

ICANN GRANT PROGRAM

ICANN82 Public Session
13 March 2025



Agenda

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Overview of First Cycle Applications

02

Evaluation Process

03

Application Evaluation Results

04

Program Review and Next Cycle

APP

Background Information

Overview of First Cycle Applications

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01

Application Window

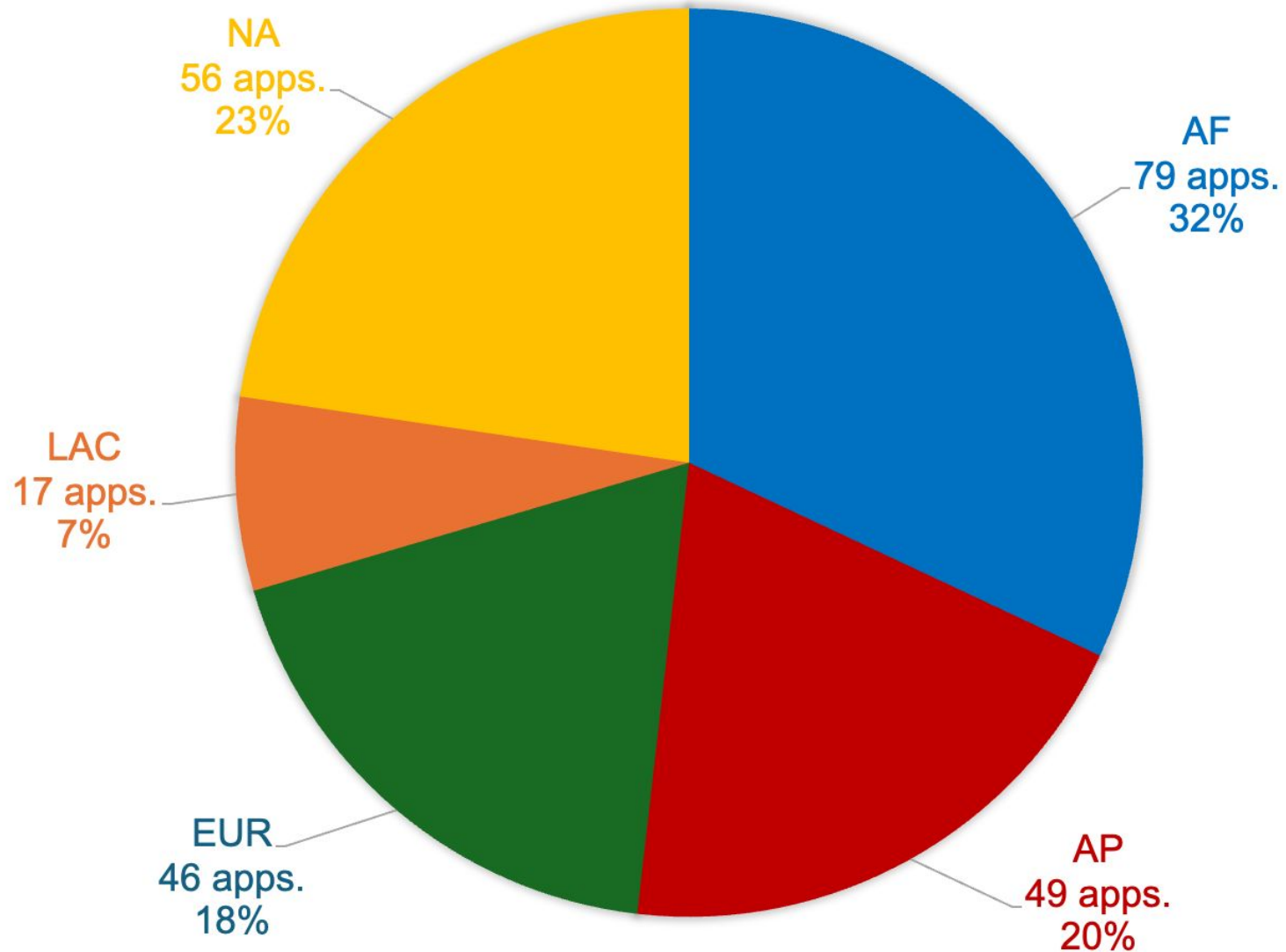
Opened
25 March 2024

Closed
24 May 2024

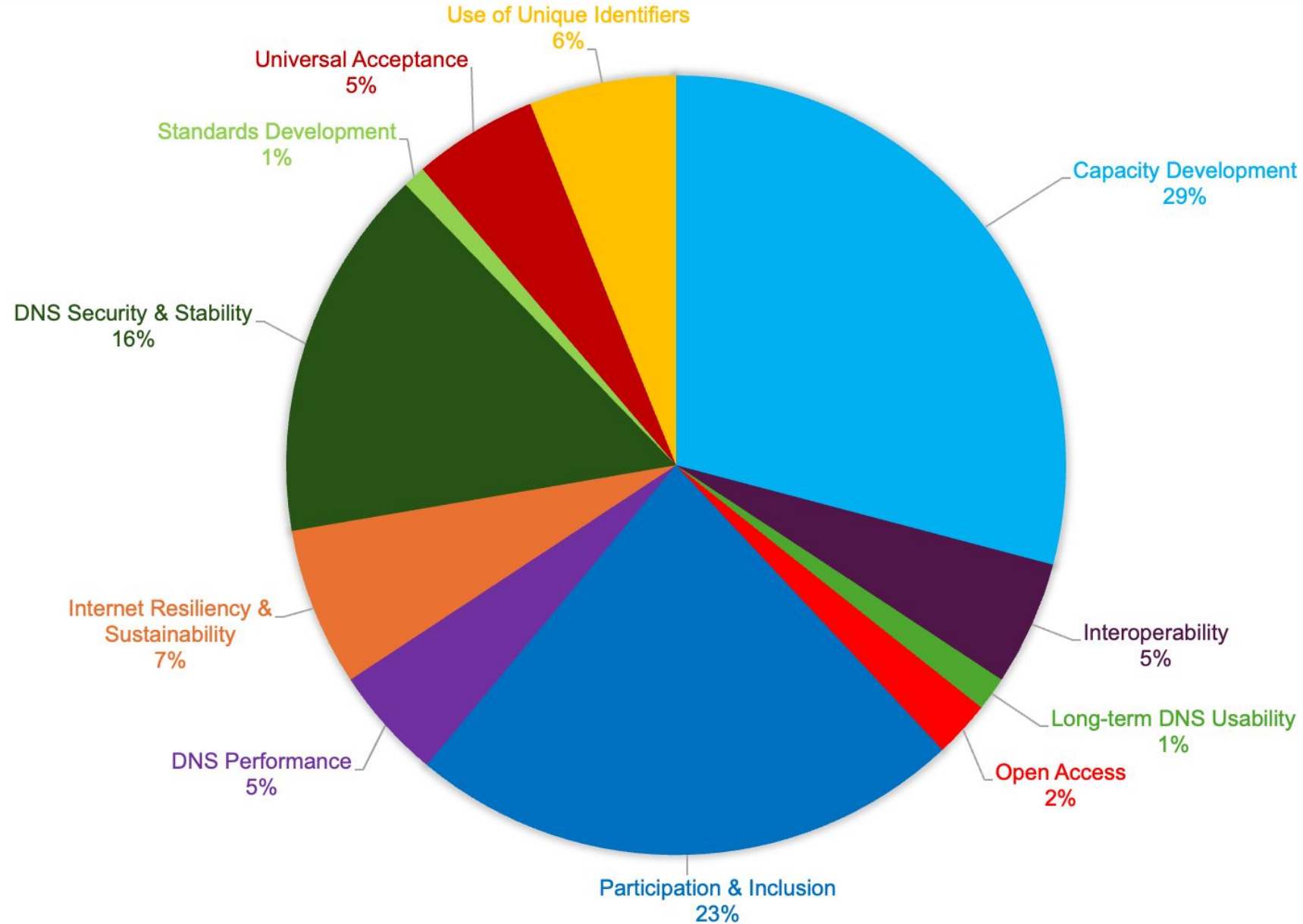
Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Measure
Applications submitted	247
Number of participating countries	64
Email inquiries received in the Naming Services Portal (NSP)	56
Grants management system technical issues or failures	0

Number of Applications per Region



Work Areas of Applications



How much funding was requested?

