



DomainWire

Edition 4 - May 2013

Domain Name Stat Report

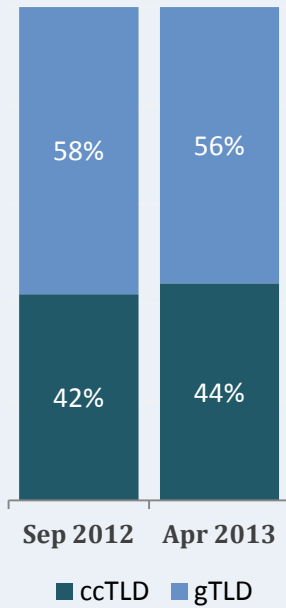
DomainWire Stat Report is CENTR's biannual publication covering basic domain name statistics with a focus on European ccTLDs (country code Top Level Domains). A ccTLD (country code top level domain) is a two-letter domain name extension such as .de (Germany), .es (Spain) or .cz (Czech Republic).

CENTR is the European ccTLD organisation. CENTR is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the interest of country code TLD managers. The objectives of CENTR are to promote and participate in the development of high standards and best practices among ccTLD Registries. CENTR has 51 Full members and 9 Associate members who all together represent around 80% of the total number of ccTLD domain name registrations worldwide.



Global Domain Name Status

ccTLD and gTLD Global Market Share



As at April 2013, the total number of registrations across all Top Level Domains (TLDs) stood at 258 million. This figure represents a growth of roughly 6.2% over the past 6 months (or 15 million registrations) with the largest categorical growth in ccTLD IDNs.

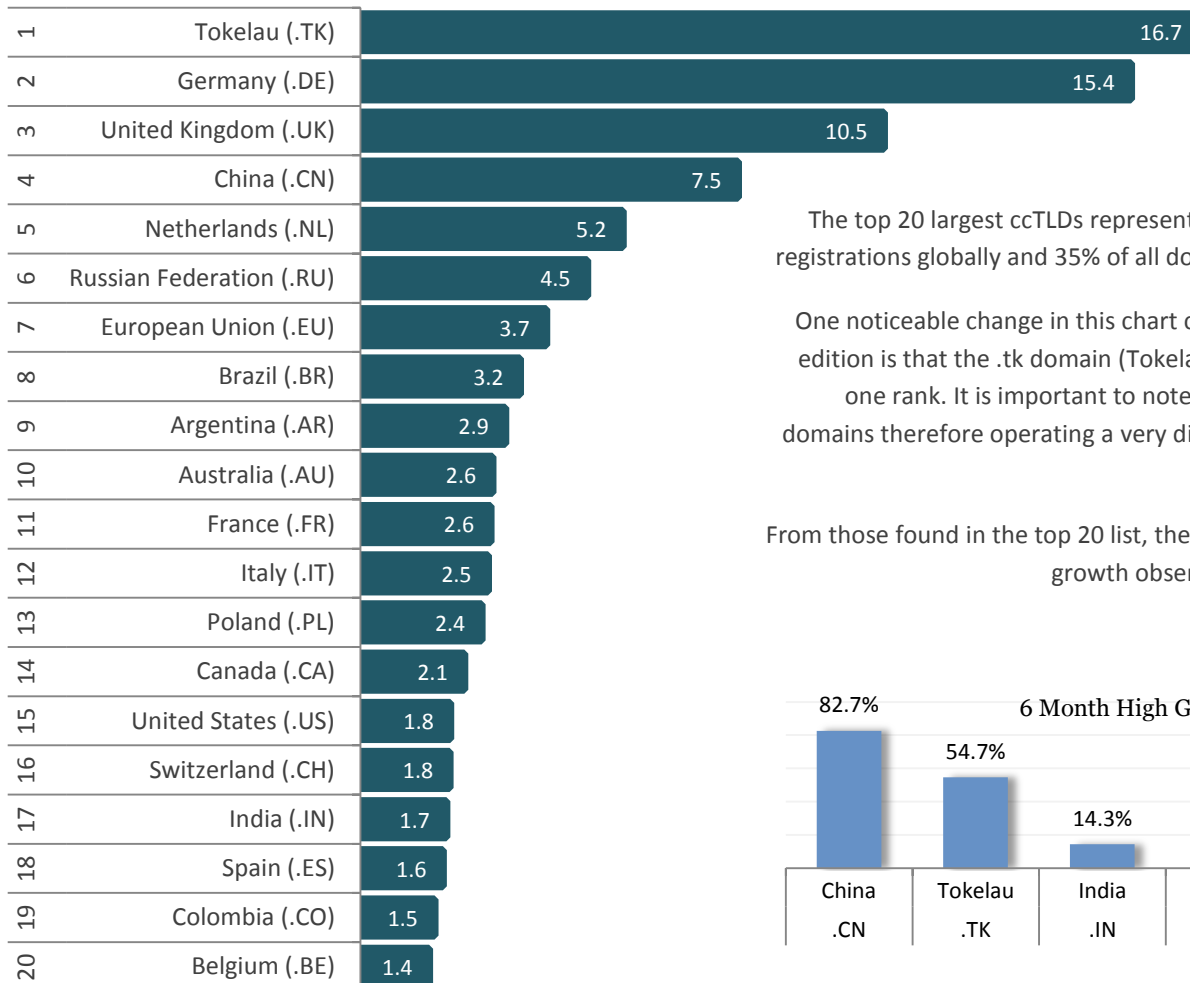
When observing ccTLDs against gTLDs we see that ccTLDs have increased their overall market share from 42% to 44% of all domain registrations while gTLDs have decreased slightly in the space of the past 6 months. The increase in ccTLD share is most likely explained by a high growth in the .tk domain (note: most .tk registrations are free)

