



RIPE NCC

RIPE NETWORK COORDINATION CENTRE

The RIPE Policy Development Process

Webinar

RIPE NCC Learning & Development

Agenda



RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP) Framework

Participate in Ongoing Discussions

Create a Policy Proposal

Global Policy Development Process (extra)

PDP in Other Regions (extra)



RIPE PDP Framework

The Internet Registry System



ARIN
American Registry for Internet Numbers

 **RIPE NCC**
RIPE NETWORK COORDINATION CENTRE

 **APNIC**

lacnic 

AFRINIC
The Internet Numbers Registry for Africa 



RIPE NCC

- Started operating in 1992
- Not-for-profit membership organisation
- 23,000+ LIR (Local Internet Registries)
- Neutral, Impartial, Open, Transparent
- Follows policies decided by RIPE community



What is a Policy?



*“The set of basic principles and associated guidelines, formulated and enforced by the **governing body** of an **organisation**, to direct and limit its actions in pursuit of long-term goals.”*

RIPE Community

RIPE NCC

**supporting Internet
infrastructure**



Why Are RIPE Policies Important?

- Regulate Internet resource distribution, registration and use (IPv4, IPv6, ASN)
- Define several RIPE NCC services
- Can set RIPE Database rules
- Provide the framework for the RIPE NCC, its members and everyone using Internet resources

Who is 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 activities are performed on a **voluntary basis** and decisions are formed by **consensus**.*

Work is carried out within a variety of working groups (WG). Each WG has one or more mailing lists where relevant topics and questions are discussed.”

RIPE Policy Proposals Discussions



Working Groups

<https://www.ripe.net/participate/ripe/wg/active-wg>

RIPE Mailing lists

<https://www.ripe.net/participate/mail/ripe-mailing-lists>

RIPE Meetings

<https://www.ripe.net/participate/meetings/ripe-meetings>

RIPE Code of Conduct: ripe-766

<https://www.ripe.net/publications/docs/code-of-conduct>

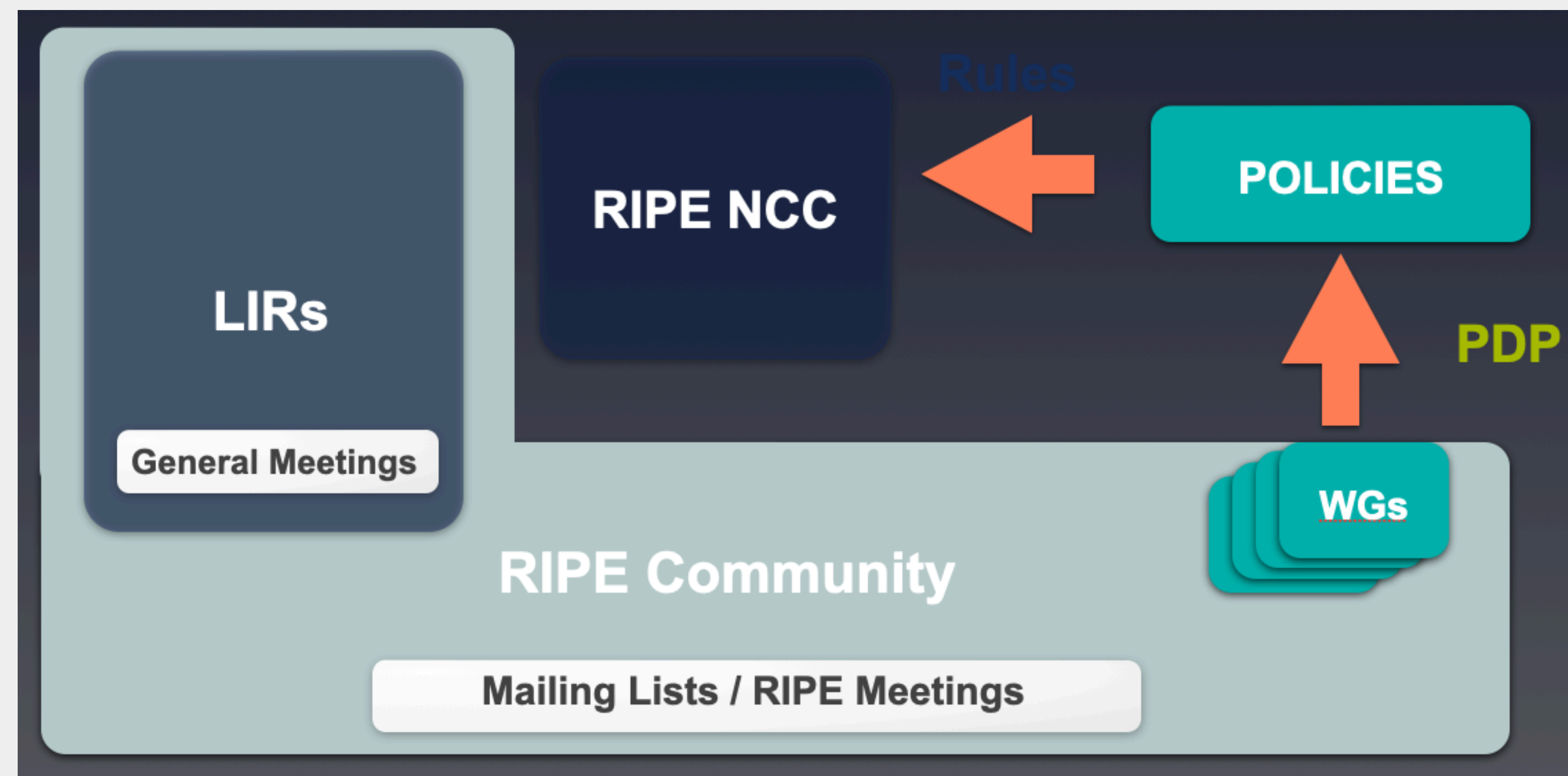
Working Groups:

- Address Policy
- Anti-Abuse
- Connect
- Cooperation
- Database
- DNS
- IoT
- IPv6
- MAT
- Open Source
- RIPE NCC Services
- Routing

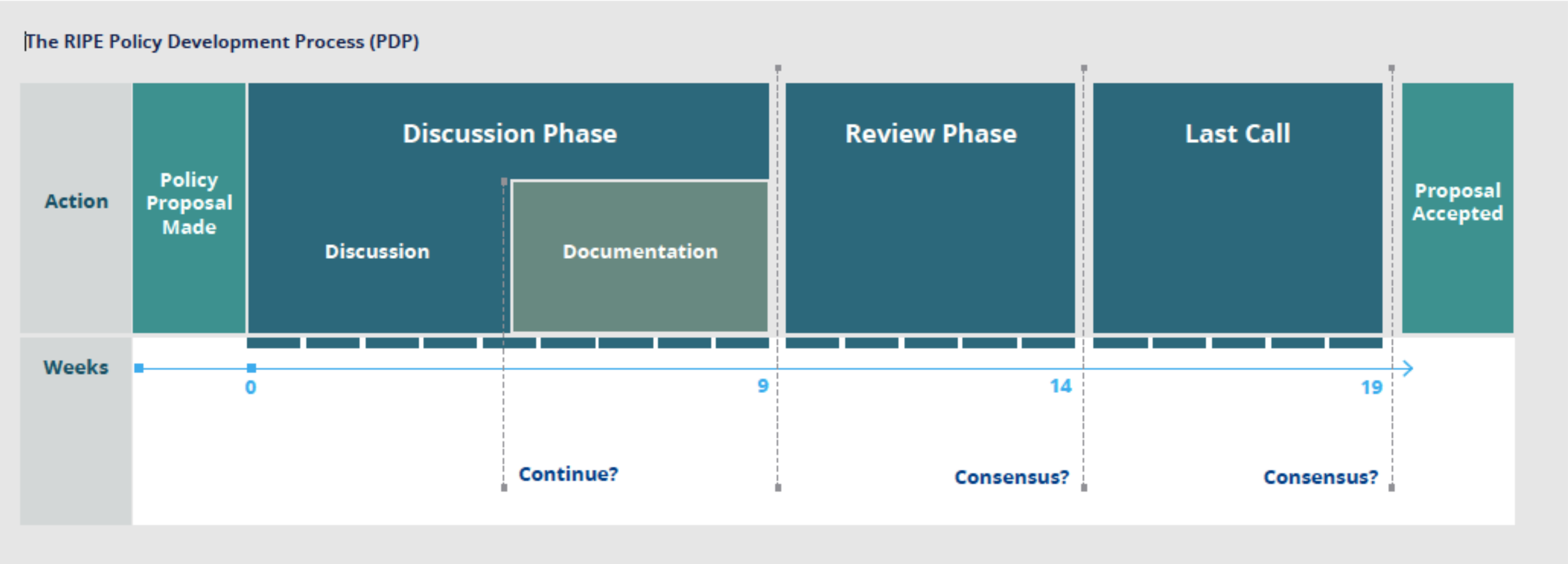


Policy Development Process (PDP)

- Defined in RIPE Document “Policy Development Process in RIPE”: ripe-781
<https://www.ripe.net/publications/docs/pdp>
- The RIPE Chair develops this document in collaboration with the RIPE Community
- The RIPE community is fully in charge of the process



PDP Timeframe





General Rules

- Each phase is announced to the WG mailing list and to the policy-announce mailing list
- Only posts to the WG mailing list are considered for the PDP
- Divergent opinions must be explained
- Objections must be addressed

- WG Chairs steer the discussion but remain neutral
- WG Chairs declare whether **consensus** has been achieved

- The RIPE NCC has no veto rights

Consensus ???