\$

Total amount of
funding applied
for

\$83,041,496

\$

Average amount
of funding per
application

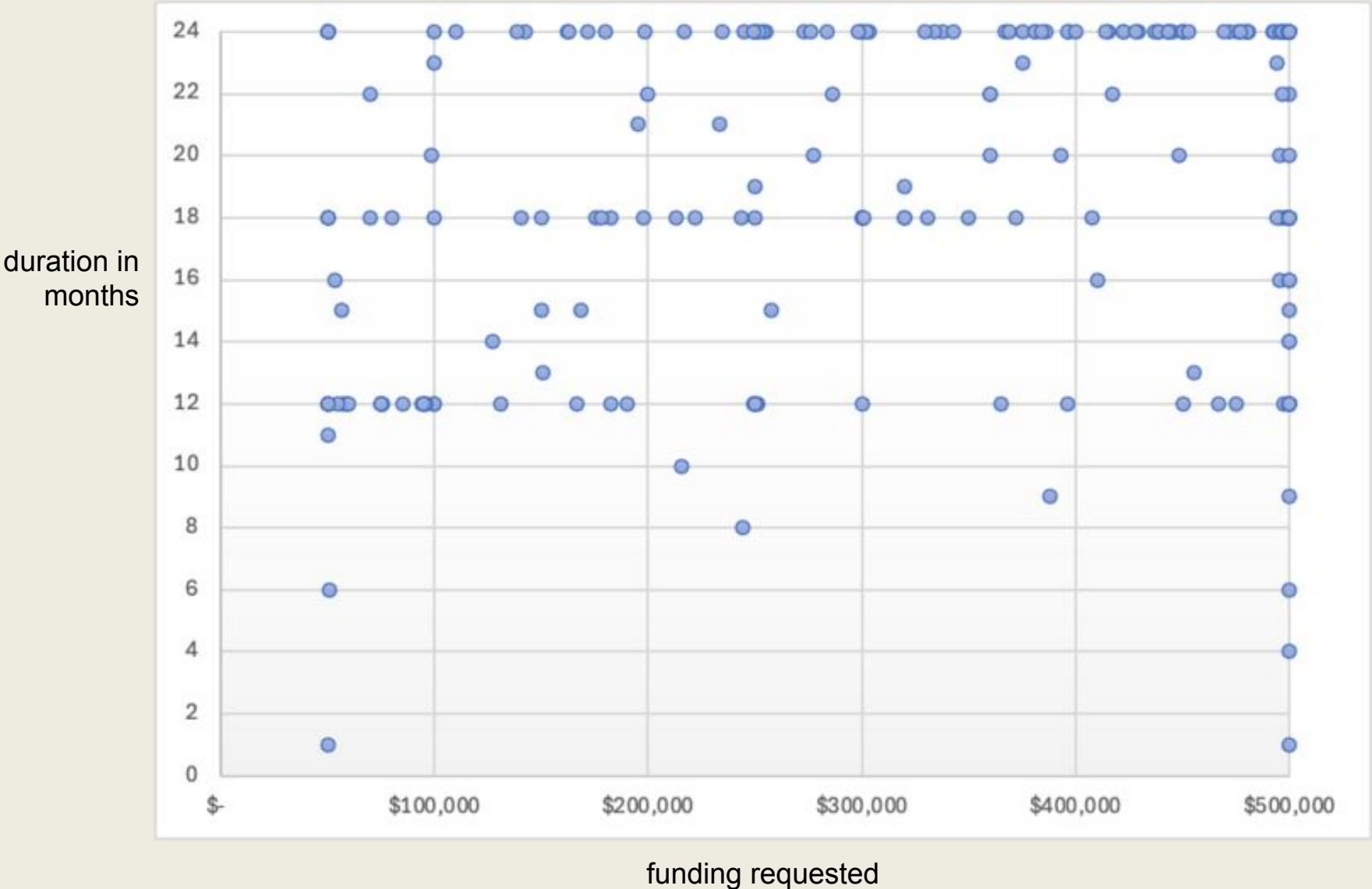
\$336,200

\$

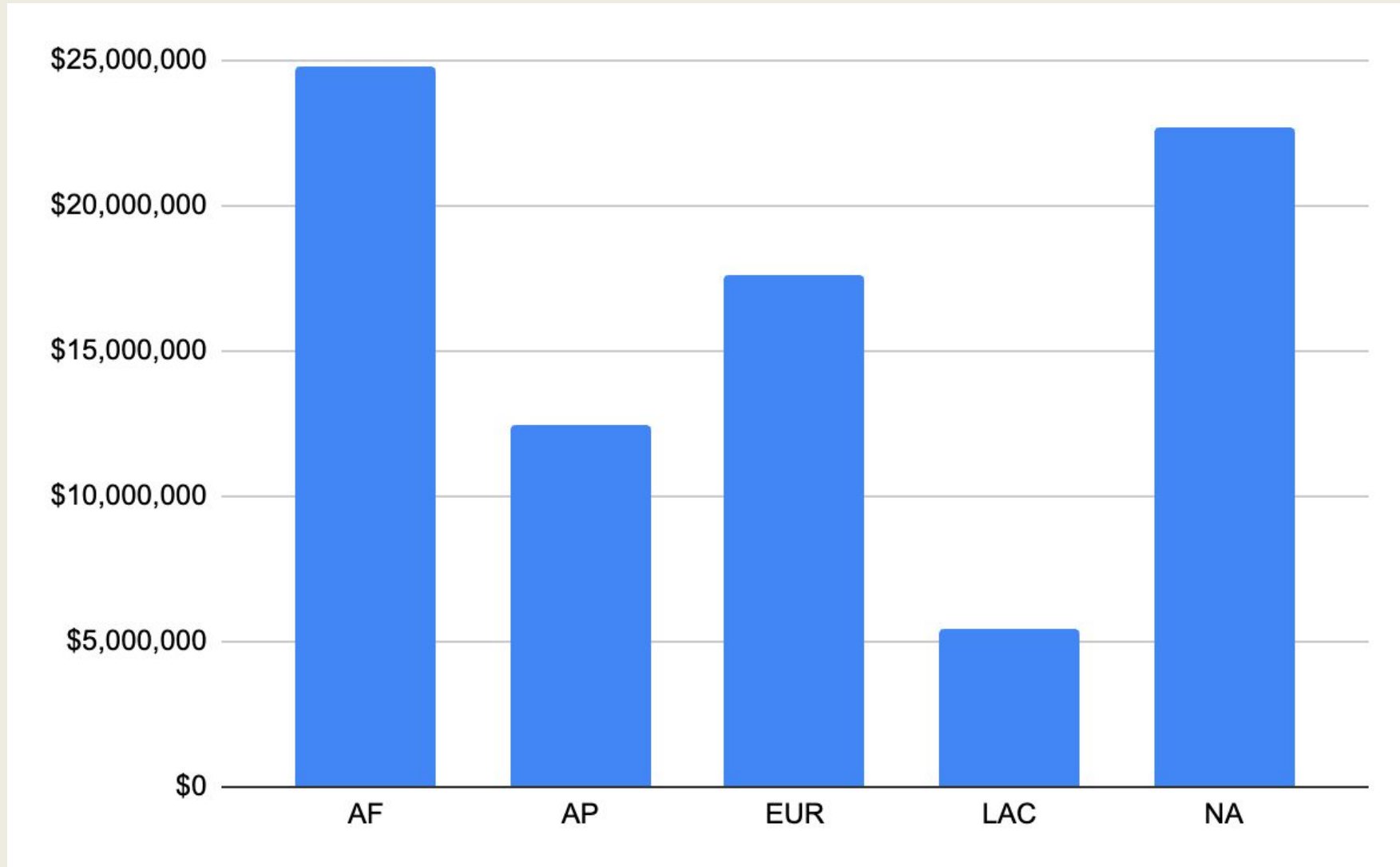
Median amount
of funding
requested

\$384,116

Project Duration & Funding Requested



Funding Requested by Region



Evaluation Process

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02

Step 1: First Internal Review

The purpose of the First Internal Review was to screen all applications and preliminarily mark those that were inadmissible and/or ineligible based on the criteria in addition to labelling those that need additional screening or follow-up.