	Registrations*	% Change (6 month)
ccTLD	112,048,971	12%
ccTLD IDN	1,179,723	19%
gTLD	143,854,376	2%
sTLD	1,345,503	16%
Total	258,428,573	6%

Source: Zooknic (April 2013)

*ccTLDs are split into ccTLDs and ccTLD IDN. gTLDs are split into gTLDs and sTLDs

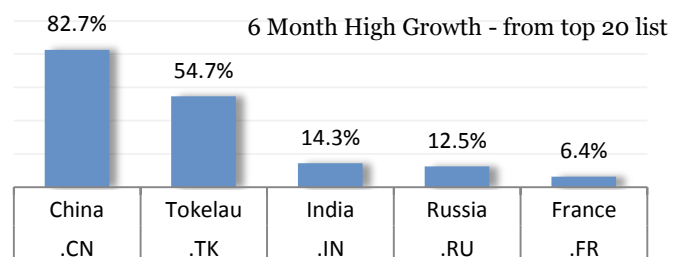
Top 20 ccTLDs



The top 20 largest ccTLDs represent roughly 82% of all ccTLD registrations globally and 35% of all domain name registrations.

One noticeable change in this chart compared to the previous edition is that the .tk domain (Tokelau) has taken the number one rank. It is important to note that .tk offer mostly free domains therefore operating a very different model than other traditional ccTLDs.

From those found in the top 20 list, the below shows the highest growth observed in the past 6 months



Scale: Millions

Source: Zooknic, CENTR, LACTLD

High Growth ccTLDs period of observation: Sep 2012 – April 2013

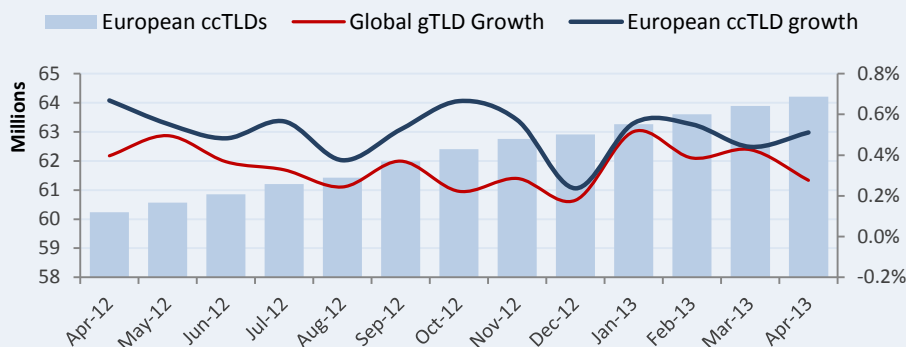
European ccTLDs “Status update”

European ccTLDs closed April 2013 with just over 64 million domains under management. Over the 12 months preceding, overall net growth was 6.7% - an increase of around 4 million domains. This growth however, is a lower rate compared with that of the same period in the year before. This could be most likely explained by factors such as the maturing ccTLD market in Europe (particularly among the larger Operators) as well as the ongoing financial crisis. Renewal rates remain consistent over the past 3 years at around 79% on the whole and actually increasing marginally in some zones.

