can be invoked to bring the matter to the attention of the Working Group Chairs Collective (WGCC). The WGCC will decide, by consensus, to uphold or reject appeals. If the dispute cannot be resolved by the decision of the WGCC, the issue should be brought to the RIPE Chair, whose decision will be final.

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
- Making it easy 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 PDP Announcement Mailing List

Once a proposal is submitted, details are announced on the PDP Announcement Mailing List. Anyone can subscribe to the PDP Announcement 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 PDP 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

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.

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 back). Anyone can subscribe to the mailing lists at:
www.ripe.net/ripe/ml

Current RIPE Working Groups

- Address Policy Working Group
- Anti-Abuse Working Group
- Cooperation Working Group
- Database Working Group
- DNS Working Group
- ENUM Working Group
- IPv6 Working Group
- MAT Working Group
- Open Source Working Group
- RIPE NCC Services Working Group
- Routing 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 discuss this process, you can contact the RIPE Chair. Send an email to: chair@ripe.net

The RIPE Chair

Hans Petter Holen serves as Chair. His email address is:
chair@ripe.net