Board as a Service

Christian Kaufmann
RIPE NCC Executive Board Member
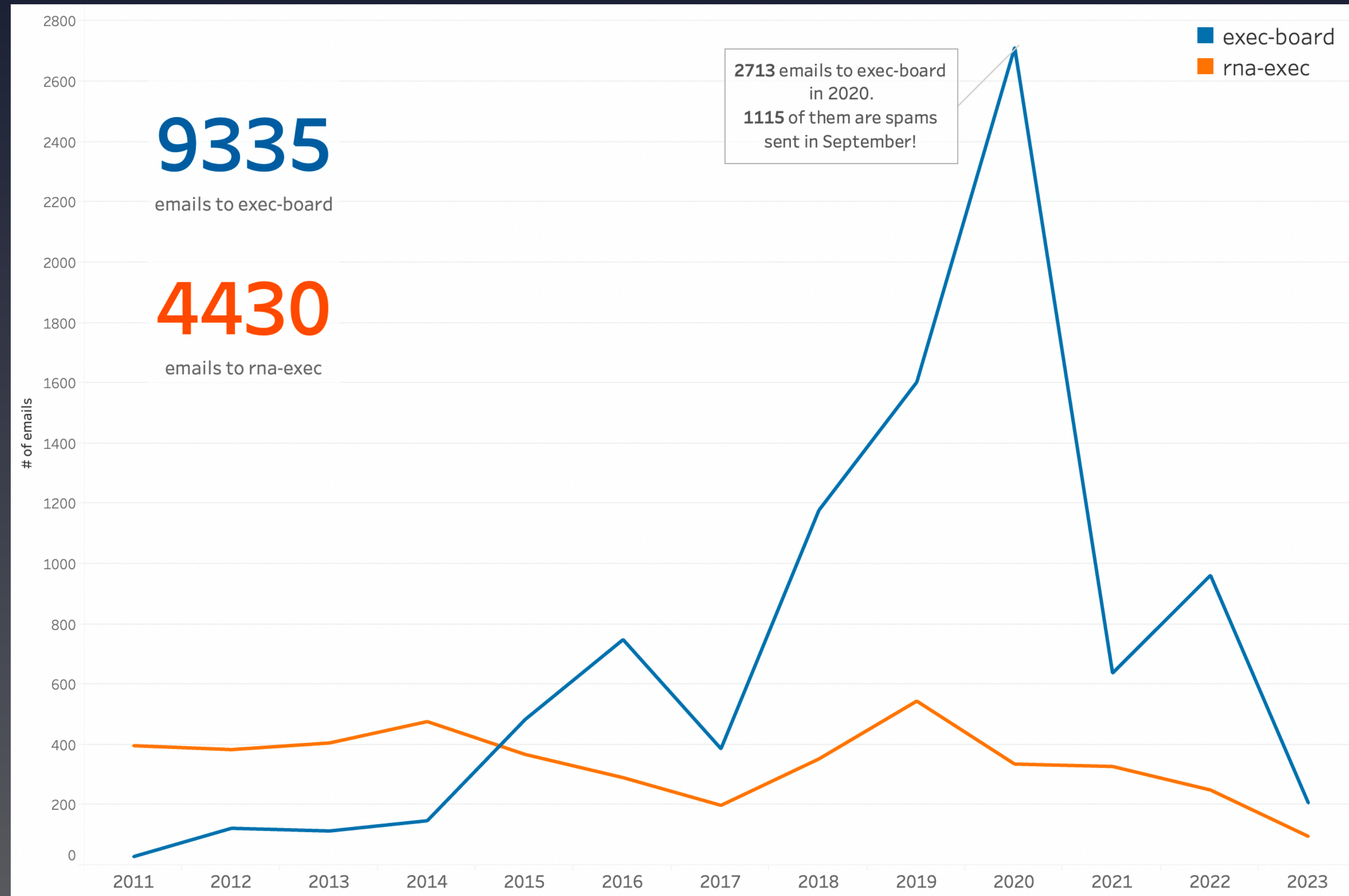(for now…)

Board as a Service

- Elected to the RIPE NCC Executive Board in May 2011

  - 315 votes were cast and I received 186

- May 2011 to Sept 2018 - Board Secretary

- Sept 2018 to Sept 2022 - Board Chairman

- Sept 2022 to May 2023 - Regular Board member

- Friday is my last day as an Executive Board member

- So what is actually involved in being a Board member?

