

Breaking Down Barriers: A Collaborative Approach to Universal Acceptance in the LAC Region

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Multilingualism, A Key To Digital Inclusion

- ⦿ A linguistically diverse Internet significantly contributes toward a knowledge-based society by bridging the digital divide
- ⦿ A key principle in [WSIS Geneva Declaration](#) in 2003, leading to a commitment “towards multilingualization of the Internet” in the [WSIS Tunis Agenda](#) in 2005.
 - Advance the introduction of **multilingualism in domain names, and e-mail addresses**, by implementing programmes and strengthening cooperation for their global deployment.
- ⦿ UNESCO, in its [multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace](#) 2003 recommendations asked to alleviate language barriers on the Internet by access to content, capacity-building, national policies, and collaborative research and development on, and local adaptation of technology with extensive multilingual capabilities.

Examples of Local Language Domain Names and Email Addresses

1. համընդհանուր-ընկալում-թեստ.հայ Armenian

2. ୟୁନିଭରସାଲ-ଏକସେପ୍ଟ-ଟେଷ୍ଟ.ଭାରତ Oriya

3. უნივერსალური-თავსობადობის-ტესტი.გე Georgian

1. 电子邮件测试 @ 普遍适用测试.我爱你 Chinese

2. ईमेल-परीक्षण @ सार्वभौमिक-स्वीकृति-परीक्षण.संगठन Devanagari

3. موريتانيا.الشامل-القبول-تجربة @ الكتروني-بريد-تجربة Arabic



Accept



Validate



Process



Store



Display

What is Universal Acceptance?

- ⦿ While the Domain Name System (DNS) has evolved, the checks used by many software applications to validate domain names and email addresses remain outdated.
- ⦿ In addition, not all online portals are primed for the opening of a user account with a related email address, leaving many people unable to navigate the Internet using their language and online identity of choice.
- ⦿ Considered a technical compliance best practice, UA solves these issues by ensuring all valid domain names and email addresses, regardless of script, language or character length, can be used equally by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems

The Universal Acceptance Challenge

- ⦿ Prevents Internet users from experiencing the full benefits of the multilingual Internet.
- ⦿ Only about 10% of 1000 popular national or 1000 popular global websites tested can accept valid email addresses in local languages.
- ⦿ Only about 22.23% of deployed email servers using a domain name registered with a gTLD can accept email addresses in local languages.
- ⦿ Example of a website which is not UA-ready:

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Role of Stakeholders to Promote IDNs and UA

- ⦿ **Governments:** Develop and implement procurement policies requiring support of domain names and email addresses in local languages for government websites and applications to provide better access for citizens. Measure national progress on IDN and UA support.
- ⦿ **TLD Registries and Registrars:** Update their registration to support domain names and email addresses in local languages.
- ⦿ **Technology Businesses:** Update software design requirements to support domain names and email addresses in local languages by default in the websites, applications and email systems they develop or deploy.
- ⦿ **Universities and Teaching Institutes:** Upgrade curricula (e.g., information technology programs) to include IDN and UA concepts and solutions.
- ⦿ **Civil Society:** Create awareness and promote the use of domain names and email addresses in local languages to enable more meaningful access.