“In general, the dominant view of the working group shall prevail. (However, it must be noted that “dominance” is not to be determined on the basis of volume or persistence, but rather a more general sense of agreement.) [...] Note that 51% of the working group does not qualify as “rough consensus” and 99% is better than rough.

It is up to the Chair to determine if rough consensus has been reached.”

<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2418>

Some Guidelines



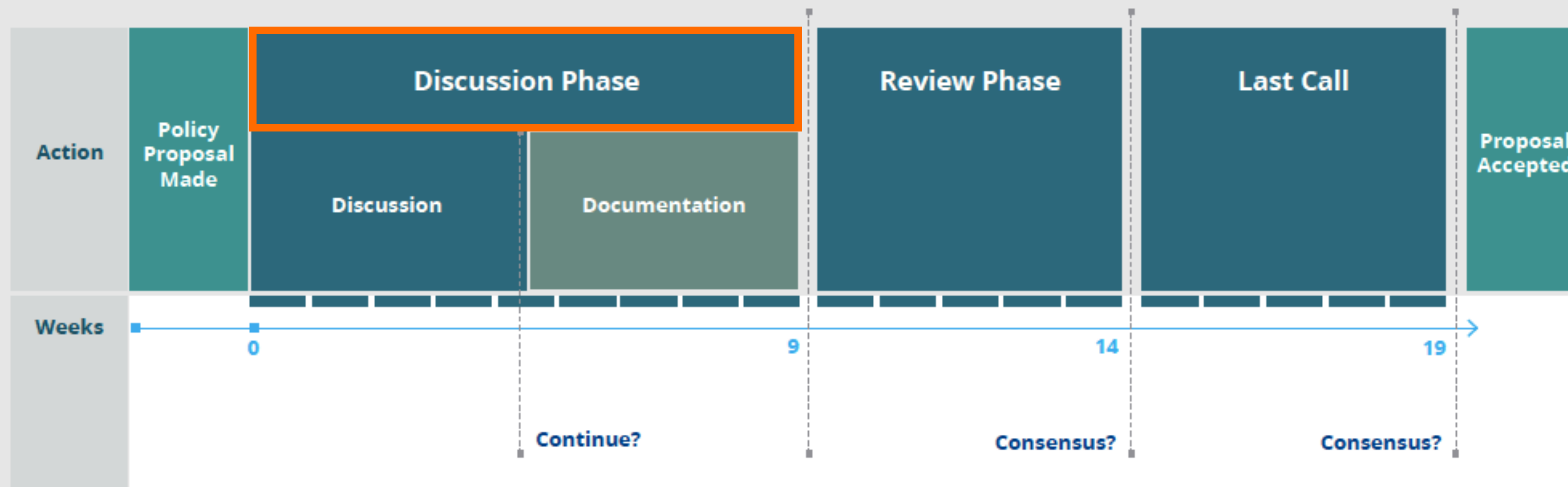
- Not voting
- One person - one opinion
- Employer is not (so) relevant
- Proposal needs a reasonable amount of support
- Opposing opinions must be addressed:
 - Implemented in the proposal
 - Weighted against desired effects of the policy change
 - Proven irrelevant



Initial Discussion Phase (1)

- An idea is presented with pros & cons
- Draft new policy text not mandatory yet (but common)

The RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP)