  - Let's have a look…

Emails - External and Internal Mailboxes

9335
emails to exec-board

4430
emails to rna-exec

2713 emails to exec-board in 2020.
1115 of them are spams sent in September!
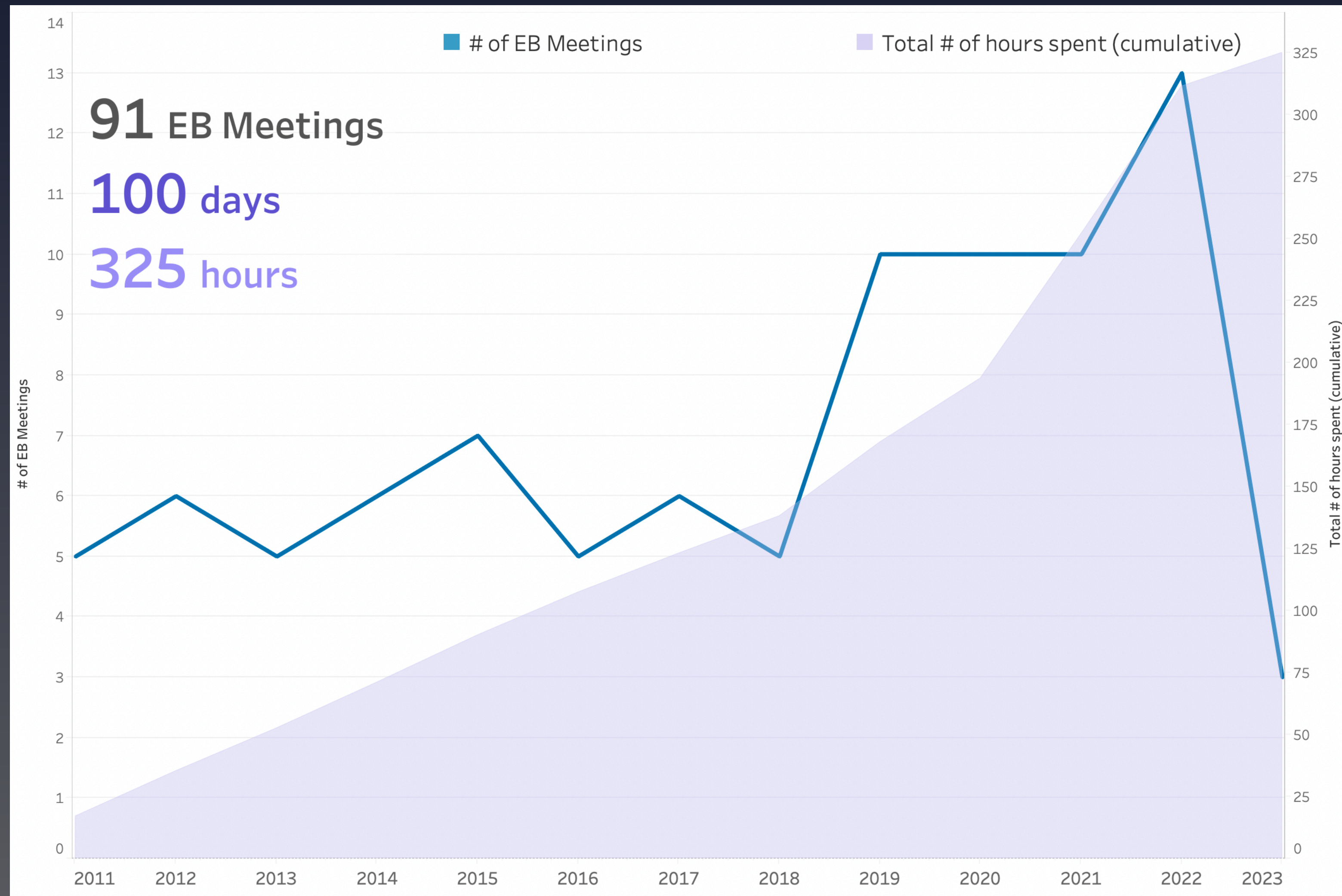
Legend: exec-board, rna-exec

Reading (lots of reading!)

- 1,245 Executive Board documents to read ahead of meetings
- A conservative estimate of 5 pages per document = 6,225 pages, or…
- 4.8x War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy
- 11x Ulysses by James Joyce
- 16.5x A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
- 23.5x 1984 by George Orwell
- 24.5x The Trial by Franz Kafka