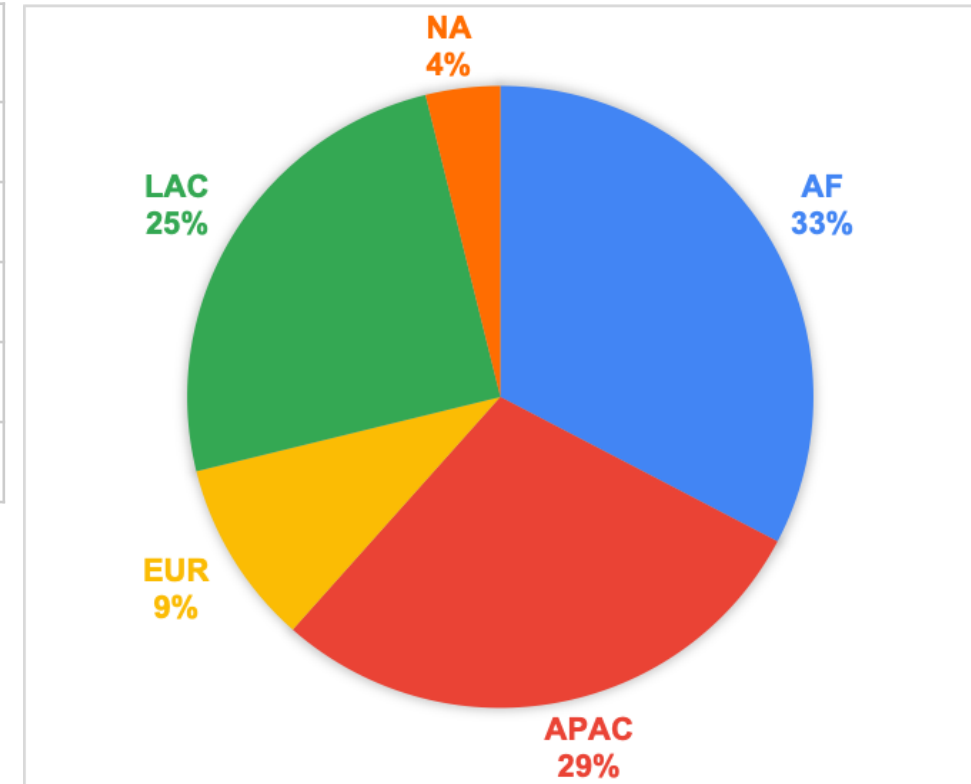
Work Being Done by Community and ICANN Org

- ⦿ Outreach to community globally by organizing the UA Day annually – 52 event in 47 countries held between March – May, 2024, attended by more than 6000 participants. Visit <https://UniversalAcceptance.day> for more details.
- ⦿ Measure UA gaps in underlying technology – programming languages, email tools, content management systems, authentication software and other software – see [UA Readiness Report](#).
- ⦿ Work to raise awareness and technical capacity of local technical communities around the world with the support of UA Ambassadors and UA Local Initiatives – see [UA Activities Report](#).
- ⦿ Identify technical gaps, report bug fixes and contribute relevant code to open source projects and tools, e.g. WordPress, Dovecot, etc. – see [UA Readiness Report](#).
- ⦿ Reach out to big tech organizations to report bug reports and work with them to address UA readiness of their applications.
- ⦿ Reach out to academia for adopting IDN and UA concepts in their IT related curricula, as per details in the [draft curriculum](#).

UA Day 2024 Proposals and Shortlist

- UA Day: <https://UniversalAcceptance.day>.
 - [Universal Acceptance \(UA\) Day 2024 Report](#).
- ICANN and the UASG [announced](#) a [call for UA Day event proposals](#) on 1 November 2023 with 15 December 2023 as the last date for proposal submission.

Region	Proposals	Shortlisted	Organized
AF	43	19	17
APAC	33	16	15
EUR	10	5	5
LAC	42	14	13
NA	5	2	2



