

# ACCOUNTABILITY OF RIRS

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# WHAT IS ACCOUNTABILITY?

- Decision makers be answerable to those affected by the decisions

# ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

- Transparency
- Consultation
- Evaluation
- Correction

# WHY ACCOUNTABILITY IS IMPORTANT FOR REGIONAL INTERNET REGISTRIES ?

- Implementing the commonly accepted IG principles [Rule of law, Inclusiveness, Democratic values, NetMundial Principles ...]
- Granting legitimacy to organizations

# ACCOUNTABILITY OF RIPE (A CASE STUDY)

- Who is accountable: RIPE NCC
- To whom is RIPE NCC accountable to? The RIPE Community. The RIPE community refers collectively to any individual or organisation, whether members of the RIPE NCC or not, that has an interest in the way the Internet is managed, structured or governed.

# RIPE AND FOUR ASPECTS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- Transparency: All the working groups are open
- Consultation: There is a policy development process – Elections and membership for RIPE NCC
- Evaluation: Appeals during the process
- Correction: Appeal after the proposal submitted

# RIRS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

## I. Rational Actors make their organizations similar regarding governance mechanisms

- Mimetic (copy others)
- Coercive (law and regulation)
- Normative (accepted practices)

# INSTITUTIONAL ISOMORPHISM OR ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING

- I. Investigating the similar approach to accountability in all RIRs do they all have similar approaches to that of RIPE ?
- II. Hypothesis: There is institutional isomorphism due to normative effects.
- III. Proving or disproving the hypothesis entails studying all the other RIRs



## WHAT IF THERE IS INSTITUTIONAL ISOMORPHISM?

- What if there is institutional isomorphism ?
  - I. Similar approach can lead to harmonization
  - II. Harmonization might not work in all the regions (some mechanisms might not work for a part of the community)
  - III. Effective changes in accountability mechanisms is more difficult when there is institutional isomorphism. (expectation to follow the accepted practices even if they do not work)

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

- I. Institutional environment affects accountability mechanism and accountability relations
- II. Studying the institutional environment yield the best practices
- III. The best practices only reveal the accountability mechanisms and not the accountability relations
- IV. It is not sufficient to consider accepted practices for accountability of RIRs. Other factors should be considered as well.