Executive Board Meetings

91 EB Meetings
100 days
325 hours

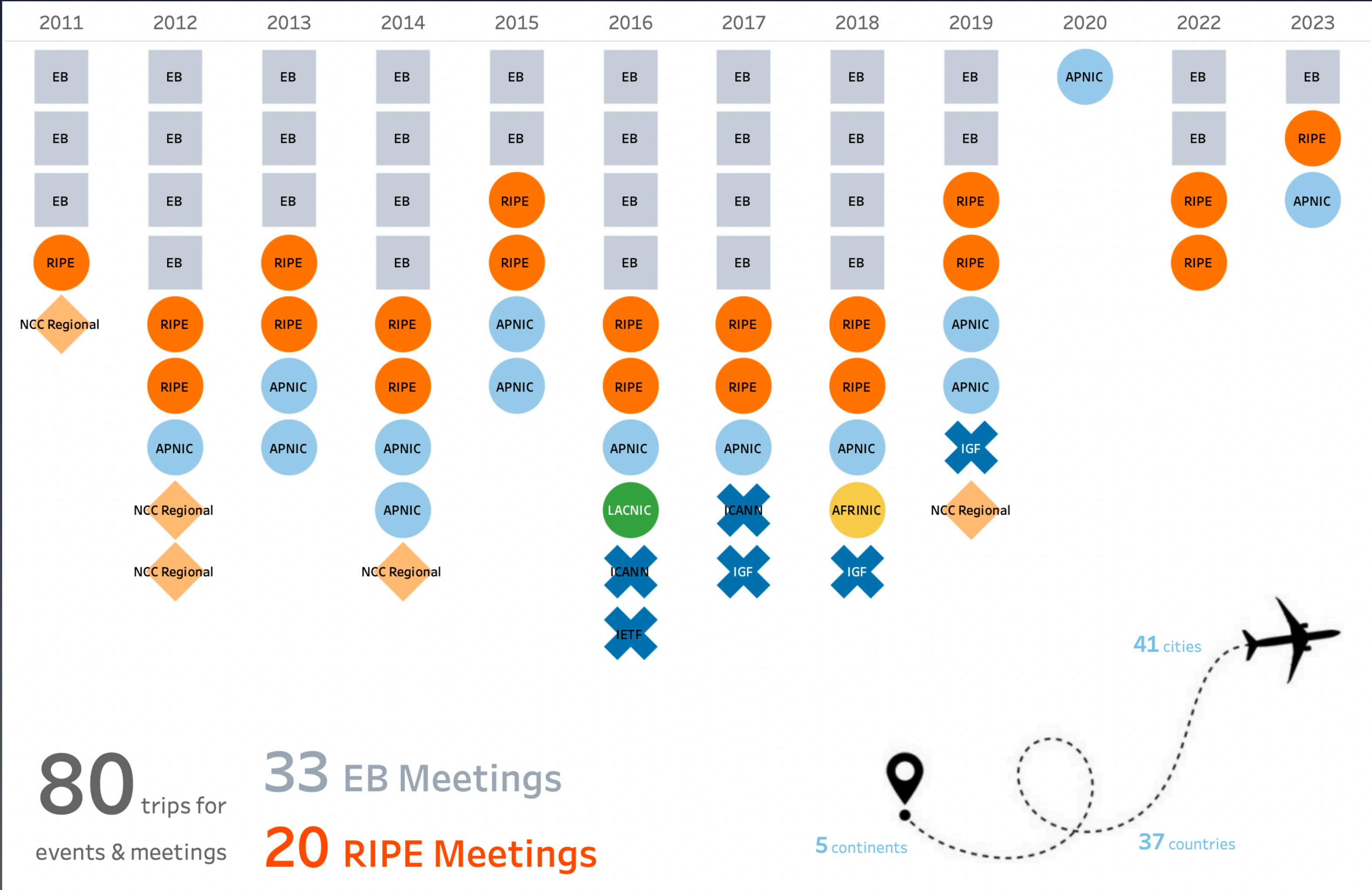Legend: ■ # of EB Meetings   ■ Total # of hours spent (cumulative)