Admissibility & Eligibility Criteria

Application Admissibility
Submission in English
Submitted with all required attachments
Organization Eligibility
Nonprofit status 501c3 or equivalent
Free from reputational risks
Free from sanctions list inclusion
Free from conflicts of interests
Activities Eligibility
Project aligned to the ICANN mission
Project aligned to a specific objective, theme and work area
No duplication of ICANN activities

Step 2: Independent Panel Assessment

- The purpose of the Panel Assessment was to assess all preliminarily screened admissible and eligible applications against the assessment criteria as listed in the Applicant Guide and generate a rank order list according to scoring.
- The Panel was managed by an external vendor.
- The Panel was composed of a diverse group of 52 individuals with subject matter expertise and experience. They were divided into four sub-panels according to thematic area.
- Each application received an individualized consensus report with scoring and detailed feedback regarding each criteria. The result was a rank order list of applications.

Panel Scoring

Each of the following criterion is scored on a 0-4 scale:
4-Outstanding, 3-Good, 2-Adequate, 1-Not Good, 0-Missing

Innovation and Relevance:

This criterion assesses the project's innovativeness, originality, and alignment with objectives of the Grant Program.

Effectiveness:

This criterion assesses the significance of the project's intended impact, its response to a specific need, and its ability to clearly state expected outcomes that are meaningful and measurable.

Implementation and Feasibility:

This criterion assesses the project's workability, practicality, and preparedness.

Competency and Expertise of the Project Team:

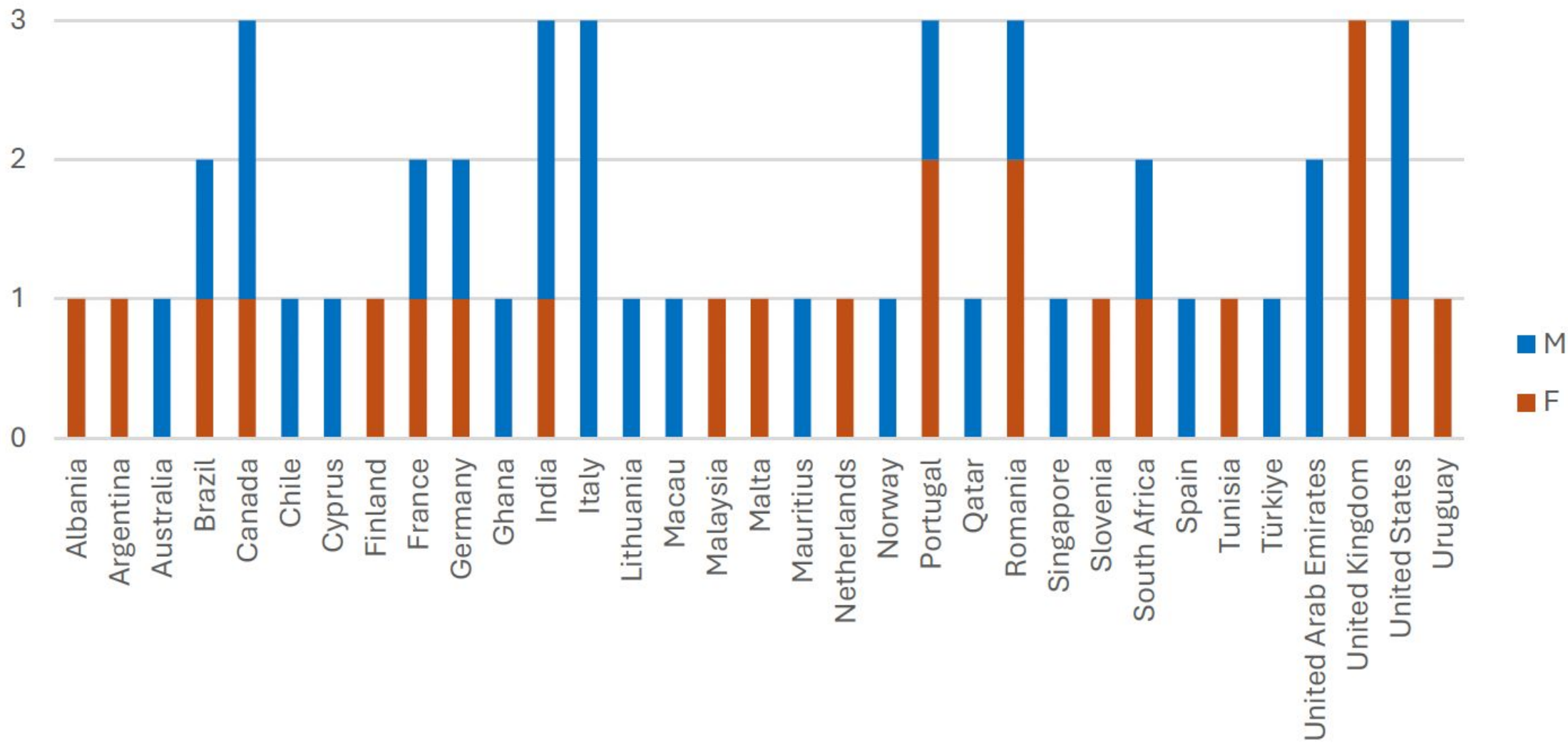
This criterion assesses the skill or knowledge of applicants and project partners in their fields and in delivering similar types of projects.

Community Value and Impact:

This criterion assesses the lasting impact of the project and its ability to continue to deliver results beyond the initial grant period.

Panel Demographics

Total number of panelists	52
Female panelists	44%
Male panelists	56%
Number of participating countries	33

Panel members *per country per gender*

Step 3: Final Internal Review

The purpose of the Final Internal Review was to verify and validate all admissibility and eligibility assessments with support of external vendors for all shortlisted applicants:

- Trade regulations and Conflict of Interest.
- Background/reputational/due diligence.
- Mission alignment and duplication of activities.
- Equivalency determination.

Step 4: Production of Final Slate for Board Approval

- Final slate of applications to be funded was produced for Board approval.
- Resolution was accompanied by a rationale that explains the process to reach the final slate.
- Confidentiality of the grantees until all grant agreements are signed.

