Universal Acceptance

UA Day

#Internet4All

Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2026 Report

UA: Enabling a Multilingual and Digitally Inclusive Internet

30 June 2026

https://UniversalAcceptance.Day

ICANN

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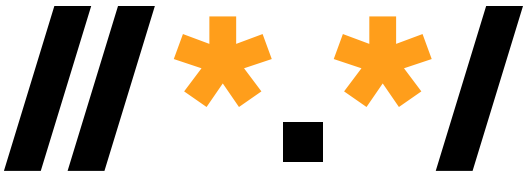

UA Day

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UA Day Overview

Universal Acceptance (UA) is a technical requirement that ensures all valid domain names and email addresses, regardless of language, script, or character length, can be equally used by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems.

UA Day events are organized by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in collaboration with the community, including with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), regional and local organizations, and global partners. Together, these events aim to engage the technical and language communities, businesses, governments, and Domain Name System (DNS) industry stakeholders to better understand the benefits of UA and encourage them to make their systems UA-ready.

UA Day events also make a tangible contribution to the **collaboration between ICANN and UNESCO**, in line with the recently launched **UA policy brief**, "Advancing Universal Acceptance of All Domain Names and Email Addresses for a Multilingual Internet." The policy brief proposes a set of actions to integrate UA requirements into broader information and communications technology policy frameworks.

UA Day contributes to UNESCO's 2003 **Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace** by raising awareness of the need to ensure the connectivity, usability, and functionality of multilingual domain names and email addresses across digital systems, supporting participation in the online environment for people and communities that use a variety of languages and scripts.

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Call for UA Day 2026 Proposals

ICANN and **UNESCO** announced a call for UA Day event proposals to support the following event types:

- **UA Awareness**
  Present the benefits of being UA-ready, basic technical concepts related to UA, and next steps to becoming UA-ready.
- **UA Academic Curricula**
  Conduct curricular development sessions with faculty members and experts to integrate Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and UA-related topics in existing technical curricula.
- **UA Adoption and Demonstration**
  Conduct a UA adoption exercise and share the challenges and solutions to becoming UA-ready, documenting the experience and sharing it during the UA Day event.
- **UA Regional Strategy Review**
  Discuss appropriate mechanisms for promoting and adopting UA at the local, national, and regional levels and develop a regional strategy document.

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UA Day Event Proposals and Short List

A total of 70 proposals were received for UA Day 2026 from 45 countries and territories. A proposal review team was constituted with nominees from UNESCO and the ICANN community, including the At-Large Advisory Committee and Country Code Names Supporting Organization. The review team finalized the short-listing criteria and short-listed 30 proposals from 30 countries and territories. With some volunteer and additional events, 33 UA Day events were eventually organized across 30 countries and territories in 2026. Details of events are available on the UA Day 2026 Events Schedule. A breakdown of proposals received and short-listed for support from ICANN by region is provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1: UA Day 2026 Proposals Received, Short-Listed, and Organized by Region

Region	Proposals	Short-Listed	Organized
Africa	29	13	13
Asia Pacific	22	7	9
Europe	4	3	4
Latin America and the Caribbean	10	5	5
North America	5	2	2
Total	70	30	33

UNESCO supported these UA Day events through both headquarters-level engagement and its field network globally. Headquarters contributed directly to six UA Day events, and 18 UNESCO Field Offices promoted 24 regional and local events across Africa (AF), Asia Pacific (APAC), Europe (EUR), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and North America (NA). Discussions centered on connecting UNESCO's policy frameworks on multilingualism, digital inclusion, and universal access to information and helping connect technical adoption with broader policy dialogue, as well as outreach and engagement with national and regional stakeholders.

Of these events, nine event organizers were affiliated with At-Large Structures (four AF, two APAC, two LAC, and one NA), and eight were organized with the collaboration of country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators.

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UA Day 2026 at International Telecommunication Union

The inaugural UA Day 2026 event took place on 24 March 2026 at the **ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe**, in Prague, Czech Republic. Co-organized by EURid, ICANN, the ITU, and UNESCO, the event promoted Universal Acceptance under the theme: “Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future.” The session was attended by about 70 representatives from European ministries, regulators, the Council of Europe, and the European Commission.

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UA Day 2026 Regional Strategy Review Events

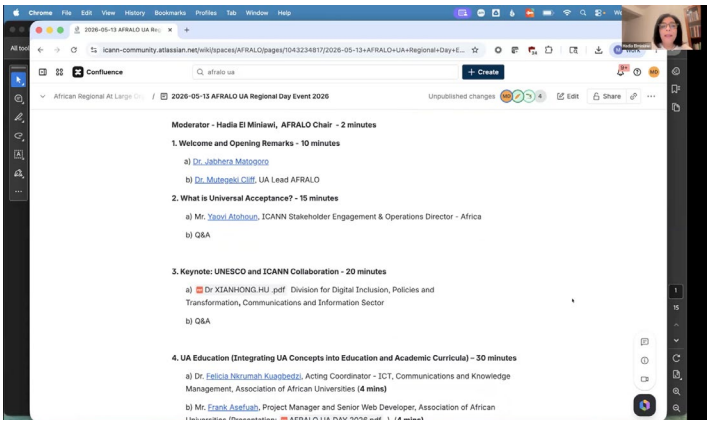
With a focus on UA adoption, UA Day regional events saw involvement from governments, academia, the DNS industry, and leadership from ICANN and UNESCO.