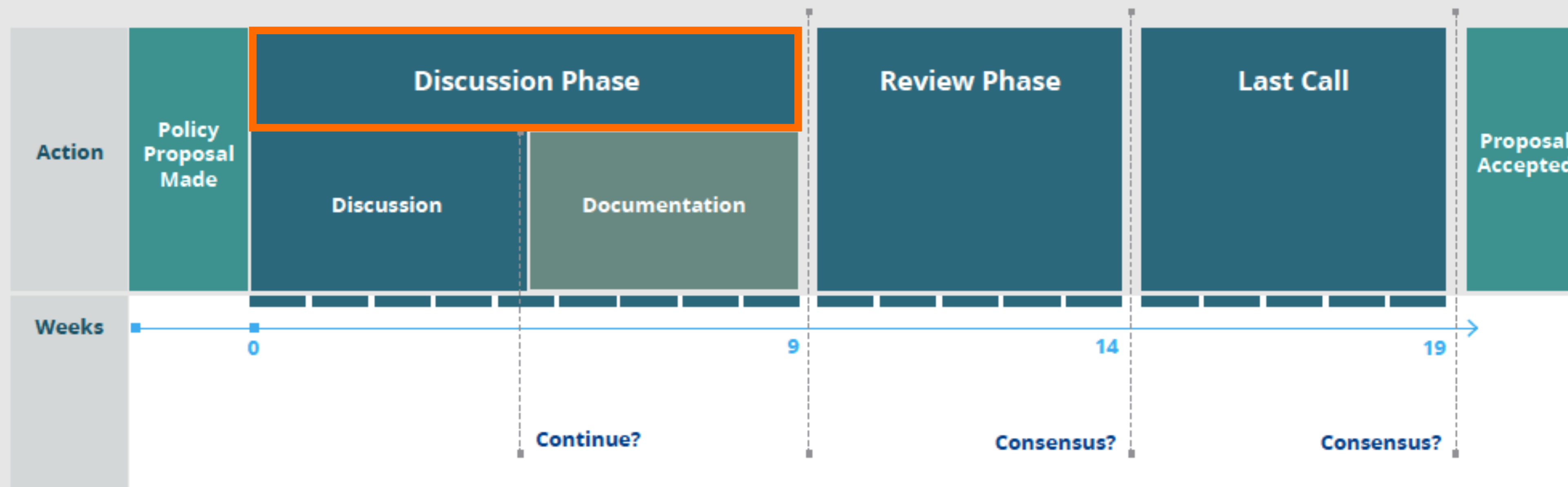




Initial Discussion Phase (2)

- Mailing list subscribers give feedback: support, opposition, suggestions, alternatives
- Proposer decides how to proceed (in agreement with WG Chairs): extend discussion, rewrite proposal, withdraw proposal, move to next phase

The RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP)

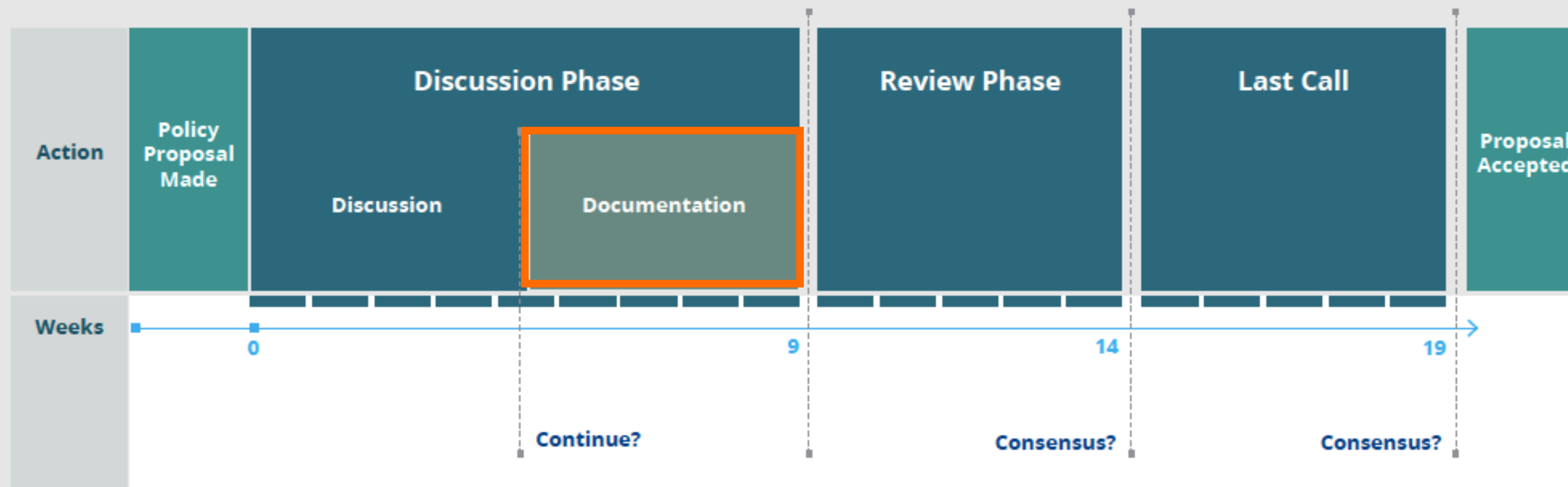




Next Step: Documentation

- **Policy draft** must be written
- The RIPE NCC creates the **impact analysis** on the final version of the proposal:
 - RIPE NCC's understanding of the proposed policy
 - Impact on Internet resources, members and the RIPE NCC
 - Implementation details (extensiveness, duration)

The RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP)

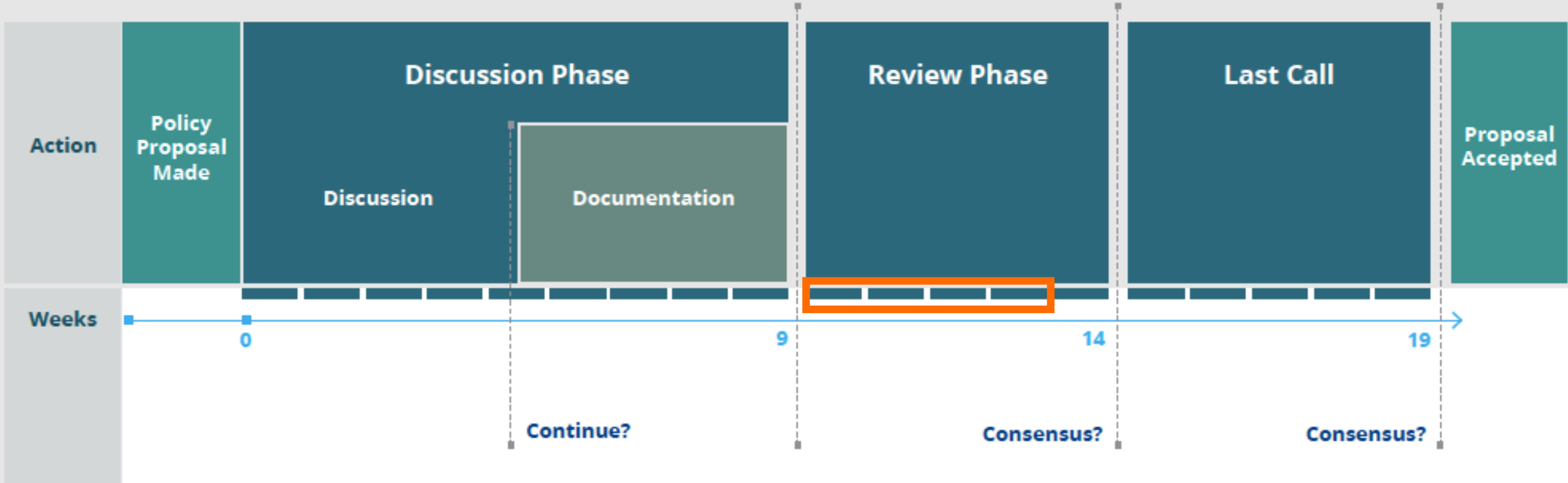




Review Phase (1)

- Proposal is opened for discussion again, including draft policy and impact analysis
- Mailing list subscribers give feedback: support, opposition, suggestions, alternatives

The RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP)

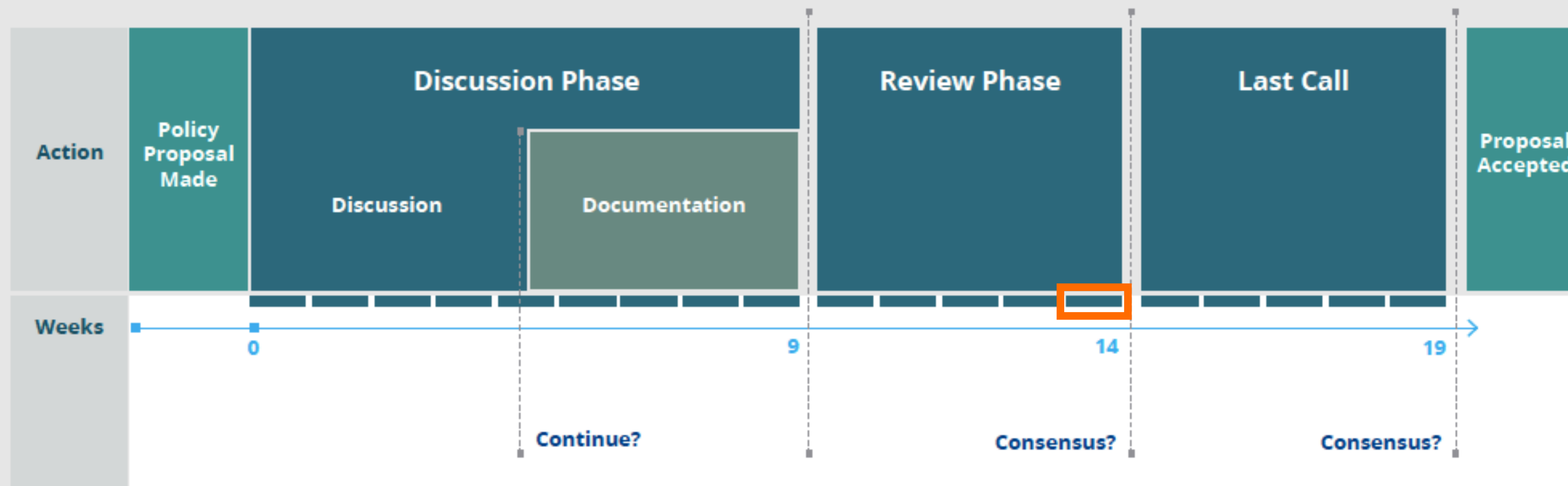




Review Phase (2)