Application Evaluation Results

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247 applications received

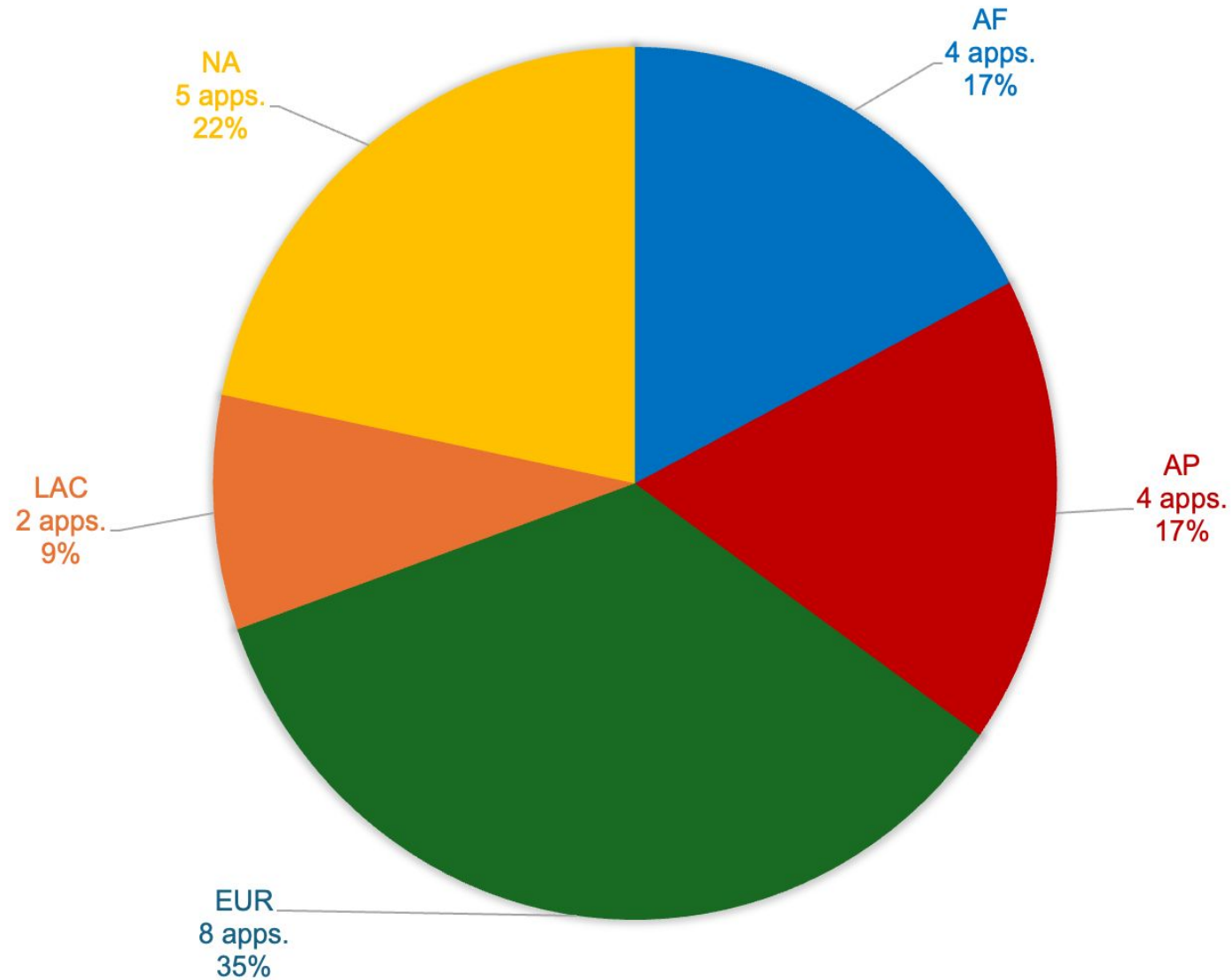
23 included in final slate

9.3% acceptance rate

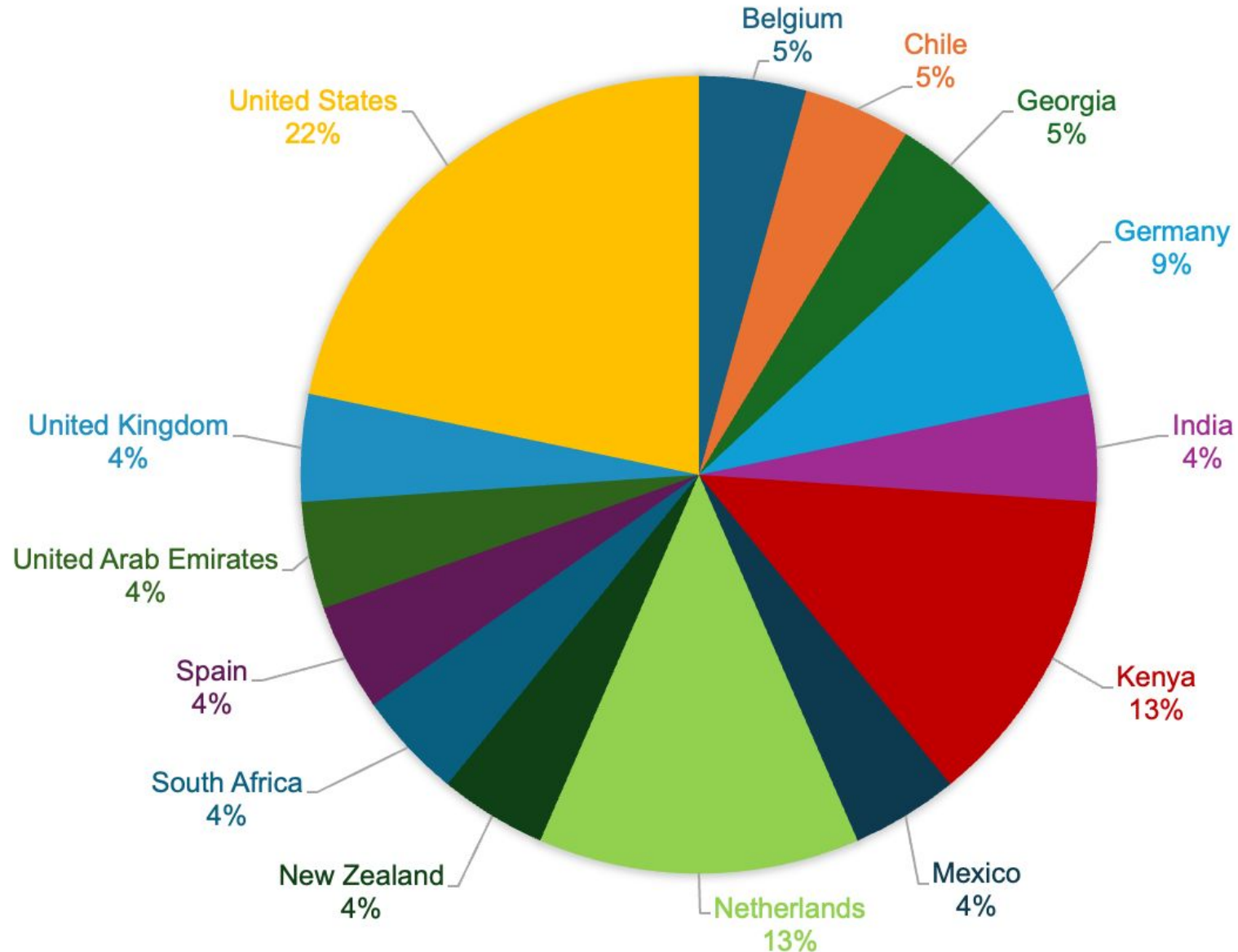
**Grant agreement negotiations
are currently taking place.**