Africa

Regional Strategy Review Event

Organizer: African Regional At-Large Organization
Event Type: Online only

The event showcased how to advance UA through examples of technical adoption and education. Sixteen speakers contributed on different UA aspects, with 81 participants from 27 countries attending the virtual event.



Asia Pacific
Regional Strategy Review Event

Organizer: Viet Nam Internet Network Information Center
Event Type: Hybrid

The event brought together five ccTLD operators and delegates from Viet Nam, Lao People's Democratic Republic, India, Thailand, and China. The panelists focused on bridging policy and technical aspects. A total of 204 people participated.

Europe
Regional Strategy Review Event

Organizer: Internet Society Armenia Chapter
Event Type: Hybrid

Several concrete action items were identified for UA adoption involving different stakeholders, with the support of the UA regional coordination group for the Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe. The event was held in Armenian, English, and Russian for 100 participants across the region.

Latin America and the Caribbean
Regional Strategy Review Event

Organizer: Network Operators Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
Event Type: Hybrid

A total of 11 speakers contributed to showcase UA technical adoption and UA education efforts in the region, and to promote the transition to technical implementation through building capacity.

North America
Regional Strategy Review Event

Organizer: Coalition on Digital Impact
Event Type: Virtual only

The virtual event reinforced the importance of UA, AI, inclusive language infrastructure, and community-driven data initiatives in shaping a more multilingual and participatory digital future.

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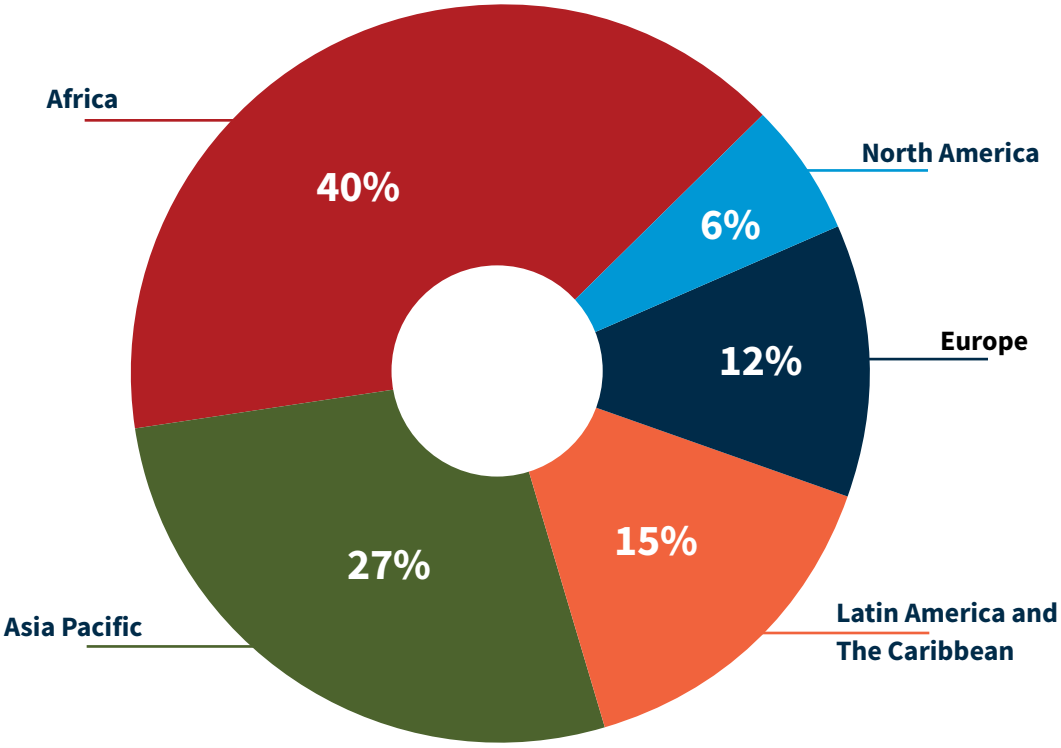
UA Day Events by Region

A total of 40 percent of the UA Day events were held in Africa, 27 percent were held in the Asia Pacific region, and 15 percent were held in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. There were fewer events in Europe and North America, as shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Distribution of UA Day 2026 Events Organized Across Different Regions



