

Activity Report 2025

This is a list of all activities undertaken by the ISOC-CH Board and membership from **March 2025 to February 2026**.

DRAFT VERSION, February 23, 2026

(the final version will be presented at the GV 2026, on March 27th, 2026)

Activities

Board Meetings

The Board met four times during the reporting period (20 May 2025, 28 July 2025, 3 October 2025, 5 January 2026). Key decisions included:

- Organization of governance and public policy discussions;
- Joined various open letters and civil society submissions relating to encryption and privacy.

ISOC Global

Berna Alp participated in numerous community and training activities organized by ISOC global, like the capacity strengthening program offered by Nonprofit Builder, in partnership with the Internet Society Foundation (June 2025), a series of fundraising global advocacy workshops (August 2025), and a briefing with Meta: AI-Powered Summaries on WhatsApp (July 2025).

Panayotis Antoniadis gave a lightning talk at Q3 ISOC European Regional Call (September 25th 2025) on the NGIO project (see below).

In general, ISOC-CH participates regularly at the European Chapter Leaders and Regional calls and we have established a very good collaboration with the new ISOC community manager in Europe, Ruben Martin.

Our ISOC CH Chapter Evaluation for 2025 was a 100% Badge Score which corresponds to a "Gigabit" award.

NGIO Commons Fund Project

The engagement of ISOC-CH with the NGIO Commons Fund is progressing on schedule with Panayotis Antoniadis, Hernani Marques, and our new policy expert Alex Pitsch, all three with a 30% enrollment.

We are developing two threads for developing the so-called [Tech Dossiers](#).

- The first one is focusing on the technical aspects of FOSS software supported by the NGIO Commons Fund project and beyond for which a git-based collaborative work environment has been established and you can already have a look at our first [draft dossiers](#);
- The second one is focusing on addressing less technical audiences with a priority to three target groups: policy makers, educators, and the general public.

A [long-term campaign](#) on the meaning of digital sovereignty, which is attracting a lot of attention lately in Europe is being developed with a dedicated graphic concept and a lot of interesting events and networking activities:



What does digital sovereignty mean for
policy makers? the government?
companies? educators? civil society? YOU?

 Internet Society
Switzerland Chapter

A series of events and documents by ISOC Switzerland
chapter – follow us to stay informed and participate

 **NGIO** ZERO
COMMONS

www.isoc.ch

The campaign will be launched on March 27th, 2026 at an [international hybrid event](#) with special guests from ISOC European Chapters (Germany and Serbia) and other civil society organizations (Free Software Foundation Europe, Wikimedia, and La Quadrature du Net).

Another [workshop focusing on educators](#) will take place in the context of the Open Education Day 2026, following up from an intimate roundtable with key local actors at L200.

Marianthe Stavridou, in her capacity as the NGIO project representative in Greece works closely with the other national representatives to strengthen collaboration between Switzerland and the European Union. Furthermore, in her role as an Ethics Expert to the European Commission, Marianthe continuously evaluates research

projects within the Horizon framework, with a particular focus on ethical and societal impact.

Local context

The Public Policy Aspects Committee (PPAC) is the most active Committee within ISOC-CH. It closely monitors developments in the Swiss policy landscape and drives ISOC-CH's engagement in various key initiatives, including the E-ID referendum and the Swiss Surveillance (VÜPF and VD-ÜPF) Framework Debate. These efforts recently yielded [a positive outcome](#), the Federal Council agreed to revisit and re-consult on proposed changes to the surveillance ordinances.

For the E-ID debate our official position was published on September 4th, complemented with [a hybrid event](#): while we do not oppose the idea of e-ID as a service to the population, we think that it has to be transparent and open-source by design, not a tool for surveillance.

The Public Policy Aspects Committee also [contributed](#) to the public consultation on the proposed law on communication platforms and search engines. The biggest concern lies in the decision making process on whether a "potentially illegal" user provided content shall be sanctioned, and whether this decision should be delegated from the courts to operators (it should not).

Related to these and other topics, various opinion blog posts have been published by members of the board and the Public Policy Aspects Committee:

- [The wider impact of open-source AI.](#)
- [Open Source vs. Closed Control: How Switzerland Built Better.](#)
- [Switzerland's Privacy and Encryption Under Attack](#)
- [Encryption.](#)
- [Centralisation of Power in Swiss E-ID.](#)
- [The state of discussions on digital sovereignty in Switzerland and Europe](#)
- [UK Government's Demand for an Apple Backdoor Puts Global Security at Risk.](#)

The world is becoming a more aggressive and surveilled place, and we encourage you to read the above, not to be more worried about it (though you should!) but also to better understand what we can do about it.

On a related note, a series of short informative “happy hour” events has been initiated at the L200 space, starting with an [update on recent developments](#) related to email encryption

The [L200 space](#) is hosting most of the physical events organized by ISOC-CH and we are exploring ways to provide a more regular presence at the center of Zurich promoting our activities.

Finally, ISOC-CH became a member of the [Network SDS](#) (Sovereign Digital Switzerland), which connects Swiss organizations from the public and private sectors to exchange on digital sovereignty, particularly regarding ways to reduce vendor lock-in, using and developing open-source technologies, operating sovereign IT infrastructures, and of course fostering international dialogue.

International collaborations

ISOC-CH is closely following the activities of the [Global Encryption Coalition](#) and attending various online meetings. Mariantha Stavridou will be joining the next **European Encryption Advocacy Workshop** in Brussels.

Our members have also participated in various international events relating to internet governance:

- Marianthe Stavridou attended the 10th South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG 10), “A Decade of Dialogue and Cooperation: What’s Next?” in Athens, Greece, and listed [her takeaways](#).
- She also attended DESCON 9.0: Navigating Trust and Power in the Algorithmic Age, in Belgrade, Serbia, as a keynote speaker. You can read [her notes](#) or, better, watch her [keynote address](#).
- Alex Pitsch attended the 25th SFSCON on The ever-growing importance of Free Software, in Bolzano, Italy and shared his [own notes](#) as well.

In 2025, together with Ewa Luger from the University of Edinburgh, Marianthe Stavridou co-authored a paper examining the “impact of artificial intelligence on our societies”, (to appear soon) exploring how AI technologies are reshaping labour practices, social structures, and ethical frameworks.

Finally, ISOC-CH participated at the open call for evidence on the “European Open Digital Ecosystem Strategy”, which contained [elements of our approach](#) on digital sovereignty. Needless to say (but we say it anyway), Free and Open Source Software is the future.

Interchapter Collaborations:

We're currently exploring collaboration with the UK Chapter on the following initiatives:

- Co-organizing WSIS+20 workshop in Geneva
- Hosting a comparative surveillance legislation webinar

Global outreach

Home page

Our web site is now very active and up to date regarding our various activities. Check the [News](#) and [Events](#) sections!

Publications

P. Antoniadis. (2025). "How Much Technology Is Needed to Build a Smart Community Space?", *Computer*, vol. 58, no. 12, pp. 65-74. DOI: [10.1109/MC.2025.3613483](https://doi.org/10.1109/MC.2025.3613483).

Social media

- ISOC-CH's [Mastodon account](#) is hosted at fosstodon, and has 92 followers (42 new followers)
- [X/Twitter](#) has 1058 followers (13 new followers);
- Our [Facebook group](#) has 194 members (7 new members);
- Our [LinkedIn](#) page has 225 followers (42 new followers).