**The data in the following slides
assumes that all the
negotiations are successful.**

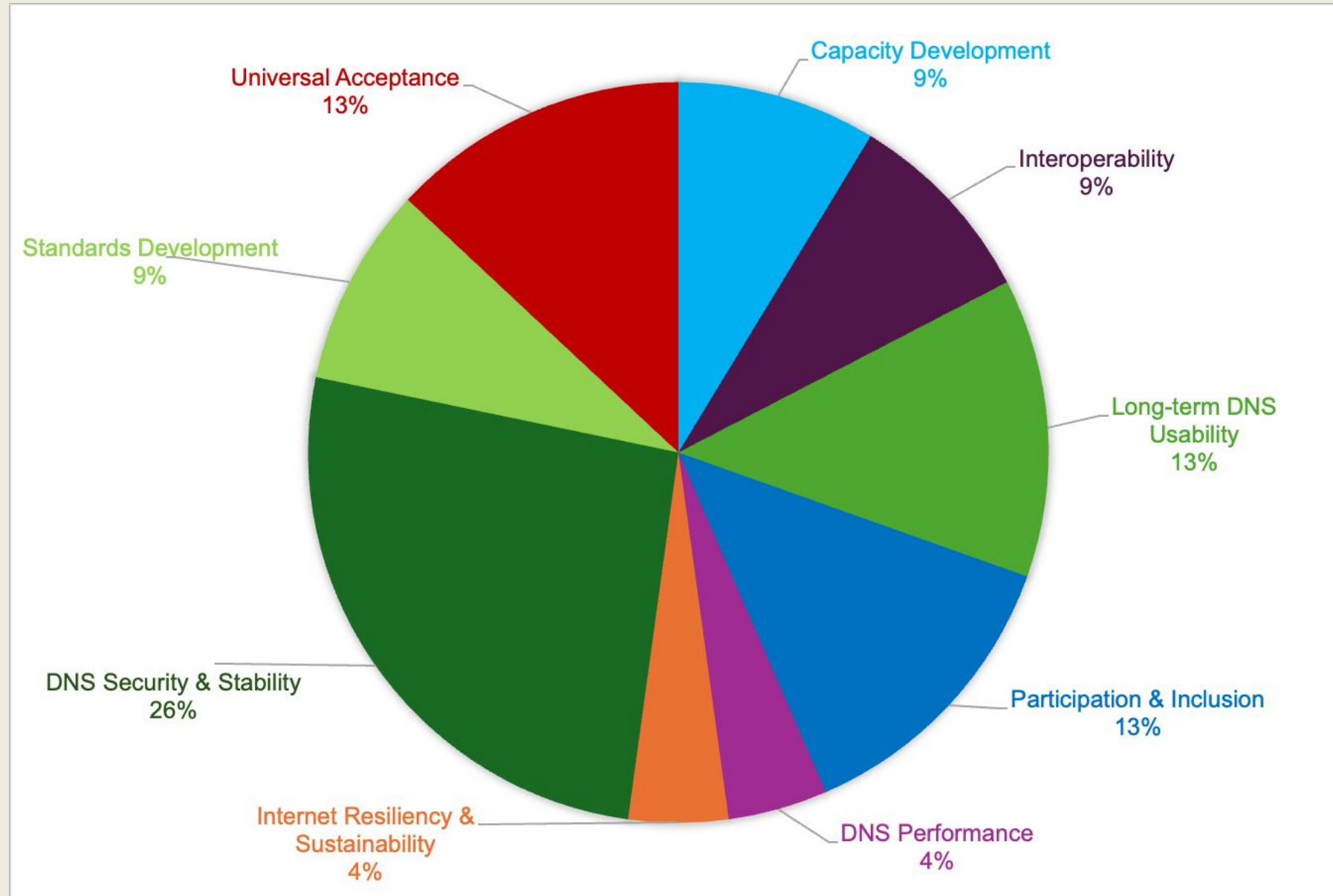
Distribution of Final Slate by Region



Distribution of Final Slate by Country



Distribution of Final Slate by Theme



How much funding will be awarded to the final slate?

\$

Total amount of
funding
awarded

\$9,973,460

\$

Average amount
of funding
awarded

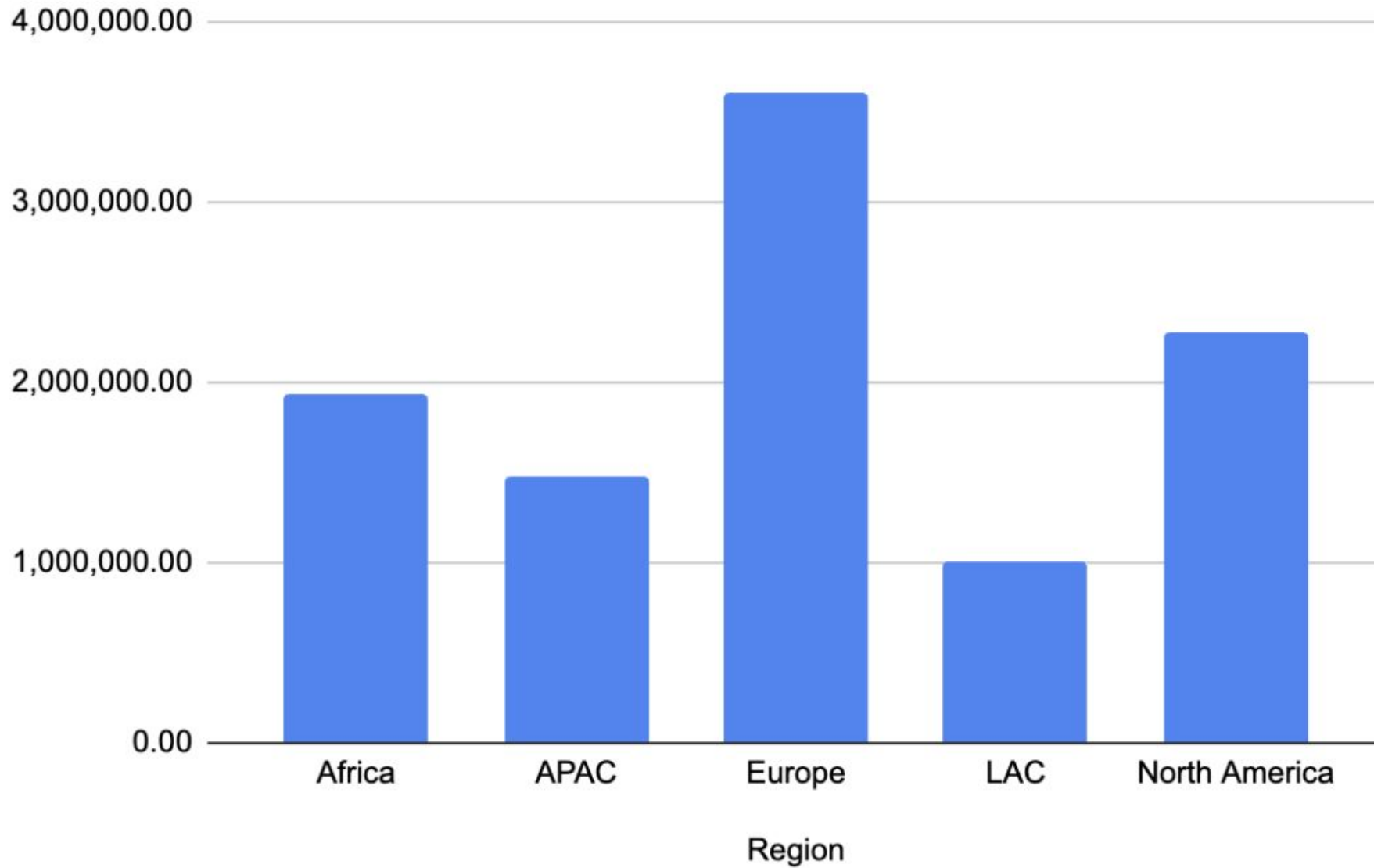
\$433,628

\$

Median amount
of funding
awarded

\$495,000

Final Slate Funds by Region



Information on grants and grantees will be made public once all grant agreements are signed.