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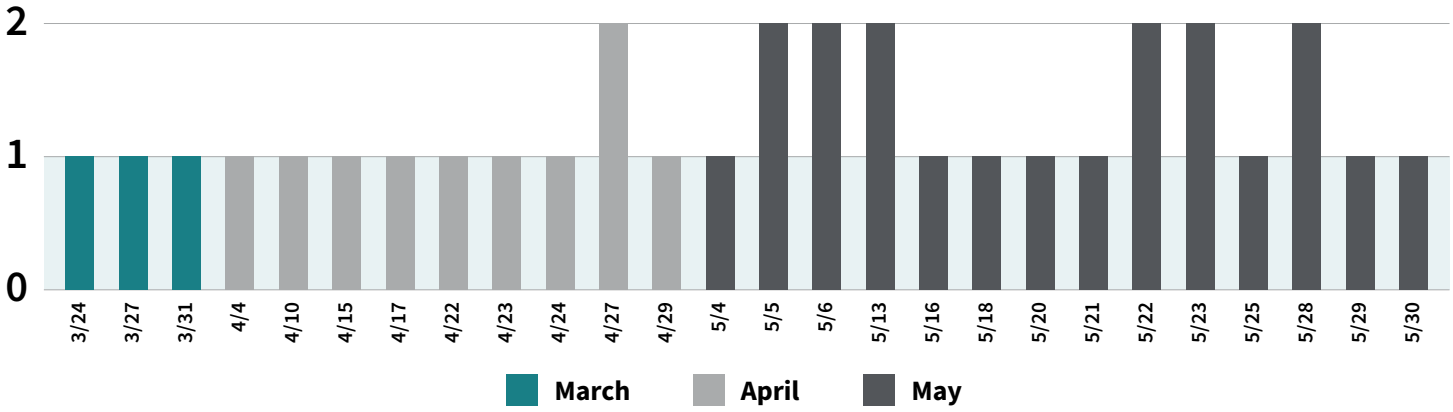
UA Day Events by Date

UA Day events were organized from 24 March through 30 May 2026 to provide flexibility to the organizers. Three events were held in March, 10 events were held in April, and the remaining 20 events were held in May 2026.

Figure 2: Timeline of UA Day 2026 Events



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UA Day Events by Location

UA Day events were held in 30 countries and territories: eight in the Asia Pacific region, 12 in Africa, five in Latin America and the Caribbean, three in Europe, and two in North America. Though regional events included representatives from multiple countries, only the host country is listed below. Therefore, participants from more countries participated online.

Africa	Asia Pacific	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	North America
Burkina Faso	Armenia	Czech Republic	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Canada
Egypt	China	Republic of Moldova	El Salvador	United States of America
Ethiopia	India	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mexico	
Ghana	Lebanon		Peru	
Kenya	Nepal		Uruguay	
Morocco	Pakistan			
Niger	Thailand			
Nigeria	Viet Nam			
Senegal				
Sierra Leone				
Uganda				
United Republic of Tanzania				

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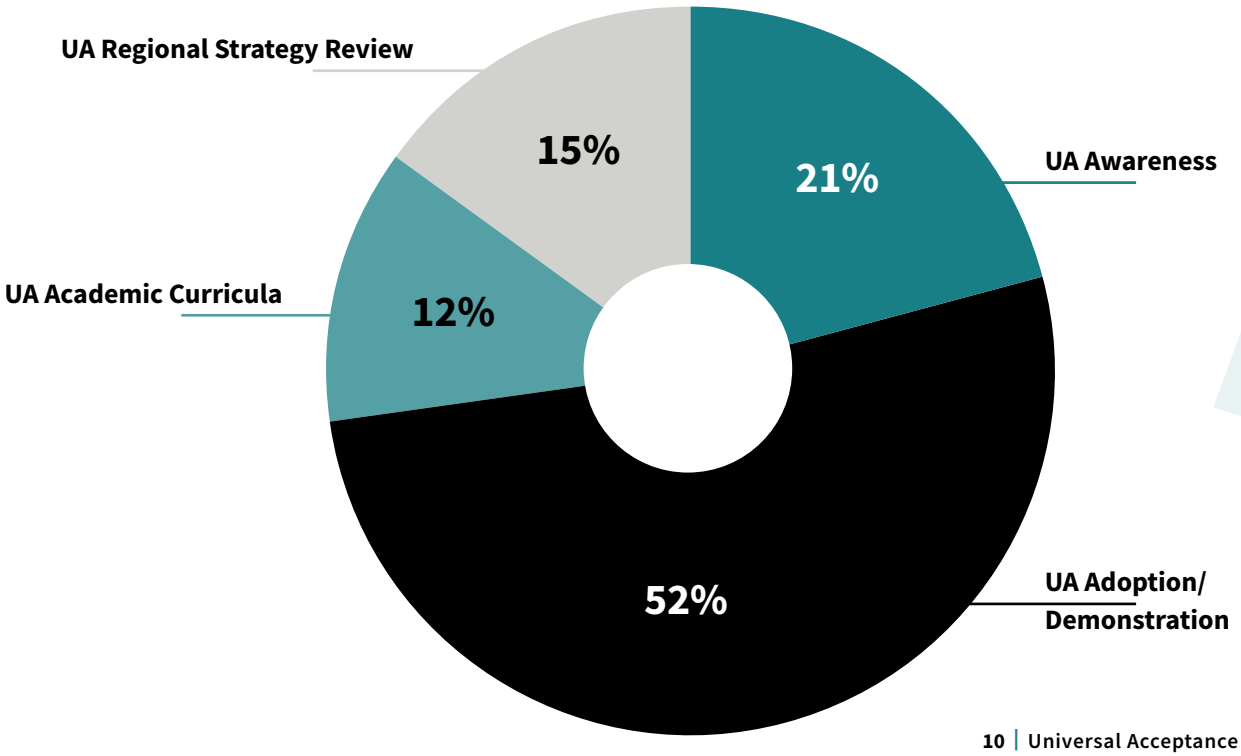
UA Day Events by Type