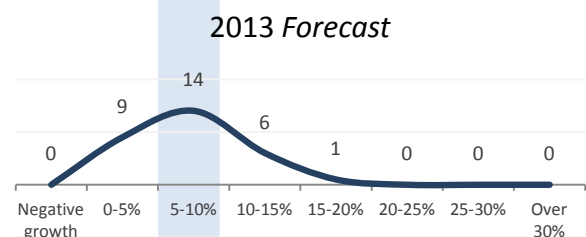
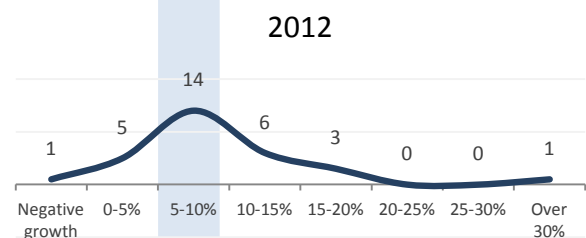
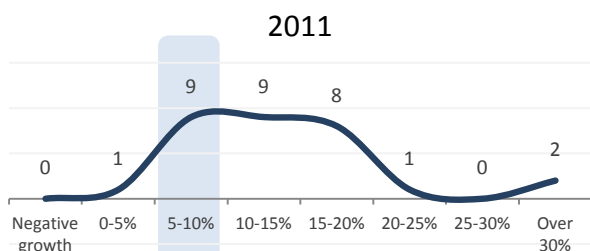
European ccTLDs Key Stats

ccTLD registrations in Europe	64.2 million
Average Renewal Rate	79%
Highest 12 month Net Growth ccTLD	.pt (Portugal) 27%
Largest ccTLD (zone size)	.de (Germany) 15.5 million
Domain usage (most common)	61% Commercial
Av. Market share of top 3 Registrars in a zone	46% of registrations
Average characters in a domain name	10.7 characters

Source: CENTR (April 2013)

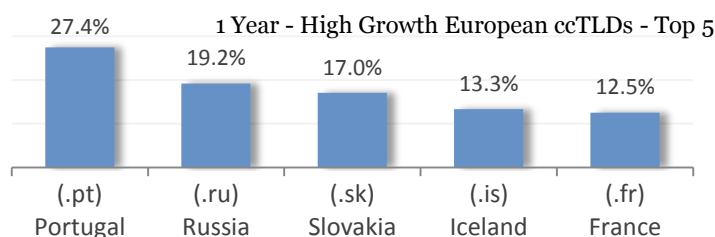
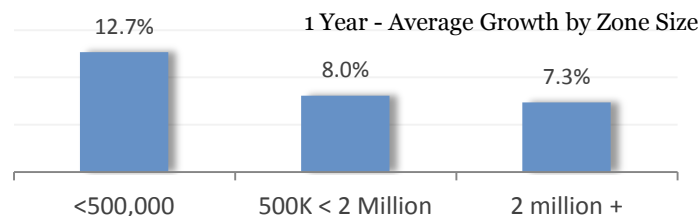


European ccTLDs - Growth Rate evolution



The 3 charts represent evolution of growth of a set of European ccTLDs over a 3 year period. Each number on the line indicates the number ccTLDs within the corresponding category of growth. (eg. In 2011 there were 9 ccTLDs in the 5-10% growth range). Over the 3 years the curve shifts to the left signifying a tendency of decreasing growth in domain names. As the European market of ccTLDs is relatively mature, this outcome is to be expected. The transparent vertical bar highlights the largest category across each year (5-10%)

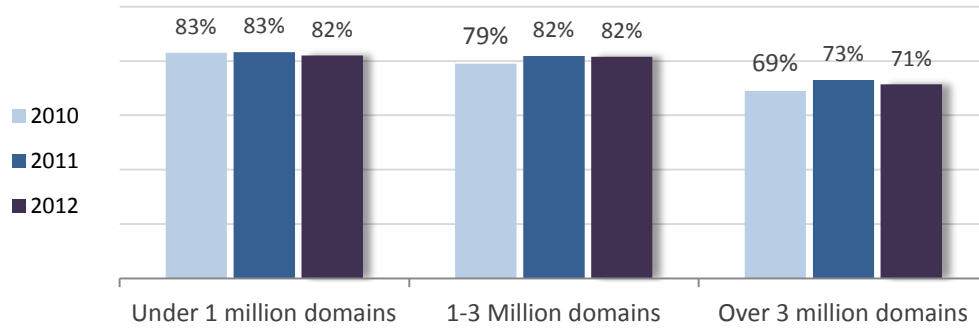
The below chart shows 12 month growth of European ccTLDs by zone size and below that, the top 5 highest growth ccTLDs in the Europe region for the same period..



