



# CENTR news

50<sup>th</sup> GA edition – October 2013

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## CENTR celebrates its 50th General Assembly

CENTR celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with a Gala Dinner at the Atomium, one of Belgium's most famous landmarks from the World expo of 1958. The 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, a two day members meeting takes place in Brussels on 2 and 3 October 2013.

CENTR was founded by ccTLD Registries with the aim to promote and participate in the development of high standards and best practices for registries. Since its first General Assembly which was organised in Paris on 16 March 1999, CENTR has developed into a full grown organisation with 51 Full members (all ccTLDs) and 9 Associate members (ccTLD and gTLDs). CENTR organises two General Assembly meetings per year but equally important have become its dedicated workshops for legal, technical, marketing, R&D, and Administrative staff. Lively discussions guaranteed!

The CENTR membership has grown steadily. CENTR now has 51 Full members (all ccTLDs) and 9 Associate members (ccTLDs and gTLDs). And CENTR remains attractive! Two new membership applications from Macedonia (.mk) and Belarus (.by) will be considered by the Brussels GA.

### Trust, Information and Among Friends

26 participants from 17 different ccTLD registries attended the first CENTR General Assembly. Now, at its 50<sup>th</sup> members meeting CENTR welcomes 76 participants from 40 different domain registries. Only a few of them were already around in 1999. The sector has grown and registries have professionalised. The CENTR General Assemblies have always been the place where registries update each other about news and their developments.

Not only success stories, in this trusted environment is also place for open and honest discussions on less positive experiences, such as incidents and security breaches. If you'd ask regular participants to describe the CENTR GA's in one or two words, definitely the words 'trust', 'information' and 'among friends' will be amongst the top answers.

### Thank you to our hosts

CENTR General Assemblies have been organised in 33 different cities in 27 countries. Traditionally, for most of its meetings CENTR can count on the kind hospitality of its members. A well deserved thank you goes to the all the previous hosts of a CENTR General Assembly. The local registry staff always put a lot of effort in welcoming their colleagues. I would like to raise a toast on 50 successful CENTR General Assemblies and many more to come!

Peter Vergote (CENTR Chairman)



# CENTR comments on ICANN Strategy

Spawning from an informal consultation on the ‘possibility to have a Regional strategy for Europe’ during the ICANN meeting in Durban, the CENTR Board of Directors made two ‘comment’ papers directed at the ICANN Board. One of the papers focused on an ICANN European Strategy and the other on ICANN’s 5 year strategic planning process.

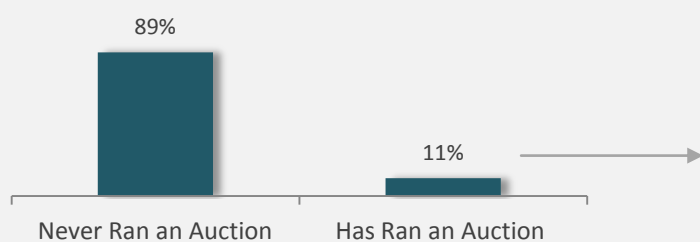
**CENTR Input on ICANN 5 year strategic planning process** – The letter makes a point on ensuring regional development and internationalisation go hand in hand. It mentions that regional involvement outside the scope of the ICANNs global mission may push back certain stakeholders, in particular governments. The letter also encourages ICANN to clarify the link between its strategic plan and the regional strategies. Other focuses of the letter included Internet Governance, Security and Stability, Operational Excellence as well as the Domain Name Industry itself. On the topic of the DNS, the letter states that ICANN should not get involved in R&D activities or innovation in the DN industry and that the IETF should continue to play the role in regards to technical issues. [Read full submission](#)

**CENTR Input on an ICANN European Strategy** – The paper first focuses on setting the strategy by way of a structured approach from ICANN to the European region. Elements such as prioritisation of stakeholders needs/wishes, measurable goals and regular assessments were mentioned. The letter also pointed out; the CENTR community is ready to coordinate with ICANN in educational actions toward stakeholder groups, ICANN should maintain consistent and constant communication channels with ccTLDs in the region, ICANN should partner with local TLDs to reach out to their national governments on importance of becoming involved in ICANN, that the 28 European countries fall under EU privacy laws and this should be taken into account when discussing WHOIS and that certain ‘political issues’ mentioned in the ICANN document circulated at the Durban meeting go beyond ICANNs mandate. [Read the submission](#)

## Survey highlights: Domain Name Auctions

Domain Name Auctions are a way TLD Operators can release previously held domain names which may have significant value for a variety of reasons (eg. short character domains or reserved names lists etc).