Of the 33 events, 17 were focused on UA adoption and seven on UA awareness. In addition, four events were held on UA curriculum and five were on regional strategy. These details are provided in **Table 2** and illustrated in **Figure 3**.

Table 2: UA Day 2026 Events by Type and Region

Region	Awareness	Curriculum	Adoption/ Demonstration	Regional Strategy	Grand Total
Africa	2	1	9	1	13
Asia Pacific	2	1	5	1	9
Europe	2	0	1	1	4
Latin America and the Caribbean	0	2	2	1	5
North America	1	0	0	1	2
Total	7	4	17	5	33

Figure 3: Distribution of UA Day 2026 Events by Type



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UA Day Adoption and Demonstration Events

UA Day adoption events were intended for organizations with technical capability to conduct a UA adoption exercise, document the experience, and then share the challenges and solutions to becoming UA-ready with the audience during the UA Day event. The **specific requirements for UA Adoption and Demonstration Events** set expectations about the work to be accomplished:

1. Register an IDN or use an existing IDN to set up a webpage online with WordPress or Drupal that is able to input and process all valid domain names and email addresses.
2. Set up an email server that supports Email Address Internationalization (EAI) using the **EAI self-hosting script** published by ICANN.
3. Create email addresses in a local language using the IDN registered to test the UA-ready website.

For UA Adoption and Demonstration Event organizers, ICANN offered a six-hour **demo training** to showcase step-by-step UA implementation, and provided technical support to the organizers in case they came across any issues. Adoption events helped build technical capacity and demonstrate real-world applications, encouraging the audience to be UA-ready. In many cases, the local language domain name and email address were introduced for the first time in the community, showcasing meaningful access for local communities.

This year, 17 UA Adoption and Demonstration Events were organized in which IDNs were registered and email addresses created in the following scripts and languages:

- Scripts used: Arabic, Devanagari, Latin, Telugu, Thai, and Tifinagh
- Languages used: Amazigh, Arabic, Ewe/Ga, French, Krio, Nepali, Romanian, Spanish, Telugu, Thai, Urdu, Wolofal, and Yoruba.

Table 3: IDNs and Email Addresses That Were Registered for UA Day 2026 Adoption and Demonstration Events

#	Country	Website IDN	Language of the Domain Name	Script of the Domain Name	Sample Email Address
1	Kenya	شبكة.ac.ke	Arabic	Arabic script	demo@شبكة.ac.ke
2	Senegal	خوال.com	Arabic and Wolofal	Arabic script	全球普适性倡导者@خوال.com
3	Lebanon	يوم-القبول-الشامل.com	Arabic	Arabic script	تواصل@يوم-القبول-الشامل.com
4	Pakistan	تیزبوسٹ.بازار	Urdu	Arabic script	اسد@تیزبوسٹ.پاکستان
5	Thailand	เว็บ.คน.ธุรกิจ.ไทย	Thai	Thai script	mailbox1@เว็บ.คน.ธุรกิจ.ไทย
6	Nepal	क्यान.संगठन	Nepali	Devanagari script	इनफो@क्यान.संगठन
7	India	ఐసాక్ఇండియాహైదరాబాద్.భారత్	Telugu	Telugu script	సమాచారం@ఐసాక్ఇండియాహైదరాబాద్.భారత్
8	Morocco	ⵜⴼⵗⵔⵄⵙ.com	Amazigh (Tamazight)	Tifinagh script	info@ⵜⴼⵗⵔⵄⵙ.com
9	Uganda	journée-ua.org	French	Latin script	journée@journée-ua.org
10	Nigeria	élève.com	French	Latin script	expéditeur@élève.com
11	Burkina Faso	étalon.com	French	Latin script	françois@étalon.com
12	Ghana	wɔsɛɛko.com	Ewe / Ga	Latin script	ghanauaday@wɔsɛɛko.com
13	Sierra Leone	siérraleone-ua.org/ualsite	Krio	Latin script	info@siérraleone-ua.org
14	Republic of Moldova	asociația-internet.com	Romanian	Latin script	contact@asociația-internet.com
15	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	amamoslañ.com	Spanish	Latin script	info@amamoslañ.com
16	Peru	digitalñan.pe	Spanish	Latin script	ñawi@digitalñan.pe
17	Nigeria	ìtẹwọgbàkáríayé.com	Yoruba	Latin script	mailbox1@ìtẹwọgbàkáríayé.com

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UA Day Event Materials and Publications

To support UA Day event organizers and manage consistent messaging, a variety of materials were developed, including awareness and technical training presentations, graphics, and videos. The materials were also translated and made available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. These materials were made available to UA Day organizers through the UA Day webpage. These are listed below.