- WG Chairs decide whether **rough consensus** has been achieved (evaluate only comments during Review Phase)
- If no consensus, then WG Chairs decide to extend review phase, ask for a re-write, or withdraw the proposal

The RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP)

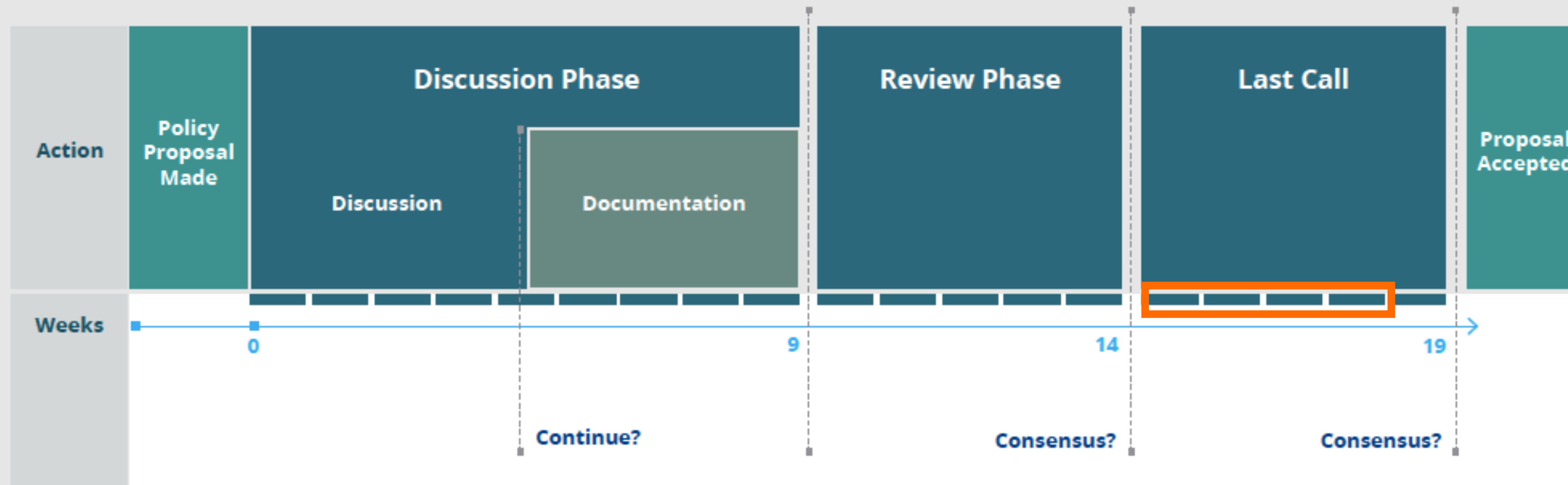




Last Call (1)

- No comments needed during Last Call
- Only new opposing arguments are considered

The RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP)

