



**RIPE** Réseaux IP  
Européens

# RIPE Community and the RIPE NCC

What You Can Do And Why It Matters

Fergal Cunningham & Brian Nisbet | INEX | 12 Sept 2024



# Overview



- This presentation asks you to take another look at the RIPE community, the RIPE NCC and the value of contributing some time and attention to both
- Both RIPE and the RIPE NCC play an important role in how the Internet operates in our region and are part of the joint Internet Registry system that we all work in
- Both RIPE and the RIPE NCC depend fully on support, engagement and involvement from the people who operate the Internet in order to be able to carry out their work
- Both RIPE and the RIPE NCC offer a lot of value to you and the community you operate in
- Today we'll look at this from the perspective of the RIPE NCC and an active RIPE community member



# A Quick Recap Pt. 1: What is RIPE?

- The RIPE community is the *people* who coordinate to make the Internet work in our region
- Since 1989, people interested in the technical coordination of the Internet have collaborated to develop policies on resource allocation and usage, share best practices, solve technical problems, carry out research, discuss governments' influence on the Internet, make connections with like-minded people, and (sometimes) have fun while doing it
- Around 800 people attend RIPE Meetings twice a year, and many more are active on mailing lists and in other fora
- There is no formal requirement for being part of the RIPE community - if you consider yourself part of the community, you are part of the community!
- RIPE tries to connect with other communities in the region - like this one!

<https://www.ripe.net/community/participate/how-to-participate/>

# A Quick Recap Pt. 2: What is the RIPE NCC?



- The RIPE NCC is your Regional Internet Registry, which also executes the community's decisions and provides it with technical and coordination support
- We operate the RIPE Database, allocate IPv4 and IPv6 addresses, assign ASNs, offer resource certification (RPKI), provide free training on a range of topics, organise the RIPE Meetings and other events, host the communication and archiving platforms used by the community, carry out research using tools such as RIPE Atlas and RIS, advocate for the technical community with governments and regulators, and much more...
- Neutrality is a key principle for us in terms of treating members equally and providing an unbiased view on the Internet
- The RIPE NCC is a membership organisation and a formal legal entity - you need to pay an annual fee to be a member

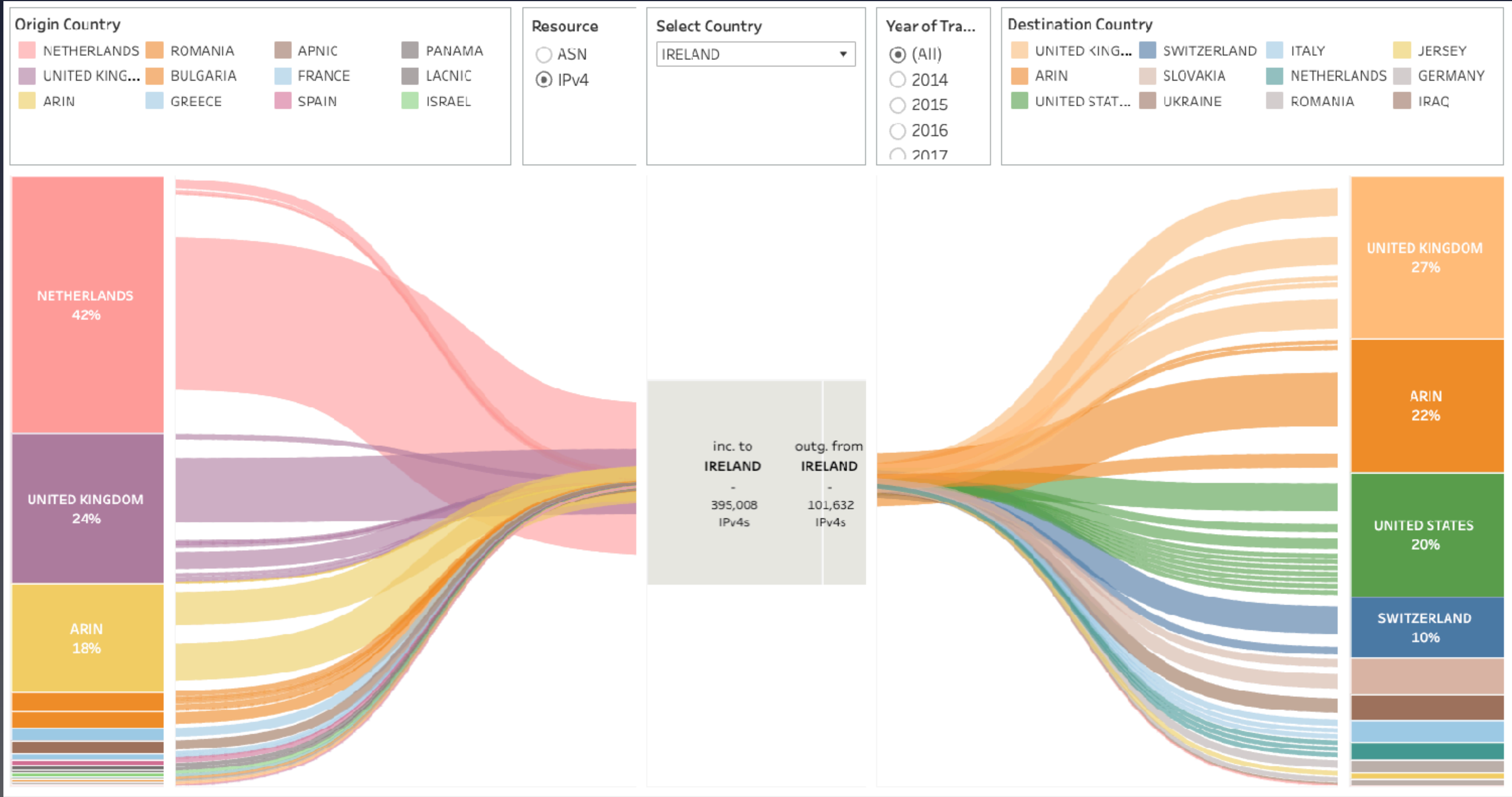
# A brief look at Ireland as seen by the RIPE NCC...