Welcome Videos:

- Tripti Sinha, Chair of the ICANN Board
- Kurtis Lindqvist, ICANN President and CEO
- Guilherme Canela, Director of the Division for Digital Inclusion and Policies and Digital Transformation of UNESCO (EN, ES, FR, PT)

Technical Videos:

- Introduction to Universal Acceptance (AR, EN, ES, FR, PT, TH, ZU)

UA Day Materials (With Translations):

- Awareness Presentation — 1 hour (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
- Awareness Presentation — 2 hours (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
- Technical Overview — 2 hours (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
- Academic Curriculum Discussion and Roadmap Development — 2 hours (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
- Technical Adoption Experience — 3 hours (With WordPress) (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
- Technical Adoption Experience — 3 hours (With Drupal) (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
- Specific Requirements for UA Adoption and Demonstration Events

Messaging:

- ICANN ON – Supporting a More Multilingual Internet
- ICANN ON – Internationalized Domain Names in Action Globally
- UA Day Messages Collation

Flyers:

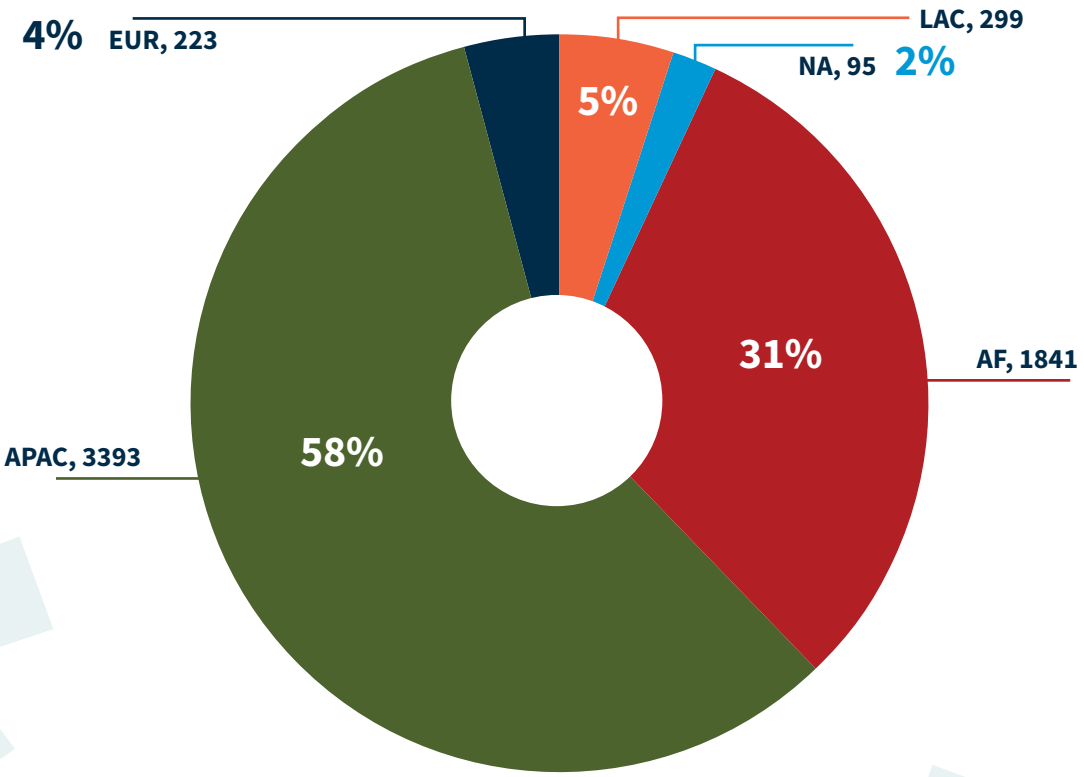
- UA Curriculum Integration Program (AR, ES, FR, RU, ZH)
- UA Roadmap for Registry and Registrar Systems

The webpage also included suggested UA Day agendas to help organizers plan their events.

UA Day Participants

UA Day events were able to create significant awareness around the world and featured a total of 5,851 participants in 2026. A total of 58 percent of participants were from the APAC region, 31 percent were from Africa, 5 percent were from the LAC region, 4 percent were from Europe, and 2 percent were from North America. The distribution of participants across regions is shown in **Figure 4**.

Figure 4: UA Day 2026 Participants by Region



These participants represented many different stakeholders, including:

- Businesses
- Governments and telecom regulators
- Civil society and nongovernment organizations, including At-Large Structures and Internet Society chapters
- Intergovernmental organizations
- IT companies and technology startups
- The DNS industry
- Internet service providers and hosting providers
- Academia, including faculty and students
- Email (and system) administrators
- Email software providers
- Technology developers
- Linguists
- Media

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UA Day Events by Language

UA Day events were held in 15 languages, including Amazigh, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, English, French, Kiswahili, Krio, Nepali, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Thai, and Urdu.