Program Review and Next Cycle

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04

First Cycle Review

The first cycle internal review will evaluate how the first cycle was developed.

The outcome of the review will inform possible refinements to the next cycle.

Questions?

ICANN GRANT PROGRAM

Thank you



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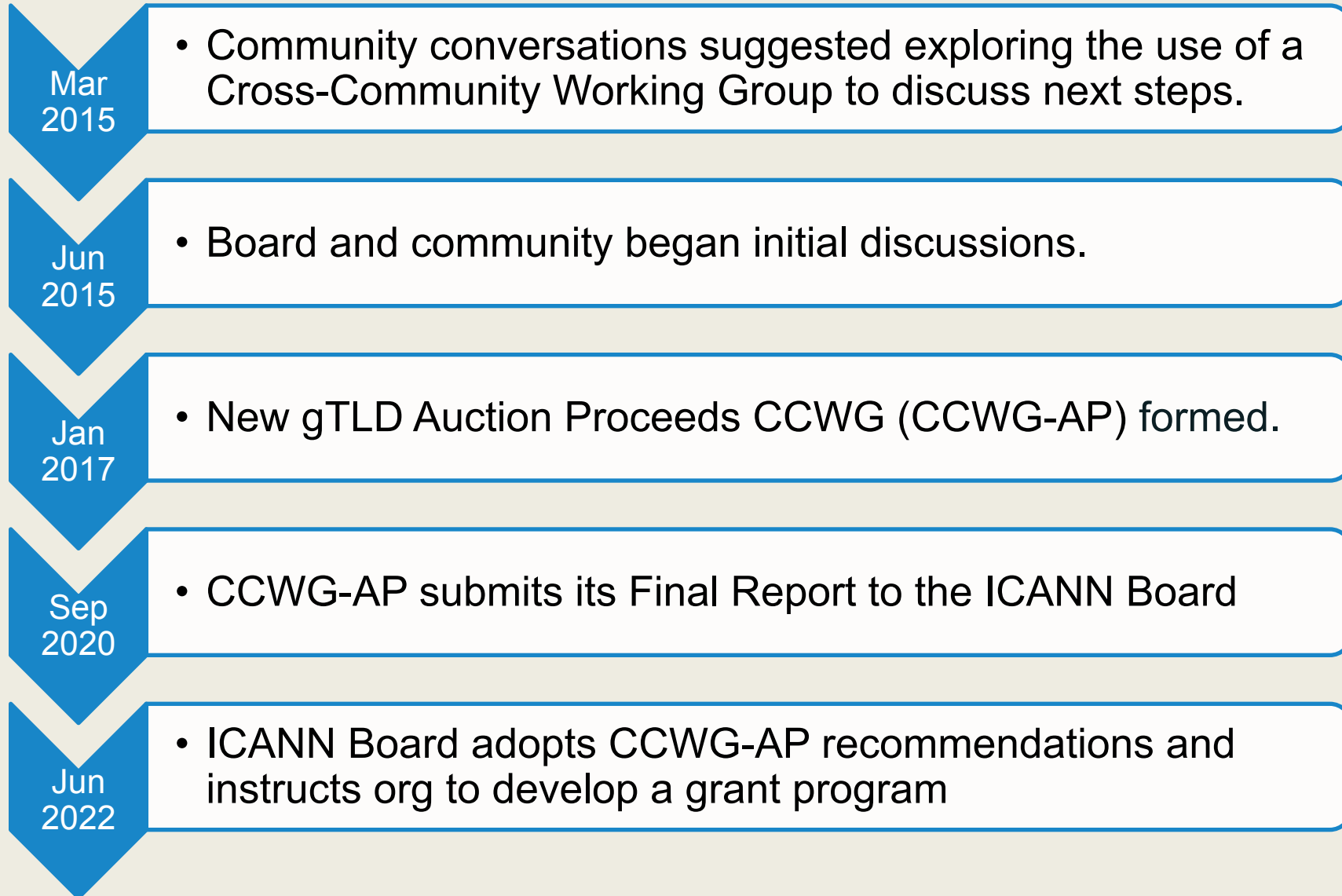
Background Information

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New gTLD Auctions of Last Resort

- The New gTLD Program received 1,930 applications, resulting in 234 string contentions where two or more applicants applied for the same or similar top-level domains.
- To date, 16 of those contentions resolved through auctions of last resort, conducted by ICANN's authorized auction service provider.
- The proceeds generated from these auctions are referred to as the “New gTLD Auctions Proceeds” or “Auction Proceeds”.
- As outlined in the Applicant Guidebook, “proceeds from auctions will be reserved and earmarked until the uses of funds are determined. Funds must be used in a manner that directly supports ICANN’s Mission and Core Values and also allows ICANN to maintain its not for profit status.”

Cross Community Working Group on Auction Proceeds



What is the ICANN Grant Program?



The ICANN Grant Program aims to be a competitive, global program open to applications from eligible organizations for projects that are consistent with ICANN's mission and align with the objectives of the Grant Program.



The ICANN Grant Program will make a difference in the Internet ecosystem and positively impact people across the globe by investing in creative and innovative solutions that further our vision of a single, open, and globally interoperable Internet.



The expected outcome will be a broader and more diverse user base with greater capacity to further develop and improve the Internet around the world.

Grant Program Objectives

The types of efforts that ICANN will encourage and fund through the Grant Program includes those that support ICANN's mission by:



Benefitting the development, distribution, evolution of the structures that support the Internet's unique identifier systems



Providing capacity development and infrastructure support in communities that need them most



Advancing work related to open access, future-oriented developments, innovation, and open standards for the Internet community



Addressing diversity, participation, and inclusion across regions and all stakeholder communities

Key Elements of the First Cycle

The ICANN Grant Program will operate in cycles until all funding is used.

Each cycle, an allocated portion of available proceeds will be made available for grants.

During this first cycle, up to \$10 million will be made available for grants to successful applicants .

Awards of between \$50,000 and \$500,000 will be available.

\$50,000

\$500,000

Cycle 3, 4, 5...

Cycle 2

Cycle 1

Up to \$10m

For future cycles, these amounts and the total amount allocated for the next cycles may differ.

Who could apply?

- Applications may be submitted by eligible organizations from across the globe. For the first cycle, applicants must:
 - Be a charitable organization,
 - Must not be the subject of any U.S. sanctions,
 - Have no conflicts of interest with ICANN,
 - Meet all applicable standards for reputation and background checks,
 - Have a bank account in the organization's name.

What can be funded?

Theme 1: The Internet's unique identifier systems

Work Areas

✓ Supporting standards development in relation to the Internet's unique identifier systems.

✓ Supporting long term usability and sustainability of the Domain Name System.

✓ Strengthening the security and stability of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

✓ Enhancing Universal Acceptance to ensure truly multilingual and digitally inclusive systems.

✓ Promoting innovative projects that expand the use of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

✓ Improving the performance of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

What can be funded?

Theme 2: A unified Internet

Work Areas



Advancing work related to open access to the Internet.



Enhancing Internet interoperability to cope with unexpected contingencies, including those that may exclude certain communities from the global DNS.



Enhancing the resiliency and sustainability of the Internet at the local, national, or global level.

What can be funded?

Overarching themes to be considered by applicants in the design of their projects:



Diversity, participation, and inclusion of underserved populations; and



Impact and outcome that can be sustained through capacity development.

Ineligible Activities

✕ Any projects that duplicate activities already funded by ICANN.

✕ Any activity that may lead to private financial benefit of individuals beyond incidental items such as payment of reasonable employment salaries.

