

CALL FOR PROPOSALS (GRANTS)
Internet Policy Observatory
“For projects with a thematic focus that has relevance at a cross-regional level”

1. Description and objective

The Center for Global Communication Studies (CGCS) at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, announces a call for proposals under its Internet Policy Observatory (IPO). One of the goals of IPO is helping to develop a broad understanding of the conditions, processes and stakeholders that drive the development of Internet policies in emerging countries, and of how they relate to similar formations at the regional and international levels.

The objective of this Call is to encourage research by individuals and institutions particularly interested in Internet policy issues. The results of the research will be presented on the IPO website.

2. Eligible applicants

This Call is open to persons and organizations who are particularly interested in Internet policy research and who are based in key countries/regions or led by a consortium that is located within the key regions.

These regions are: (1) Latin America & Caribbean, (2) Middle-East and North Africa¹, (3) South & South-East Asia² / Pacific (4) Central Asia³ (5) East Asia⁴ (6) Sub-Saharan Africa. The IPO welcomes applications from all the regions mentioned above, but special preference will be given to regions (1), (3) and (6).

Research groups and civil society organizations which already have research programs on Internet policy issues in the relevant countries and regions are particularly encouraged to apply. Fluency in English is required both for research and relevant administration tasks.

3. Eligible proposals

The thematic focus of the proposals may include, but is not limited to, one of the general areas:

- **Technical developments and Internet policy:** What technical developments are being undertaken at the state level that have implications for Internet policy within the state and beyond?

¹ Including Iran

² Including Afghanistan, Pakistan and India

³ Including Russia

⁴ Including China, Korea and Japan

- **Governance and Internet policy:** We are looking for case studies, within a single state or region, where external and internal interests shape governance approaches (e.g. interstate, multi-stakeholder), institutional environments (e.g. preparation for WSIS, IGF, ITU) stakeholder engagement (e.g. government, private sector, civil society). Research questions could address legal, political, economic, and social tensions or take a critical look at key issues within the current local Internet governance debate.
- **Internet policy and Internet/cyberspace ownership:** Case studies could examine or compare debates over ownership of companies within the Internet space
- **Social media and Internet policy:** Case studies on modes by which states and relevant Internet companies affect content.
- **The socio-economic impact of Internet policy:** The legal, political, economic, and social factors (domestic and international) that influence the implementation or non-implementation of Internet policies. The role of relevant international development frameworks (e.g. ICT4D) and agreements (e.g. MDGs) in creating or hindering the growth of Internet usage may be examined as well.
- **The language of Internet Policy:** This approach concentrates on to the various terms and definitions used within the overall field of Internet policy and specifically within Internet governance. Special attention could be paid to the norm creation process and respective discourse within national, regional or international institutions. Proposed studies could, however, also concentrate on potential approaches aimed at “bridging the definition gap” or on mediating the various normative positions related with the respective definitions.

4. Deliverables

Each proposal is expected to address one or a combination of the following deliverables.

In order of preference, these are:

Independent Study: Proposals will be considered primarily on the basis of their relative academic and policy-related merits. Proposals may be for smaller grants to support the publication of a shorter study based on the existing research, or for longer proposals geared towards an in-depth research project conducted on the basis of primary research. Proposals should provide an outline of the specific scope and aims of the intended study, and a brief presentation of the research strategy and design (quantitative and/or qualitative, mixed). Applicants are welcome to involve a variety of different research methods.

Networking: Proposals can also be submitted that create or strengthen networks of Internet policy or Internet governance research and produce accessible work. Repeated grants can be made to the same applicant.

5. Budget and duration

Grants can range from USD 3,000 -40,000 per application selected. The project duration should range from 3 months to 6 months, although in some cases, proposals that have a longer timeframe may be considered.

6. Submission deadline and award criteria

Applications submitted to the CGCS must contain the following information:

- Information on the institution and persons within that institution that are applying for the grant. Particular emphasis should be paid on institutional experience, subject matter knowledge, and respective biographies.
- A specific proposal addressing both the general themes as well as deliverables listed above.
- A cover letter indicating the reasons and motivations for applying for the Grant.
- A detailed budget including, where applicable, costs for time and labor, overhead expenses, research expenses, and other relevant costs.
- A list of deliverables and respective timelines.
- A point of contact available between the date of application and the 15th of September for further inquiries prior to the selection of the award recipients in September, 2013

Multiple grant applications are welcome, and can be awarded on a rolling basis. Awards will take into consideration the relevance of the work proposed and the quality of work to be anticipated.

Please send proposals to internetpolicy@asc.upenn.edu **by 5pm EST on September 15, 2013**. Applications submitted after the deadline are not guaranteed consideration.