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UA Day Communications and Photos Coverage

ICANN conducted comprehensive communications outreach to spread UA Day awareness and encourage participation. Key communications included:

- **ICANN and UNESCO Announce Schedule of Events for UA Day 2026** on 6 February 2026
- **Updated: ICANN Issues Call for UA Day 2026 Proposals** on 7 November 2025
- **ICANN Issues Call for UA Day 2026 Proposals** on 9 October 2025

UA Day events were also promoted on ICANN social media platforms, and by event organizers from their social channels with #Internet4All, #UADay2026, and #UADay hashtags. UNESCO also published UA Day-related posts through its channels.

For UA Day 2026 photos, please visit the **Flickr album**.

UA Days 2023–2026: At a Glance

From 2023 through 2026, UA Day has grown into a significant global effort, bringing together academia, businesses, civil society, the public sector, and the technical community to work toward a more inclusive and multilingual internet. A total of 200 UA Day events have been held across 86 countries and territories in 42 languages between 2023 and 2026.

Figure 5 shows how these events are distributed across the different years. Given the focus on UA adoption events, which require more effort to implement, fewer events were planned in 2026. However, this shift allowed for a greater impact, as they encouraged action and adoption beyond awareness. Despite fewer events, the average participation increased from 130 people per event in 2025 to 177 per event in 2026. **Figure 6** shows a breakdown of UA Day events held in the five different regions.

Figure 5: UA Day Event, Country and Territory, and Participation Numbers for 2023–2026

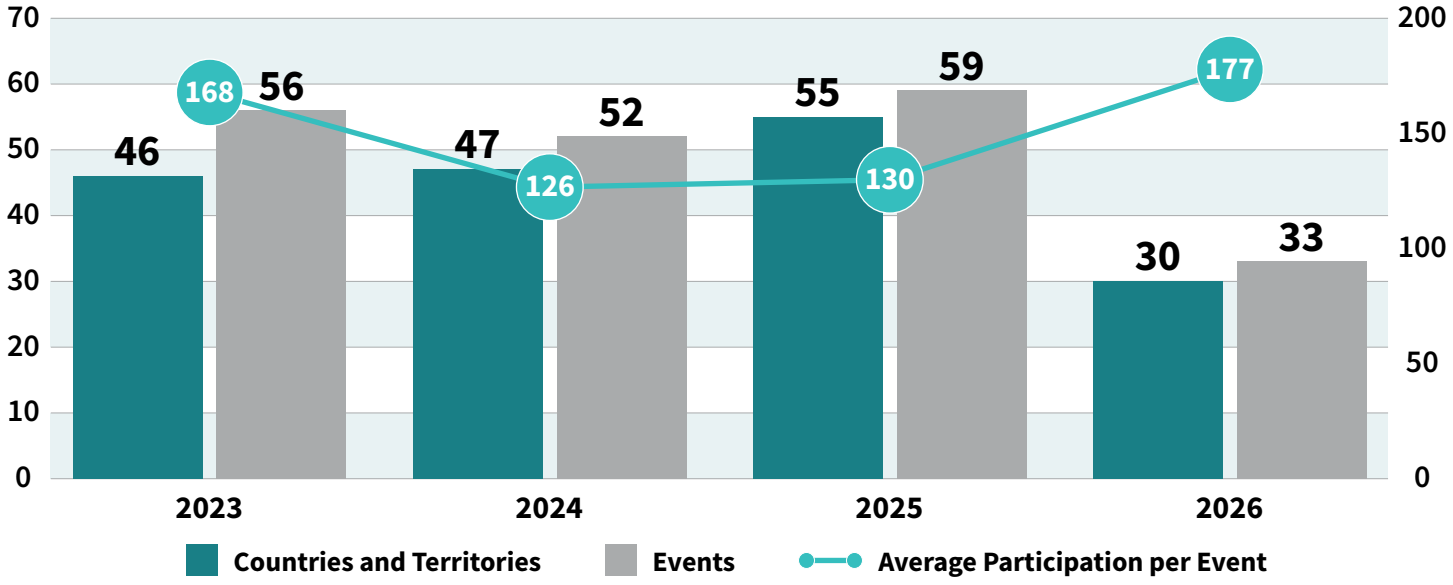
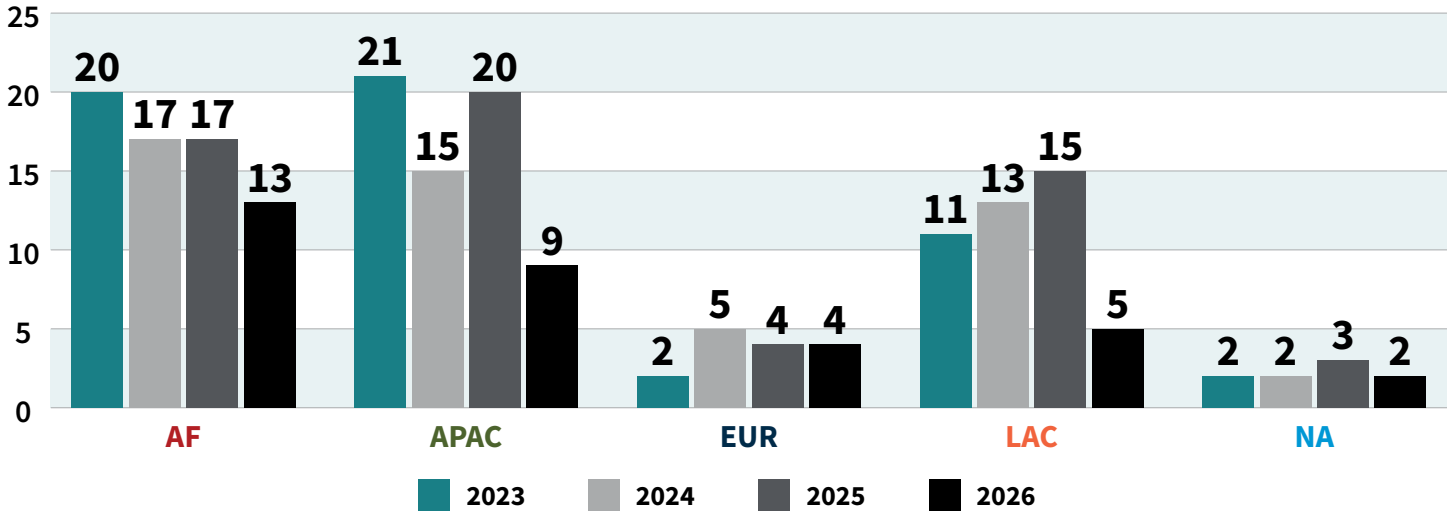