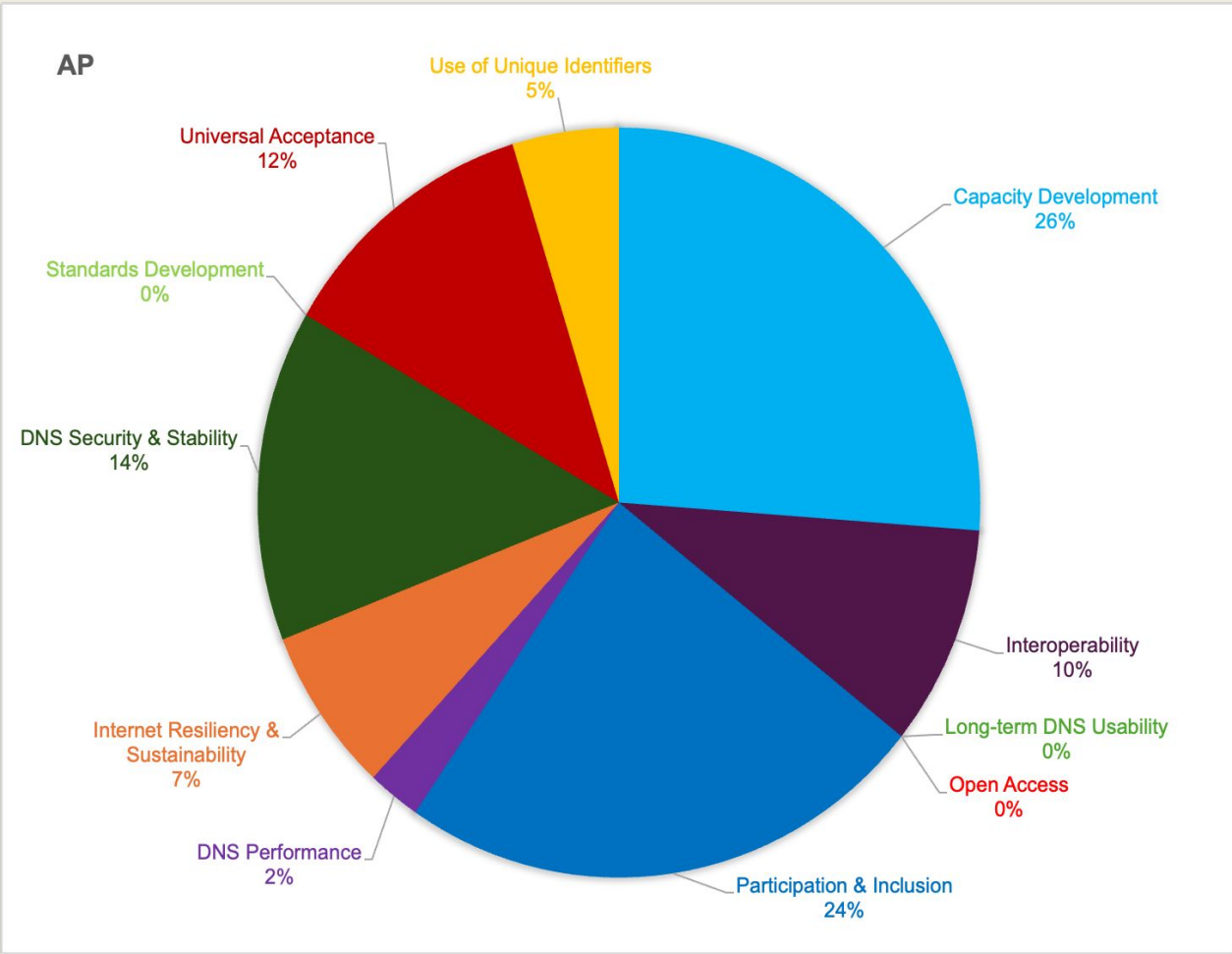
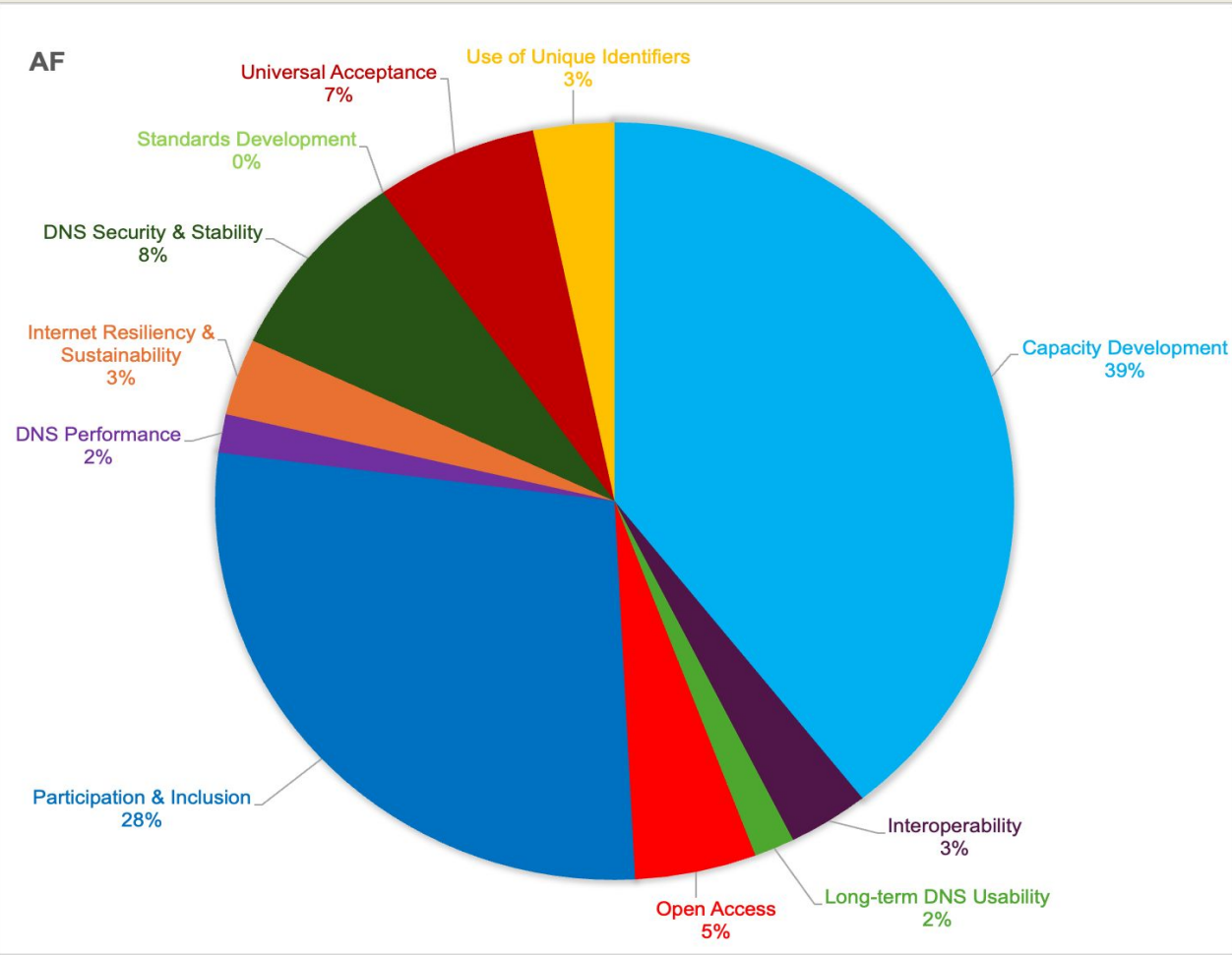
✕ Any political or lobbying activity, including activities to influence legislation and/or the outcome of any specific public election, or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive.

✕ Any unlawful activity according to the country where the applicant is based and/or where the project is developed.