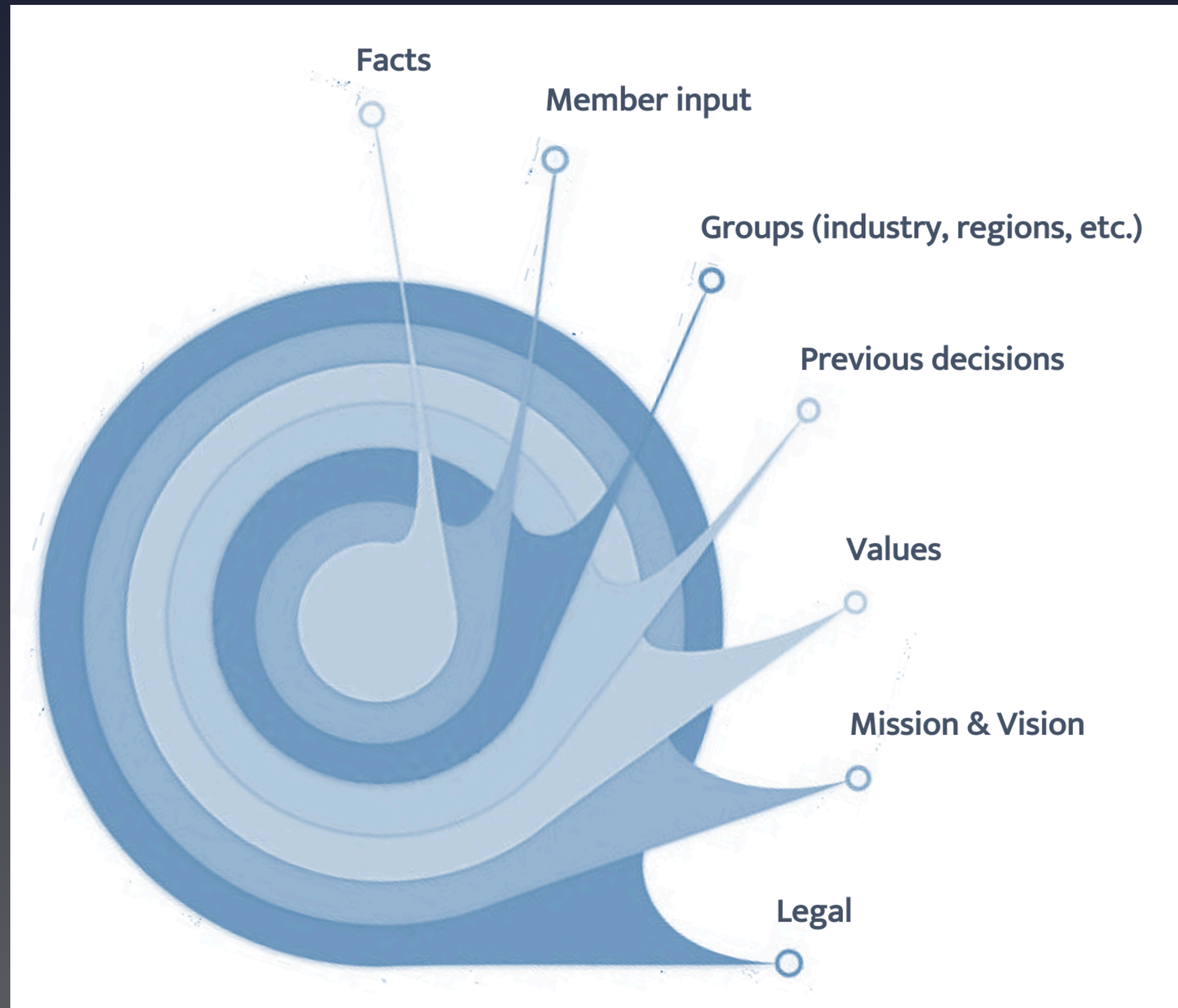# Important Work and Projects

- Hiring a new Managing Director

- War in Ukraine

- Sanctions

- COVID and various impacts

- IPv4 run-out

- Stability of RIR system

- Secondary market for IPv4

- GDPR

- Legal disputes

- Government regulations

- And much, much more, with each requiring serious deliberation

Meetings as Executive Board Representative

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	APNIC	EB	EB
	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB	EB		EB	RIPE
	EB	EB	EB	EB	RIPE	EB	EB	EB	RIPE		RIPE	APNIC
	RIPE	EB	RIPE	EB	RIPE	EB	EB	EB	RIPE		RIPE	
	NCC Regional	RIPE	RIPE	RIPE	APNIC	RIPE	RIPE	RIPE	APNIC			
		RIPE	APNIC	RIPE	APNIC	RIPE	RIPE	RIPE	APNIC			
		APNIC	APNIC	APNIC		APNIC	APNIC	APNIC	IGF			
		NCC Regional	APNIC	APNIC		LACNIC	ICANN	AFRINIC	NCC Regional			
		NCC Regional		NCC Regional		ICANN	IGF	IGF				
						IETF						