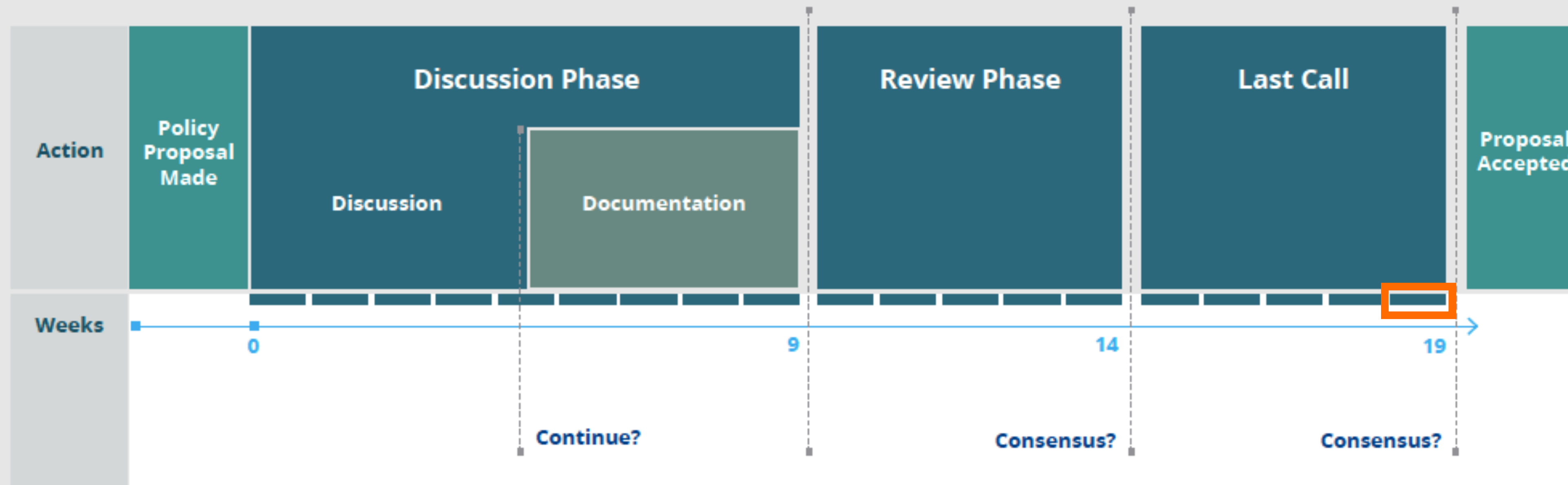




Last Call (2)

- WG Chairs review feedback and decide whether **consensus** still holds
- If not, Last Call gets extended or proposal gets rewritten and sent back to Review Phase

The RIPE Policy Development Process (PDP)



Finding Consensus



- After Review Phase, the WG Chairs determine whether **rough consensus** has been achieved
- Only opinions expressed during the Review Phase are taken into account
- Decision must be explained on the mailing list

- After Last Call, the WG chairs reconsider and determine whether **consensus** has been achieved
- Decision is announced to the mailing list

Appeal



- Anyone may submit an appeal
- Grievance about proposal handling should be resolved first with the WG Chairs
- If unsuccessful, the matter gets escalated to Working Group Chairs Collective (WGCC)
- Appeal will be published and WGCC decides by consensus
- If there is no WGCC consensus, RIPE Chair has the final decision



**Participate in Ongoing
Discussions**



How to Participate?

- Subscribe to the Mailing list
- Adhere to the RIPE Code of Conduct
- Read up previous discussions
- Respond to an email or create a new thread
- Mention the proposal number and title in the subject line!

How to Contribute your Opinion



“I support this proposal”

“I support this proposal because...”

“I support this proposal, but...”

“+1”



“I oppose this proposal, because...”

“I oppose this proposal as it stands, because...”

“I also oppose this proposal”

“-1”



Create a Policy Proposal

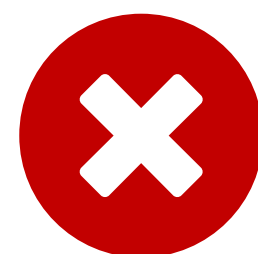


When to do a Policy Proposal?



In the RIPE policies, something is:

- missing
- outdated
- annoying



When not to do a policy proposal?

- Disagreement with RIPE NCCs request evaluation
Solution: Escalation or Arbitration Process
- Changes to the RIPE NCC membership (charging, rules)
Solution: RIPE NCC General Meeting



How Do You Make a Proposal?

- Anyone can make a proposal (except the RIPE NCC)
- Any Working Group (WG) can discuss a proposal
- Idea is sent to the chairs of the related WG or to policy-proposal@ripe.net
- If you are not sure, send an email to pdo@ripe.net



What happens with your proposal?



1. WG Chairs formally accept the proposal (no judgment of content)



2. RIPE NCC Policy Office helps with the format and provides feedback to proposer



3. RIPE NCC Communications edits the proposed text



4. Final approval by the proposer



5. Proposal ready to be published

RIPE NCC in the PDP



- Secretariat to support the process
- Helps with documentation
- Implements the policies

