

The Internet Advisory Council (Costa Rica)

Good practice: Promoting inclusive dialogue and collaboration through Multistakeholder Consultation Processes

Relevant DFI commitment: Protect and strengthen the multistakeholder system of Internet governance, including the development, deployment, and management of its main technical protocols and other related standards and protocols.

Type of the initiative: Institution

Stakeholder Group: Multistakeholder

Launch/adoption: 2012 - Now

Goals

The Costa Rica Internet Advisory Council (CCI) was established in October 2012 to foster discussions on Internet development in Costa Rica. The council aims to contribute to the country's overall growth and enhance the quality of life for Costa Ricans through the advancement of Internet technologies and policies. By promoting open dialogue and collaboration among various stakeholders, the CCI seeks to shape the future of the Internet in Costa Rica in a way that benefits all sectors of society.

Description

The CCI operates under the coordination of NIC Costa Rica, the specialised unit responsible for managing the .cr top-level domain and overseeing the country's Internet Neutral Exchange Point (CRIX). The council is based on the Multi-Stakeholder Model, widely recognised as a global best practice in Internet governance. This model ensures that diverse perspectives from government, private sector, civil society, and technical communities are considered in decision-making processes related to Internet development and policy. The CCI serves as a platform for these stakeholders to unite, share ideas, and work towards common goals in shaping Costa Rica's digital future. By facilitating inclusive discussions and promoting transparency in Internet governance, the council plays a crucial role in maintaining Costa Rica's position as a model for digital rights and Internet freedom in Central America and beyond.

The Council plays a key role in safeguarding human rights in the digital space by advising on critical issues such as data protection, cybersecurity, and freedom of expression. The impact of the council is evident in Costa Rica's progressive data protection laws, which align with global standards and have significantly bolstered citizens' privacy rights. Public awareness campaigns led by the Council have empowered citizens to understand and assert their digital rights, contributing to a more informed and engaged populace. This approach represents a best practice for implementing the first principle of the DFI. It can be replicated in other countries and regions by establishing similar multistakeholder bodies that ensure transparency and inclusivity in policy-making. The council has been particularly essential when controversial cases on jurisdiction have been debated in the Supreme Court, in conjunction with new and controversial initiatives from the presidency with a potential impact on human rights online.

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