

This document outlines the preliminary forecast for the Internet Society Italy Chapter's Action Plan for 2026. The plan will undergo review, refinement, and formal consolidation at the first General Assembly of members.

Milestones and Strategic Alignment

2026 marks two significant milestones: the celebration of 40 years of the Internet in Italy and the second year of implementation for the ISOC 2030 Strategy. The latter is a five-year framework targeting global inequality and the erosion of trust in the Internet. The Italy Chapter aims to leverage this historic anniversary as both a moment of reflection and a strategic opportunity to reinforce Internet access, trust, and security within the country. Through these efforts, the Chapter seeks to make a concrete contribution to the broader goals of the Internet Society.

Objectives

- Use the 40th anniversary not only as a celebration but as a catalyst for strengthening Internet access, trust, and security in Italy.
- Enable cross-sector collaboration among technologists, policymakers, social scientists, and civil society.
- Co-produce research, share expertise, and design practical interventions to address barriers to digital access.
- Ensure that analyses of digital inequalities are holistic, grounded in real-world contexts, and translated into actionable, inclusive policy and practice.



Planned Activities

Line 1: 40 Years of the Internet in Italy—Memory, Impact, Future

Objectives:

- Utilize the anniversary as a tool for education, advocacy, and fostering a long-term vision for the future of the Internet.
- Empower communities and defend an open and interoperable Internet.

Key actions include:

- National campaign: "The Internet in Italy: 40 Years for Everyone."
- Organizing public events, talks, and workshops.
- Engaging universities, schools, media, historical archives, and Internet pioneers.
- Developing a collaborative digital archive documenting the technical, social, and cultural history of the Internet in Italy.

Line 2: Reducing Access Barriers and Digital Inequalities

Objectives:

- Contribute to more equitable, affordable, and resilient Internet access.
- Promote community-centered connectivity (CCC) as a vital, sustainable approach to bridging the digital divide.

Key actions include:

- Developing evidence-based solutions to reduce digital inequalities.
- Providing accessible and sustainable solutions, along with training for productive Internet use.
- Supporting underserved communities through targeted capacity-building, digital literacy, and skills development initiatives.
- Fostering interdisciplinary research and collaboration across technology, policy, social sciences, and civil society.
- Influencing policy and governance frameworks to address structural digital inequalities at all levels.



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Partnerships

The Chapter aims to build partnerships focused on capacity building, exchanging best practices, and shaping an open and trustworthy Internet. Key stakeholders include:

- Technical and academic communities (e.g. IEEE COMSOC)
- Public institutions
- Civil society organizations
- Media
- Private sector participants (multistakeholder approach)

Target Audience

- Scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds working on Internet governance, digital technologies, and their societal impact.
- Individuals with interests in practical network design, security, and infrastructure development
- Representatives from governments, ICT regulators, and international organizations focused on digital policy
- Educators, and other public service professionals
- Local stakeholders engaged in community-based network projects and digital skills training
- Internet Service Providers (ISPs), technology companies, and telecommunications operators
- Start up, spin off



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Time and Locations

Details about when and where the activities will take place will be defined and shared as planning progresses.

Internet Society Support

Building on the support of the Internet Society Foundation, this initiative will seek funding through two areas: Chapter Admin Founding and the Beyond the Net Grant Program.

On January 27, 2026, the Isoc Italy Board reviewed and approved a preliminary budget forecast for the upcoming year. This preview outlines anticipated expenses in several key areas:

2026 Expenses Preview
Organization of conferences, seminars, and round tables
Organization of board meetings and assemblies
Reimbursement of documented expenses for participation in board meetings
General and administrative expenses
Bank account management expenses
Dissemination/promotion/participation in international events
Projects



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