Figure 6: UA Day Events by Region for 2023–2026



UA Days 2023–2026: At a Glance *(continued)*

A total of 29,514 participants have attended UA Day events over the past four years. **Figure 7** shows the number of participants who attended these events per region across these years, with 9,424 participants in 2023, 6,544 participants in 2024, 7,695 participants in 2025, and 5,851 participants in 2026. Finally, **Figure 8** shows the different types of events that were supported over the past four years.

Figure 7: UA Day Event Participation by Region for 2023–2026

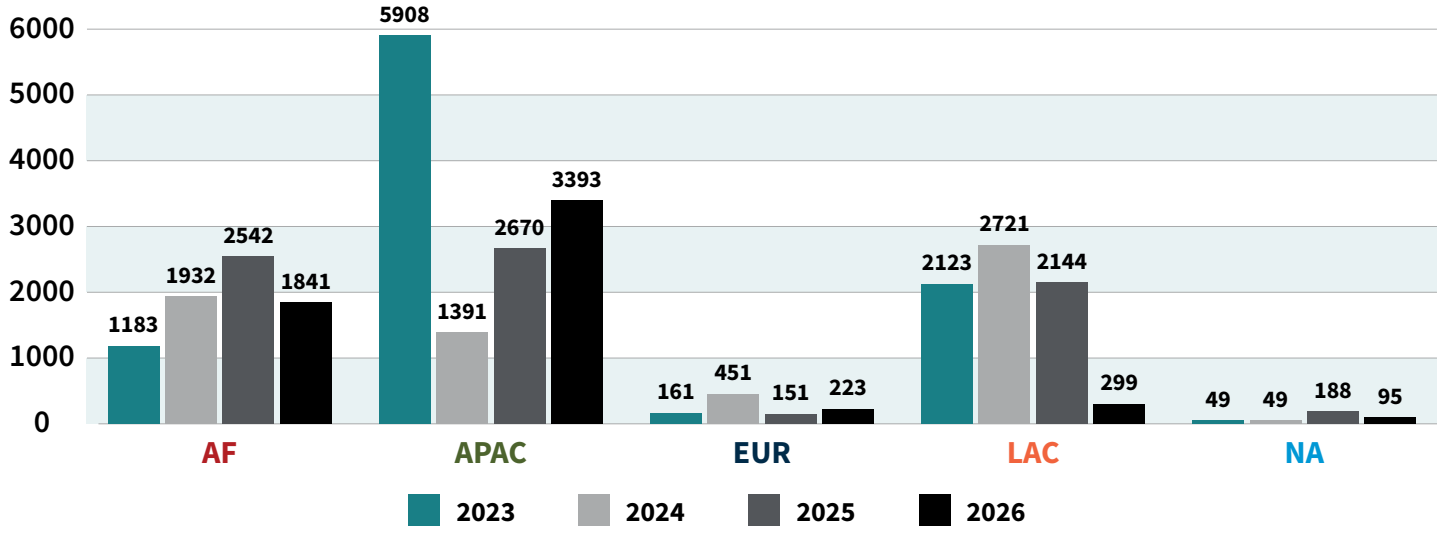
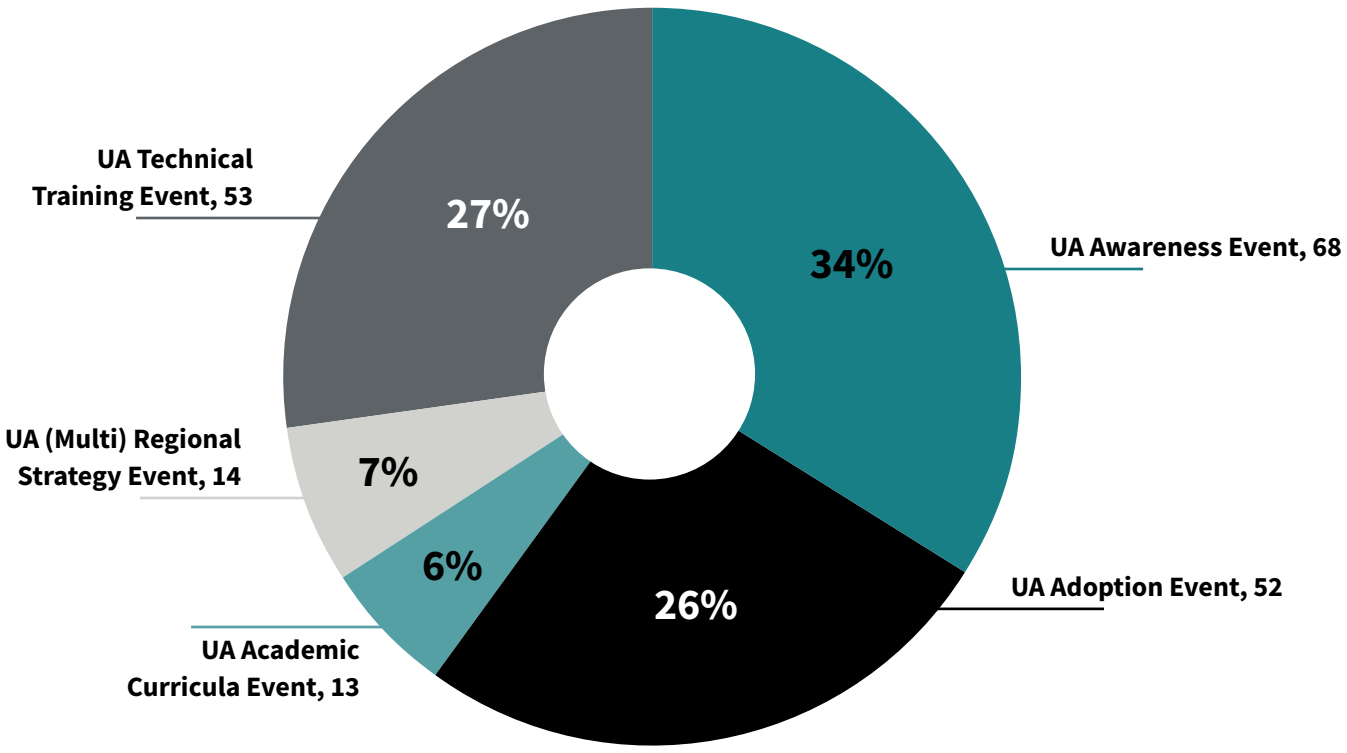