High Growth ccTLDs period of observation: April 2012 – April 2013

Sample size: 30ccTLDs
Source: CENTR (April 2013)

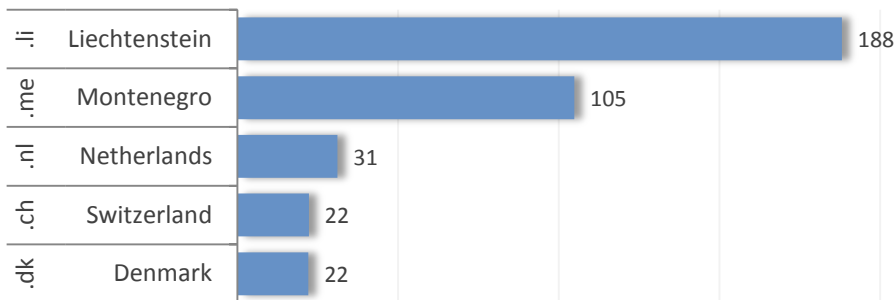
European ccTLDs - Renewal rates



The average renewal rate among European ccTLDs stands at 79% as recording in early 2013. Over the different zone sizes, this of course varies as seen to the left. Generally speaking Registries with larger domains under management have a lower renewal rate.

Sample size: 31 ccTLDs
Source: CENTR (April 2013)

European ccTLDs - Registrations per 100 Population



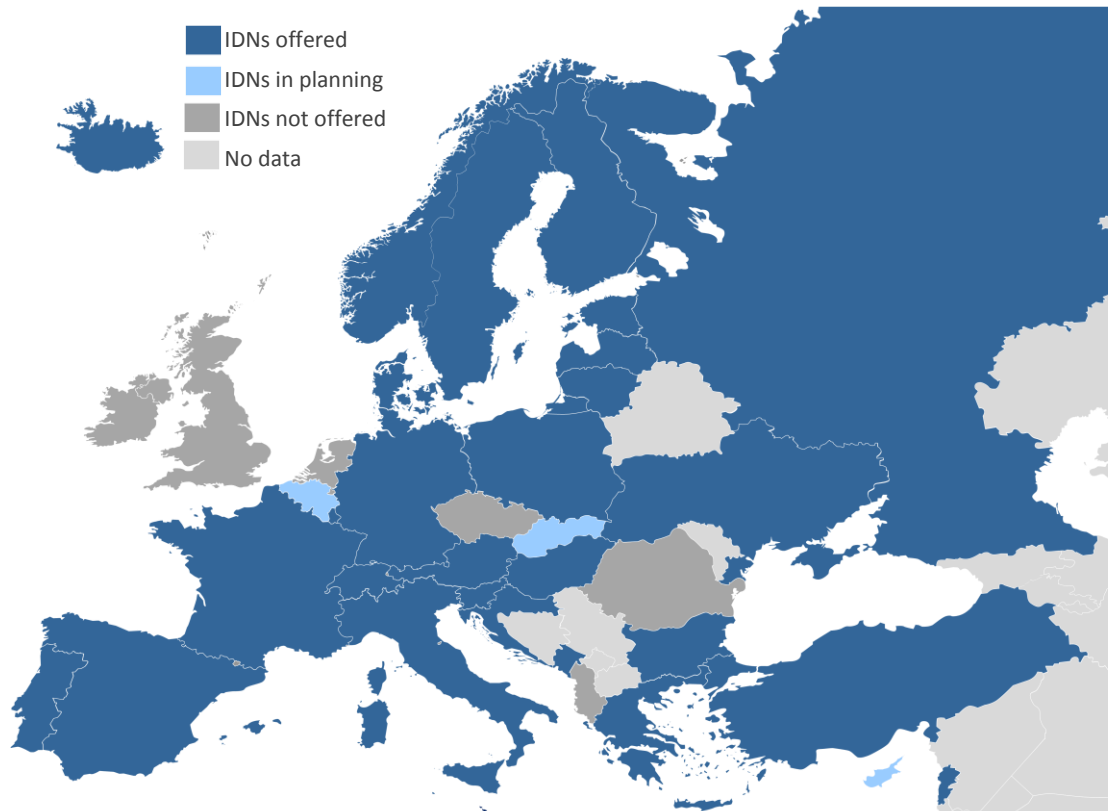
Average Registrations per capita in Europe is 13.4 (per 100 population)
Average not including .li and .me is 7.4