- The RIPE NCC has a lot of data that it makes available for members and community
  - There are 242 Irish LIRs (from 21,320 total) contributing to this data
- IPv6, IPv4 and RPKI development in Ireland over the past decade (compared to countries of comparable population):
  - <https://public.flourish.studio/story/2593592/>



# A brief look at Ireland as seen by the RIPE NCC...





# What's going on with RIPE?

- There are 12 working groups that cover a range of topics that (at least some) should be of interest to you
  - Address Policy - Proposal to revise IPv6 PI Policy
  - Anti-Abuse - Rechartering to focus on security issues
  - RIPE Database - Recent changes to daily query limits and regular suggestions to improve the DB
- RIPE 89 in Prague in October, then RIPE 90 in Lisbon in May
- Starting the process for selecting the RIPE Chair and Vice-Chair



# What's going on with RIPE?

- Debate about using personal ASNs to get hands-on experience - Open House on 25 September
- Work to assess whether the RIPE NCC is still set up to deliver effectively for the community
- Work to review ICP-2, the document that establishes principles for creation and operation of the RIRs
- <https://www.ripe.net/membership/mail/ripe-mailing-lists/>



# What's going on at the RIPE NCC?



- War and conflict in our service region with consequent effect on the RIPE NCC - sanctions has had a big impact on our workload and on our finances
- IPv4 scarcity is a big issue for many; transfers is how many acquire more address space
- Consolidation of LIRs and inflation means financial pressure for the RIPE NCC at the same time as its members - there is pressure in some quarters to reduce budgets and cut services
- New charging scheme coming into effect - increase in annual fee and PI fee, as well as new fee for ASN assignments
  - Charging Scheme Task Force in place to discuss principles for future charging scheme model following heated discussions on mailing list

# What's going on at the RIPE NCC?



- Focus internally is on security & compliance, registry accuracy and data services
- New rules from Google and Yahoo have changed how we communicate - in short, we're sending fewer emails
- RIPE Labs has started a new series on “Building an IXP from Scratch”, and there are many other articles/podcasts relevant for this community
- We'll soon publish the Draft Activity Plan and Budget 2025
- General Meeting registration is open!



# Why your participation matters

- The system of Internet governance is community-led, and it has allowed a stable, resilient and open Internet to develop based on input from the technical community
- Without that input, the community stagnates and the multi-stakeholder model we currently work under could disappear
- The community works better and is more adaptable to political and technological change if many voices from many backgrounds are being heard
- New voices are crucial - as with any community, new faces and fresh opinions are what keeps it stable



# Why your participation matters



- The mechanisms that allow everyone to participate allow *everyone* to participate - without sensible voices, we will be guided by those who don't see the value of community or the services provided it for it by the RIPE NCC
- We lost 500 people on the members-discuss mailing list during the Charging Scheme discussions in April/May this year
- This is 500 people who will miss future discussions and be unaware or unable to contribute when their voices will be needed
- These discussions tend to calm down when sensible input from the community is put forward