Figure 8: UA Day Events by Type for 2023–2026



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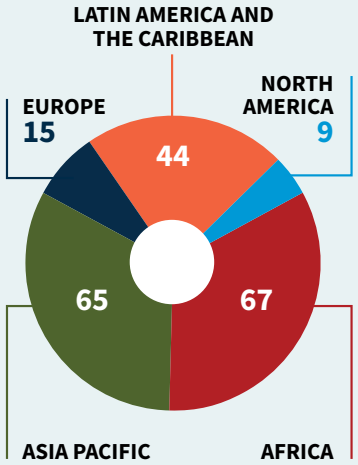
UA Days 2023–2026: At a Glance *(continued)*

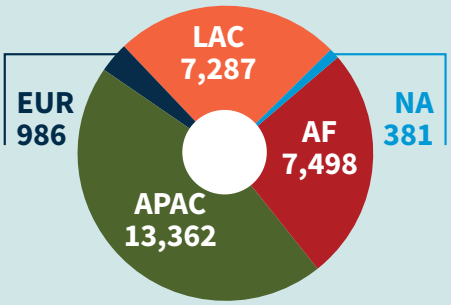
200 UA Day Events

- 4 years
- 86 countries
- 42 languages



29,514 Participants Total Across All Regions

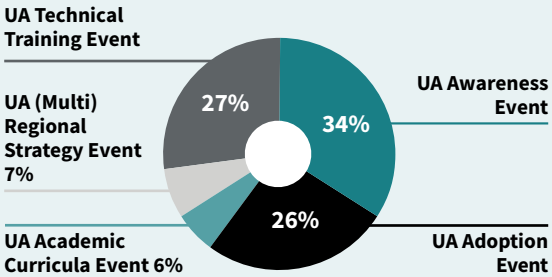
PARTICIPANTS	
2023	9,424
2024	6,544
2025	7,695
2026	5,851



UA Day Event Dates

Organized on or around **28 March annually**, with events between **March and May**.

200 UA Day Events by Type



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