Registrations per 100 population is one way to measure the penetration of a ccTLD within its country. The chart (left) shows the top 5 ccTLDs in Europe according to their domains per 100 population. It should be noted that this chart does not include gTLD registrations although it has been shown in a previous edition of this report that ccTLDs in general have a stronger market share than gTLD registrations coming from within their countries.

Population data source: CIA World Fact book (www.cia.gov). July 2013 Estimate

European ccTLDs – IDN Status

An Internationalised Domain Name (IDN) is a domain name that is written in a native-language script (non-ASCII characters). This map of Europe shows the status of IDN implementation across countries/territories in the region. 28 out of 42 ccTLDs (67%) in the region offer IDNs in their zone with a further 3 planning to implement (Cyprus, Belgium and Slovakia). Although the map shows clearly the wide-spread implementation of IDNs in Europe, the IDN success story varies markedly between countries. High numbers of IDNs can be found in the Russian .IDN TLD (.PФ) with just under 800,000 followed by .de with over 600,000



Not displayed on map: Both .eu (TLD for the European Union) and .va (Vatican City) offer IDNs
Source: CENTR (May 2013)

SOURCES

All data in this report is sourced from the following: CENTR, ZookNic (<http://www.zooknic.com/>) LACTLD, www.hosterstats.com. CENTR would like to thank the support of other Regional Organisations LACTLD, APTLD and AFTLD for their continued support in the development of statistical reporting for the global ccTLD community. When sourcing from CENTR, data is taken from responses received within CENTR surveys and ongoing data collection. No sampling or estimating is as this data is received directly from the ccTLD Registry Operators and processed within the CENTR Secretariat.

When the term 'European ccTLDs definition is used within this report, it refers to a set of European ccTLDs which are full members of CENTR. In most cases the aggregated values of this group are estimated to represent at least 95% of domain registrations from ccTLDs based in Europe.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ccTLD – a Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) is a top level domain used and reserved for a country or dependent territory. Examples include .uk for the United Kingdom or .de for Germany. Each country appoints a manager of its ccTLD and sets the rules for allocating domains.

gTLD – a Generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) is a top level domain that is open to registrants worldwide in contrast to a Country Code Top Level Domain that are often restricted to registrants located in a particular country. The more popular gTLDs are .com, .org and .net

ccTLD IDN – an IDN is a domain names that includes characters used in the local representation of languages that are not written with the twenty-six letters of the basic Latin alphabet "a-z". An IDN can contain Latin letters with diacritical marks, as required by many European languages, or may consist of characters from non-Latin scripts such as Arabic or Chinese. A ccTLD IDN is an IDN at the top level – eg. the ccTLD IDN for the Russian Federation is .PФ which is the Cyrillic script version of .RF (Russian Federation)

sTLD – a Sponsored Top Level Domain (sTLD) is another form of a gTLD overseen by ICANN. An example of a sTLD is .cat for the Catalonia region.

Registrant – The individual or organisation that registers a specific domain name. They hold the right to use that domain name for a specified period of time (often one year however multi-year registrations are increasingly popular).

Registry - An internet domain name registry receives domain name information into a centralised database and transmits the information in internet zone files on the internet so that domain names can be found by users around the world via the worldwide web and email.

ABOUT CENTR

CENTR is an association of Internet Country Code Top Level Domain Registries such as .uk in the United Kingdom and .es in Spain. Full Membership is open to organisations, corporate bodies or individuals that operate a country code top level domain registry. The project that became CENTR was formed in March 1998 and was informally funded by participant registries. In 1999, it was legally established as a not-for-profit company in the UK. Since 2006, CENTR is registered as a non-for-profit organisation based in Brussels, Belgium. CENTR activities are funded by membership fees, and performed by a secretariat based in Brussels, Belgium.

Any questions on this report, please contact patrick@centr.org