80 trips for events & meetings

33 EB Meetings

20 RIPE Meetings

41 cities

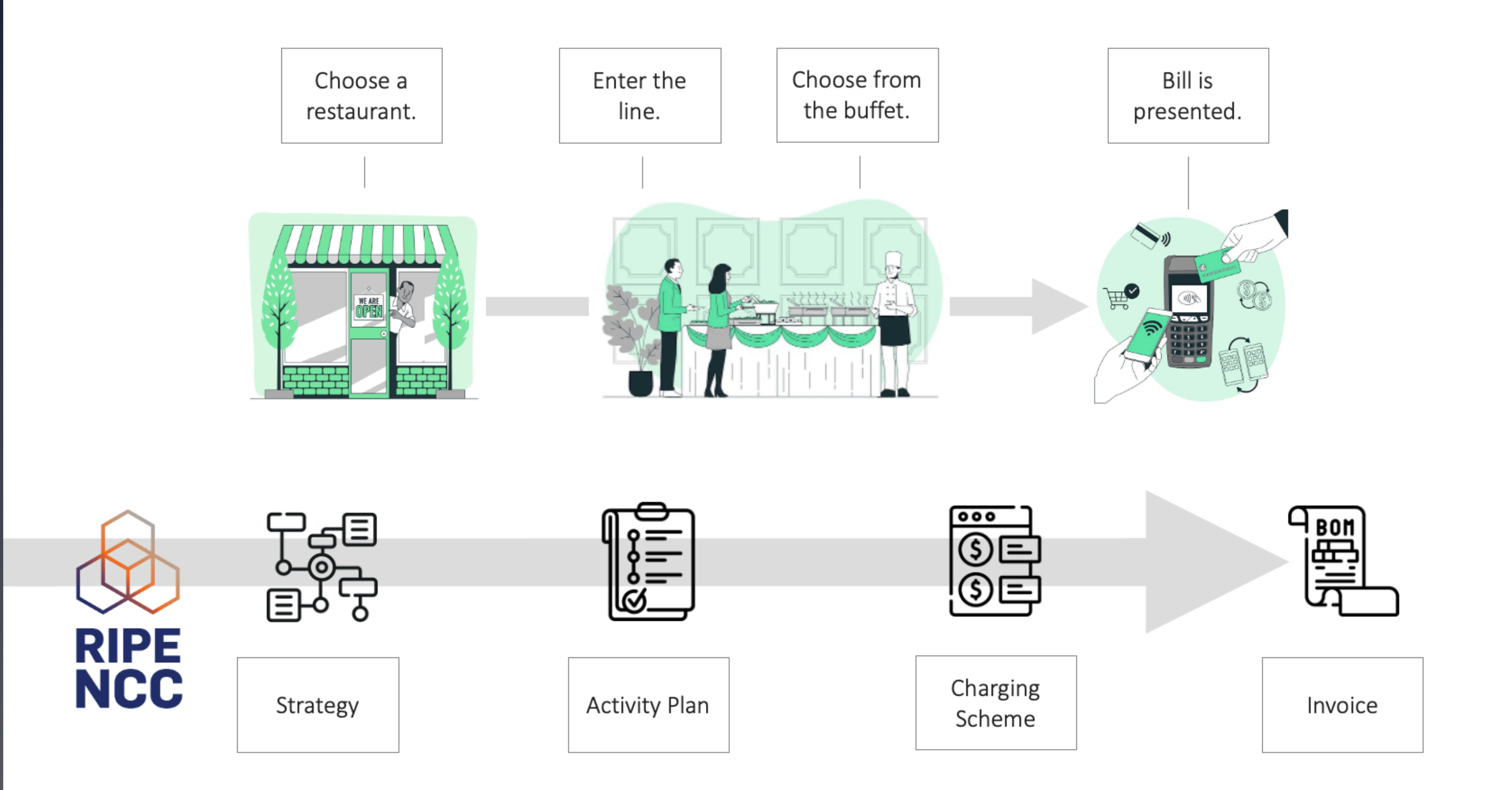5 continents

37 countries

Building Consensus

Building Consensus

- We see people disappointed or even angry if their idea isn't accepted and implemented

- We rarely see an single issue that members have a common view on

- The RIPE NCC Survey is important - the views of 4,000 people can give a better idea of general feelings than 10 mails on a list

- We have many things to consider and we try to reach consensus within a framework

- We need to act consistently - members need to trust that we will not be erratic and have confidence we won't suddenly make big changes that affect them

- It is a serious thing to act outside of the framework

- And no matter what, legal requirements trump everything

The Buffet Analogy

Choose a restaurant. → Enter the line. → Choose from the buffet. → Bill is presented.

RIPE NCC: Strategy → Activity Plan → Charging Scheme → Invoice

To conclude…

- Board members were once like you (and to be honest, they still are) - they come from within the community

- They do an enormous amount of unseen work on what are often incredibly complex issues

- The Board usually reaches consensus after thorough discussion (voting is rarely necessary)

- Members can help a lot - understand the difficulties, know that we listen, everything (within reason) is considered, and honest feedback is always appreciated

Questions

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