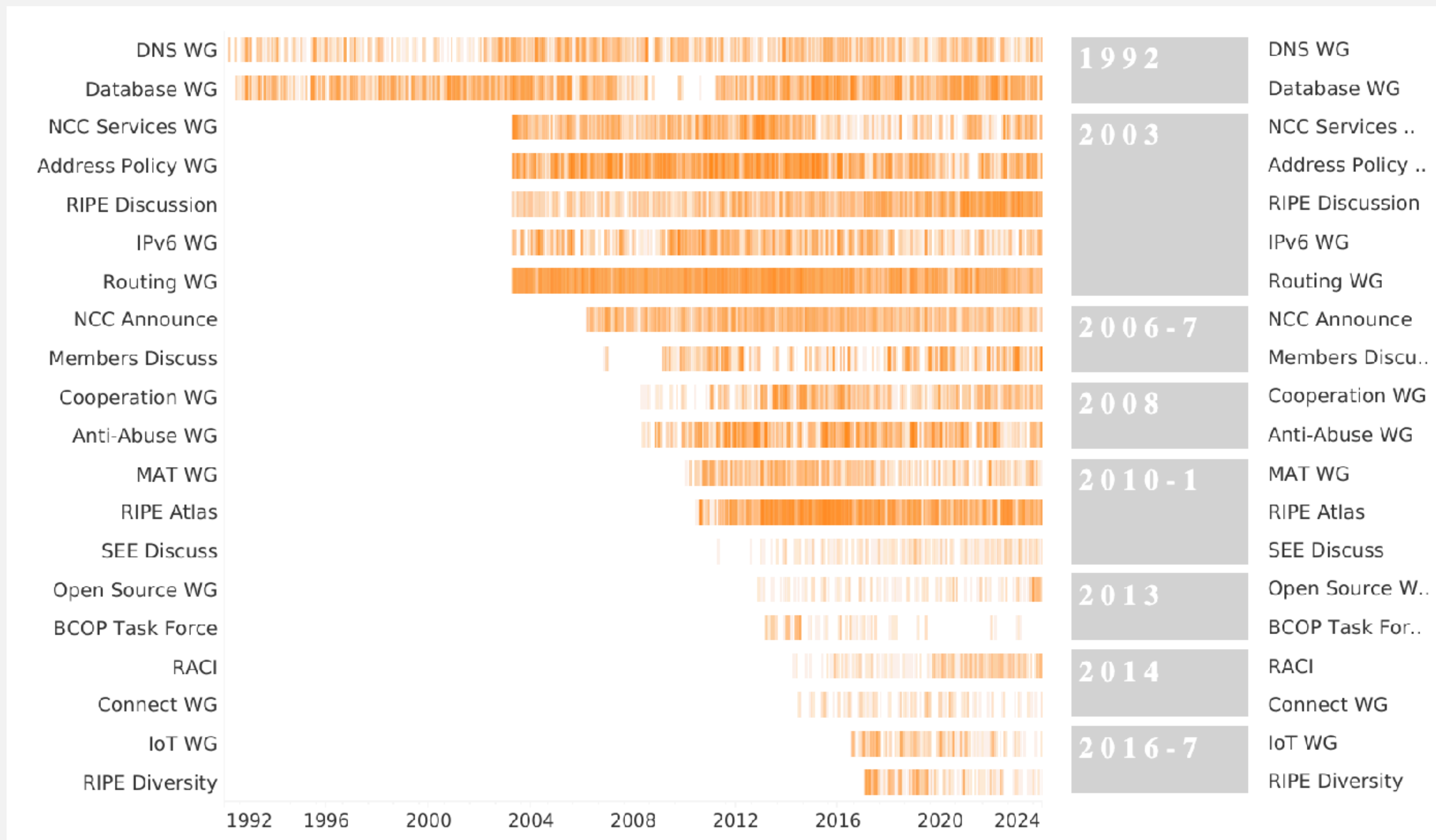


# What does participation involve?

- Some of your time, your attention and your willingness to contribute your opinion and insights when that works for you
- There are many levels of involvement, all of them important, ranging from:
  - Taking on a community role (e.g. working group chair, task force member, RIPE Vice Chair!, programme committee member)
  - Getting involved in discussions - on mailing lists, forum, at meetings, etc.
  - Giving feedback on services or activities, even if that's just a "carry on as you are", an "I don't like this" or a "+1"
- Register for a RIPE Meeting - if you haven't done it before, register for free as an online attendee and join the sessions that look interesting
- Vote at the RIPE NCC General Meeting and see what's involved - even if the next one isn't interesting for you, it's good to see what's involved and how it impacts you
- Not all discussions are about policy or governance - suggest improvements to tools like RIPE Atlas, the LIR Portal, the RIPE Database etc. to help the RIPE NCC understand what's important for you so we prioritise correctly



# How do we enable participation?





# How do we enable participation?



- Apart from all the mailing lists:
  - RIPE community pages
  - RIPE Meetings
  - Regional Meetings and other events
  - RIPE NCC General Meeting
  - Training Courses and Webinars
  - RIPE NCC Forum
  - RIPE Labs
  - All the usual social media platforms
  - We come to NOG/IXP meetings and other events
- Everything is geared for remote participation!

# Staying on top of it all...



- We try to make it easy for people to stay on top of things while recognising they have their own jobs/lives/concerns...
- Every month we send a [RIPE NCC Member Update](#) to the ncc-announce mailing list
- This is a summary of pretty much everything that's going on in both the RIPE community and the RIPE NCC
- A quick scan of this should tell you if there's something that might be interesting for you
- [RIPE Labs](#) has a monthly update from the RIPE Chair Team
- And if there is a complicated topic the RIPE NCC needs to elaborate on, RIPE Labs is where we'll put it



# Key Takeaways

- The RIPE community is an important part of the Internet ecosystem - it needs your interest and input if it's to thrive
- The RIPE NCC supports the community and looks after its members' needs in many ways - but it needs guidance if it's to be effective in providing value
- Both RIPE and the RIPE NCC will develop in line with the guidance they receive from the community - so make sure they develop in ways that benefit you and benefit the Internet





# Questions, feedback & **dialogue**