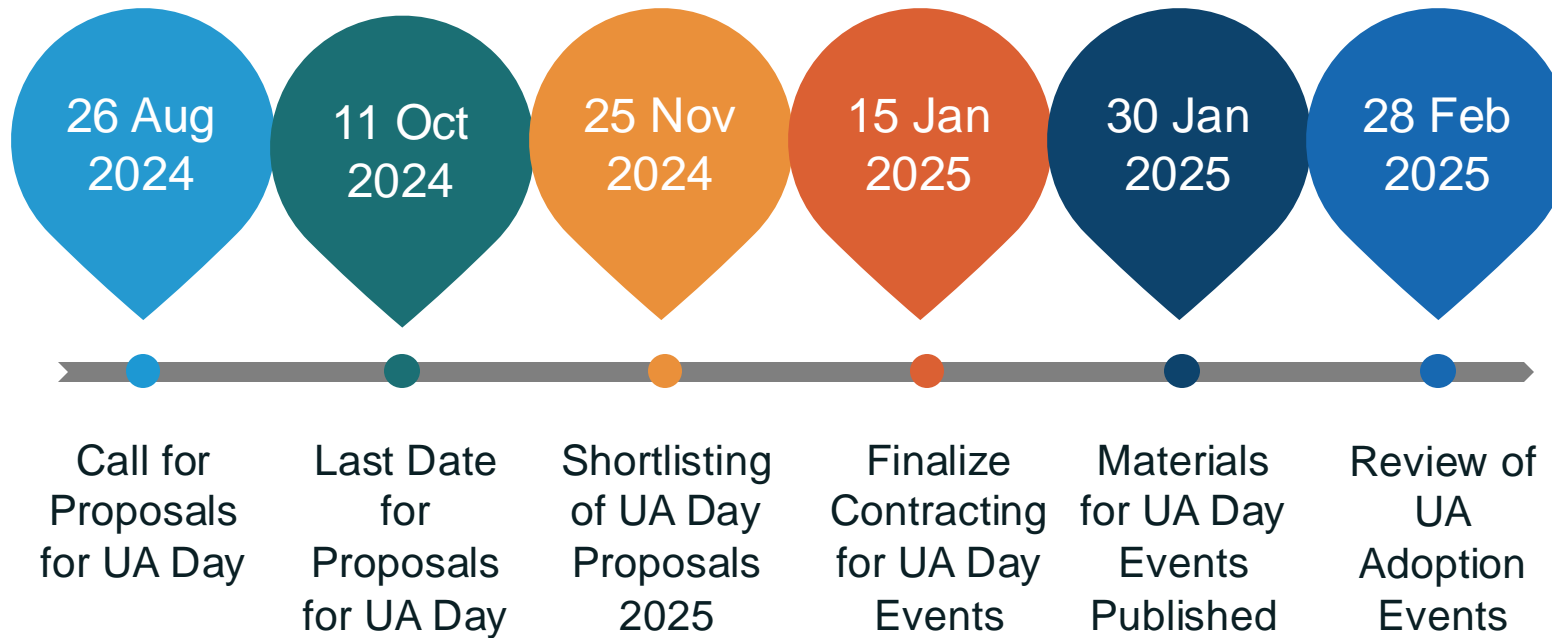
UA Day 2024 Events by Location

- ⦿ A total of 52 UA Day events were organized across 47 countries.
- ⦿ **Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- ⦿ **Asia Pacific:** Armenia, Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and United Arab Emirates.
- ⦿ **Europe:** France, North Macedonia, Serbia, Spain, and Switzerland.
- ⦿ **Latin America and Caribbean:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, México, Panamá St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.
- ⦿ **North America:** United States of America.
- ⦿ UA Day events were held in more than 23 languages, including Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bangla, Bemba, Burmese, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Korean, Lao, Macedonian, Nyanja, Portuguese, Serbian, Sesotho, Sinhala, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil, and Thai.

UA Day 2025

- ◉ [Call for Proposals for UA Day 2025](#) announced on 26 August 2024.
 - Submit an event proposal through the [UA Day Event Proposal Form](#).
- ◉ Last date to submit is 11 October 2024.
 - Quick link: <https://UniversalAcceptance.day>.
 - Further information: info@uasg.tech or UAProgram@icann.org.
- ◉ Types of events:
 - UA Awareness.
 - UA Technical Training.
 - UA Strategy.
 - UA Academic Curricula.
 - UA Adoption.
- ◉ Materials and resources will be provided, including presentations, videos and support.
- ◉ Trainers available, based on availability.

Tentative UA Day 2025 Plans



**UA Day Events:
1 March – 30 May
2025**

UA Day 2025: How Can You Contribute?

- ⦿ Help disseminate the call for proposals for UA Day 2025.
- ⦿ Submit proposals for UA Day events.
- ⦿ Disseminate the shortlisted proposals.
- ⦿ Participate in your local or regional UA Day events.

- ⦿ Cover theoretical knowledge, standards and best practices.
- ⦿ Develop practical programming competence.
- ⦿ Develop short (micro-learning) modules to integrate key concepts into the existing coursework:
 - Internationalization using Unicode.
 - Internationalized Domain Names.
 - Email Address Internationalization.
- ⦿ Distribute new concepts across relevant courses.
- ⦿ Introduce minimal new courses, only focused on more advanced topics.
- ⦿ Twelve modules, with descriptions and contents available at:
<https://community.icann.org/display/TUA/Draft+UA+Curriculum>

UA Curriculum Integration

- ⦿ What is offered by ICANN:
 - UA curriculum materials.
 - Faculty training with participation certificates.
 - Support when the universities integrate the curriculum into their programs for 1-2 years.
 - Social media and other coverage of the initiative.

- ⦿ What universities are expected to provide:
 - Agreement to integrate the UA curriculum into their courses.
 - Availability of relevant faculty for the 2-3 day faculty training program.
 - Updating relevant courses to teach the IDN and UA concepts.
 - Interim discussions every few months to see how the program is progressing.

- ⦿ For details, please contact UAProgram@icann.org.

Thank You