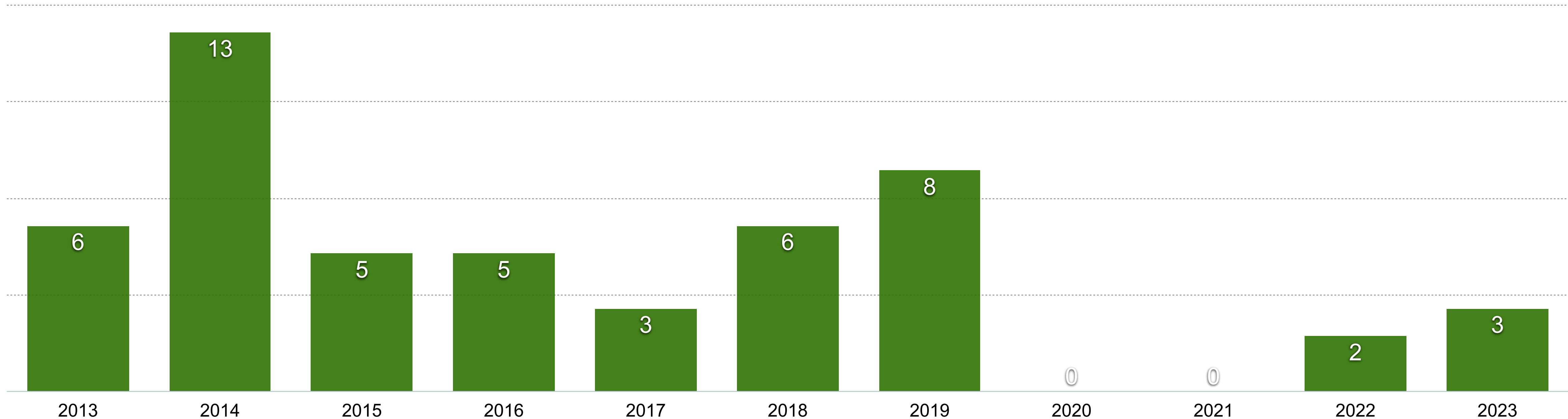
Current policies:

<https://www.ripe.net/publications/docs/ripe-policies>

Archived proposals:

<https://www.ripe.net/participate/policies/archived-policy-proposals/archive-policy-proposals/>

Policy Proposals



Current proposals

2023-01 Reducing IXP IPv4 assignment default size to a /26 - Address Policy WG

2023-02 Minimum Size for IPv4 Temporary Assignments - Address Policy WG

2023-03 Voluntary Transfer Lock - RIPE NCC Services WG

Link to current Policy proposals:

<https://www.ripe.net/participate/policies/current-proposals/current-policy-proposals>

Global Policy Development



- Mainly for resource distribution between IANA and RIRs
- Anyone can propose a global policy
- Each RIR community must ratify an identical version of the proposed policy
- NRO Executive Council refers to the ASO Address Council
- ASO AC reviews process and passes proposal to the ICANN Board of Directors for ratification



PDP in Other Regions



PDP in other RIRs

- All five RIRs have a PDP
- Open to everyone
- Decisions made by consensus



- Advisory Council (AC) steers the PDP
- 15 AC members elected by LIRs
- Policy proposals are published on the website and evaluated by the AC for scope and problem statement
- After AC acceptance, proposal becomes (recommended) Draft Policy available for discussion

- Draft policy is discussed on mailing list
- AC:
 - Steers the discussion
 - Requests ARIN staff and legal review
 - Decides on abandoning, revising or merging Draft Policy
 - Converts to Recommended Draft Policy
- Discussion at Public Policy Meetings (PPM)
- Last Call for 14 days after PPM
- ARIN Board adopts, rejects or remands policy



- Policy Special Interest Group (Policy SIG)
- Policy proposals mainly discussed during APNIC's Open Policy Meetings (OPMs)
- Must be published on mailing list at least four weeks before OPM
- Consensus at OPM (twice: during policy session and at Member Meeting)
- Last Call for four to eight weeks on mailing list
- APNIC Executive Council endorses proposal or refers it back

- Policy Development Working Group (PDWG)
- Policy proposals are mainly discussed during AFRINIC's Public Policy Meetings (PPMs)
- Must be published on mailing list at least four weeks before PPM
- Consensus at PPM
- Last Call for at least two weeks on mailing list
- AFRINIC Board of Directors adopts policy



- Public Policy Forum
- Policy proposals are discussed on the mailing list and during LACNIC's Public Policy Forums (PPFs)
- Each proposal version must be available for discussion at least 8 weeks
- Last Call for 4 weeks
- LACNIC Board of Directors accepts or rejects policy

In Short...



- RIPE has the only PDP where consensus seeking happens only on mailing lists
- RIPE PDP is the only one where the RIR Board has no formal veto rights
- RIPE is the only region where proposals can be discussed in different WGs
- AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC have very similar PDPs



Summary

Summary



- Everyone can participate in the RIPE PDP
- Discussion happens on WG mailing lists
- Proposal runs through different phases (forward, sideward, backward)
- Consensus is not voting
- RIPE community is the most independent among the RIR communities



Questions



We Want Your Feedback!



What did you think about this session? Take our survey at:

<https://www.ripe.net/support/training/feedback/ripe-policy>

