



The ICANN Studienkreis as an open network brings together high level experts from policy, industry, technology, academia, civil society and the media. Its main objective is to create an additional "European voice" in the discussion around key issues in the ICANN process. Its mission is to stimulate debate about the future development of the Internet and the management of its critical resources, to create public awareness on Internet Governance issues and to build bridges among constituencies and stakeholders from policy, business, technology, civil society, academia and the media by taking into account of (but not restricting itself to) ICANN activities.

The ICANN Studienkreis was established in 1999 after ICANN's 1st Annual meeting in Marina del Rey (November 1999) as a joint initiative by the German speaking ccTLD registries (DENIC, nic.at and SWITCH), the Media City Leipzig e.V. and the University of Aarhus. The successful development of the ICANN Studienkreis encouraged the organizers in 2004 to "globalize" the annual event. The main partners are now the three worldwide largest gTLD Registries: VeriSign, Afilias and PIR. Additional partners had been in the past dotberlin, CENTR, RIPE, EURID, CZ.NIC, NASK, Knipp Kommunikation and United Domains.

The ICANN Studienkreis organizes an annual meeting with about 100 participants. The network includes meanwhile more than 1000 high level experts. Previous meetings took place in Leipzig (2000), Zürich (2001), Salzburg (2002), Moscow (2002), Berlin (2003), Aarhus (2004), Brussels (2005), Prague (2006) and Warsaw (2007). Among the participants had been ICANN Directors Esther Dyson, Vint Cerf, Hans Krajenbrink, Alejandro Pisanty, Andy Mueller Maguhn, Veni Markowski, Hagen Hultsch, Helmuth Schink, Michael Palage, Rob Blokzijl and Roberto Gaetano

The ICANN Studienkreis is chaired by Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Professor for Internet Policy & Regulation at the University of Aarhus. Each conference is prepared by a "Programme Committee" which is constituted by the main sponsors of the event. The technical organizer of the meetings is the Medienstadt Leipzig e.V., a member of the European Regional At Large Organisation (EU-RALO) as a recognized "At Large Structure" (ALS) by ICANN.

The 2008 meeting of the ICANN Studienkreis is planned for Helsinki, September 4 – 5, 2008. Confirmed sponsors are so far (January 2008) VeriSign, Afilias and PIR as main partners and United Domains, EURID, RIPE, FICORA, Nokia and CENTR as supporters. The 2008 Programme Committee includes Markus Eggensperger (United Domains), Philipp Grabensee (Afilias), Juhani Juselius (Ficora), Pat Kane (VeriSign), Wolfgang Kleinwächter/Chair (University of Aarhus), Elmar Knipp (Knipp Medien & Kommunikation GmbH), Yrjö Lensipuro (Finnish Foreign Ministry), David Maher (PIR), Matthias Meyer-Schönherr (SEDO), Axel Pawlik (RIPE NCC), Peter van Roste (CENTR), Giovanni Seppia (EURid), Riitta Vanska (Nokia)