Network Feedback Area 4: Miscellaneous

During the open feedback collection process in 2019, the following core issues were raised by members of the CC Network relating to some miscellaneous topics not covered in Area 1: Membership, Area 2: Funding and Volunteerism, or Area 3: Chapter and Network Structure.

Note: the Executive Committee felt it was important to share and respond to the concerns raised for transparency and clarity, but it should be noted that many of these fall outside of our jurisdiction or do not require structural/policy changes to address them. As a result, this document does not require a vote of GNC and should be seen as a set of responses rather than recommendations.

1. It was raised that sub-regions, even if substantively independent from their larger country, are prevented from having their own Chapter.
2. Suggestions were made regarding how the CC Summit might be improved, including: contacting local embassies in the host country to help secure visas for participants, reducing or eliminating the use of paper at the Summit, and better documenting the sessions and talks given at the Summit.
3. Commenters expressed frustrations regarding the CC Certificate, including: the high cost serving as a barrier to equitable participation, the possibility of having a “test-in” method or title for those who have legal expertise in copyright law, and a lack of clarity about the Certificate scholarship opportunities.
4. A number of commenters highlighted the importance of investing in the “Big Open”, and building our coalitions to include independent media, community radios, human rights organizations, feminist, Afro-descendant and indigenous movements. A lack of gender and racial diversity in leadership of the movement was also raised.
5. Concerns were raised around the maintenance of core CC license infrastructure, including inaccessible legal texts for some licenses.

Responses:

1. The ExCom recognizes that a Country-Chapter model may not be appropriate in all situations around the globe. We direct attention to a provision in the existing Network Strategy that allows regions and subregions to raise issues with their chapter arrangement.

   As stated in the Network Strategy: *A Chapter is constituted by all Network Members, Partners and other contributing people and organizations working in a particular country.*

There may be limited circumstances where there is good reason to have more than one team within a given jurisdiction. The GNC will review these on a case-by-case basis.

With effective national advocacy in mind, we generally encourage people of a jurisdiction to work together under one Chapter, however: members of a specific region may contact network-support@creativecommons.org to petition for a different solution.

2. Suggestions around improving the CC Summit are welcome, but recognizing that the conference is not being held in-person this year, and CC Summits are managed by their own Conference Committee, the Executive Committee will forward these comments to the appropriate committee rather than recommending changes ourselves.

3. Acknowledging the feedback provided regarding the CC Certificate, and recognizing that the Certificate is run by CC HQ and not under the direct purview of the Global Network, we offer the following responses:

    a. Regarding the standard price: CC HQ has stated their belief that making the Certificate self-sustaining is essential and has set prices to accomplish that goal. However, a robust system of scholarships for those with less means and participants from the global south is necessary to make opportunity for participation more equitable. The ExCom acknowledges the work CC HQ has already done to expand the Certificate scholarship program, and encourages them to expand those efforts further.
    b. Regarding scholarships: To make the Certificate program more accessible, CC offers a scholarship covering 80-90% of the certificate cost, available to Network Members. The ExCom has worked actively with CC HQ to ensure as many Network members as possible are aware of this opportunity and will continue to do so.
    c. On certification by competency: the ExCom invites a discussion with the Network and CC HQ to explore a certification mechanism for people from the CCGN who are already experts.

4. The ExCom encourages CC HQ and the Global Network to prioritize chapter- and relationship-building in areas that are often underrepresented. We suggest CC HQ initiates a conversation with network members about how CC can support new movements, beyond education, science, GLAM, and access to culture. We also suggest facilitating discussion about these topics in the Summit program; or prioritizing these topics among the criteria for selectable applications for grants.

5. The ExCom suggests the CC HQ technology team conduct a review of the licensing infrastructure, paying particular attention to issues raised in the feedback. It is further recommended that the GNC, in partnership with CC HQ, create a team or committee to focus on maintenance of the core CC license infrastructure.