Detailed Work Areas of Applications by Region

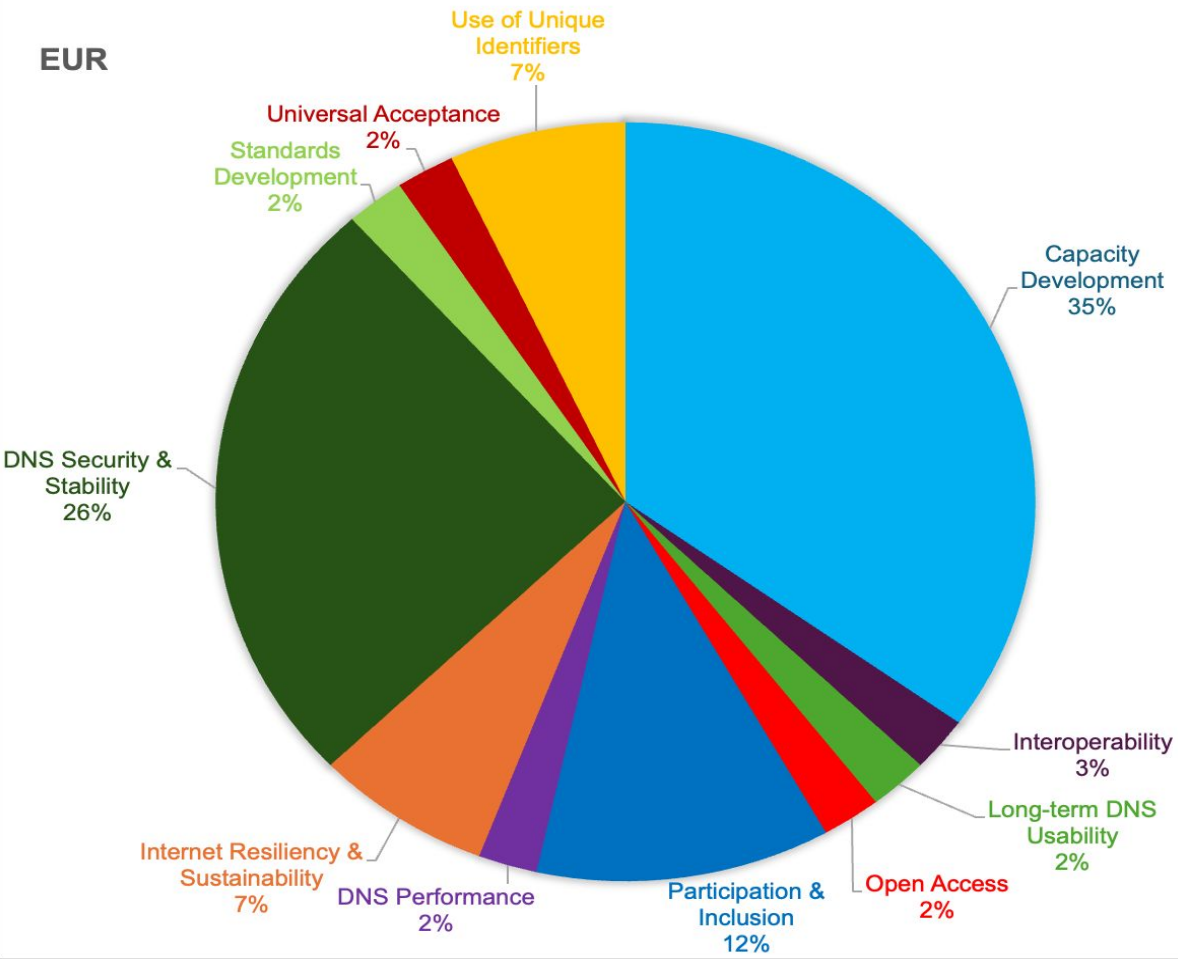
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Work Areas of Applications by Region

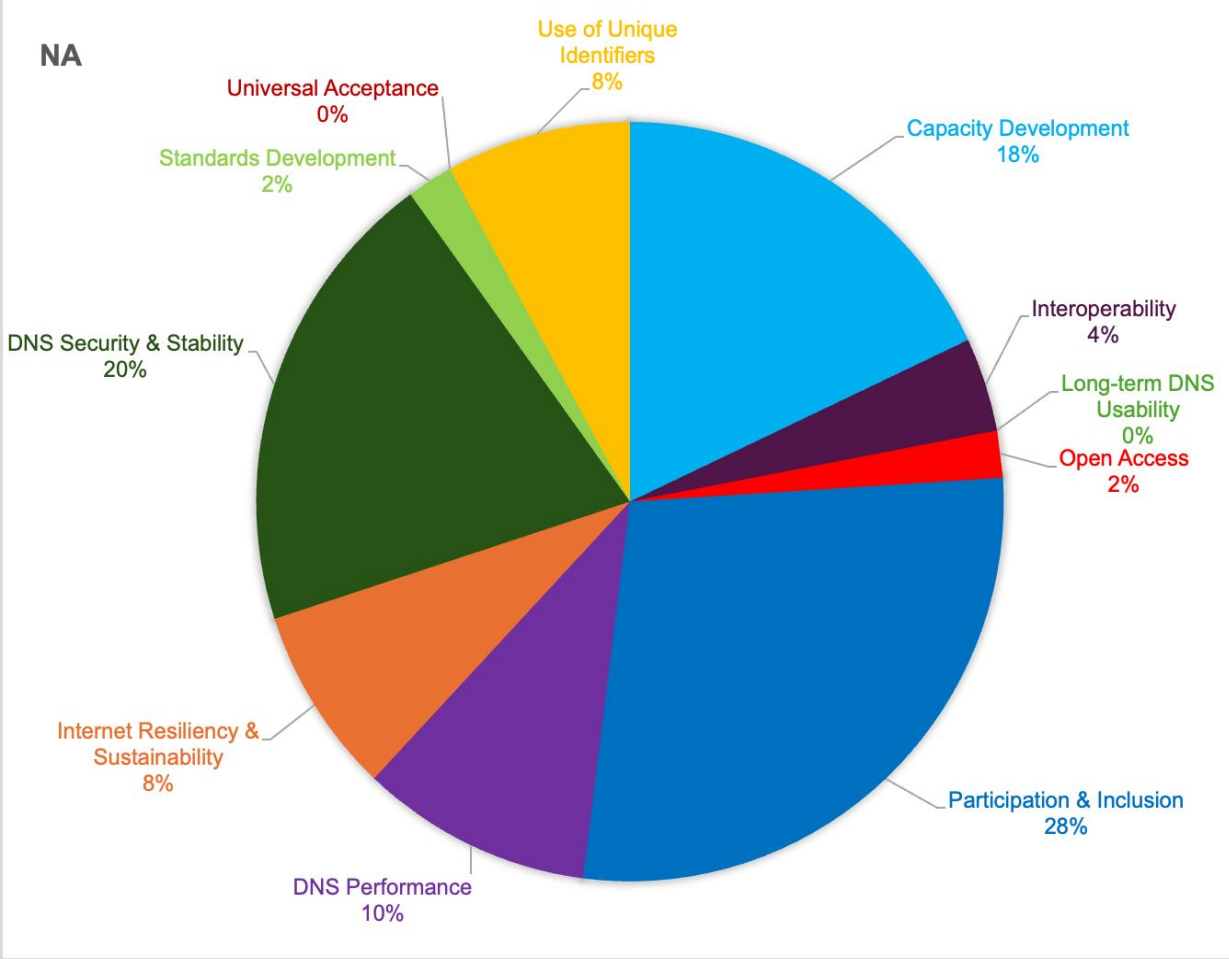


Work Areas of Applications by Region

EUR



NA



Work Areas of Applications by Region

LAC