In a CENTR survey conducted earlier this year receiving 27 ccTLD Registry responses, it was found that only 3 Registries have run an auction on domain names.



Those Registries who have run an auction were specifically for a reserve list of names and/or short character domains.

For the rest who have not run an auction before, many stating that it had simply not ever come up before however they would not see a problem in doing so in the right circumstances. Others mentioned various other reasons they may not run an auction, such as;

- Against the not for profit status of the Registry
- Legal risk to domain names which could result in potential trademark infringements
- Allocation of domains is strictly first come first served
- Explicitly prohibited in terms and conditions

**Auction Perceptions from key stakeholders** - 2 Registries stated perceptions were ‘positive’ and the other ‘neutral’. When asked if the Registry would opt for an auction to solve a similar situation in the future all 3 stated they would.

## What do you remember of the first General Assembly (GA) held by CENTR?

I remember CENTR from the days when there were no GAs - we were just a DNS working group of RIPE back in 1998. My first CENTR GA was also CENTR's first. It was held in March 1999 in Paris and I remember it also because it was my first visit to Paris. CENTR General Assemblies were much smaller then, around 30 people at that one. The Main subject of the first CENTR GA was establishing CENTR. There were also matters on agenda relating to ICANN - some things never change. (In those times we got all the materials in print, that's why I know what was on the agenda.)

## How has CENTR changed from when you first attended to the present day?

The baby has grown up over the last 15 years. We were dealing with much more simple stuff then, most of it of a technical nature. It was like a small family, no competition, no thoughts of hiding some information. Nowadays we're dealing with "adult" stuff: directives, internet governance, legislation, new gTLDs etc. Focuses have also changed as ccTLDs are no longer isolated in our little technical communities but and economics of TLD has changed so much.

## Any insights to how CENTR has (or has not) helped your organisation develop?

I've personally learnt a lot within CENTR and our cute little registry has grown safely mostly because of generous help of CENTR members.

## For you, what would be the biggest benefit from being a CENTR member?

Definitely information sharing. It's vital especially for a small understaffed registry to get information, not because there is not enough information or it's not available, but because there's too much information and smaller registries don't always have resources to absorb all of them. So it's important to get already filtered information by CENTR and CENTR members.



With

**Barbara Povse**

Head of .SI Registry  
for Slovenia  
(ARNES)

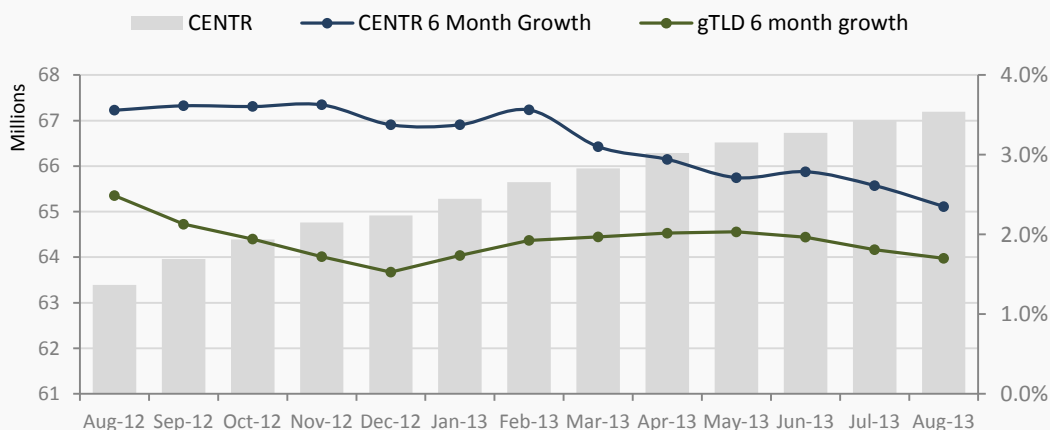


## What's been happening at CENTR this month?

### CENTR 42<sup>nd</sup> Legal and Regulatory Workshop (Stockholm, Sweden – 26 September 2013)

Legal staff from around 20 ccTLD Registries attended the workshop which saw presentation and discussion on Registry liability, DNS traffic data and data protection, Registration policy and redemption grace periods. A report of the meeting will be available to CENTR members in the coming days.

## Registrations and Growth



# 67,190,470

CENTR Total Registrations

In terms of number of domains added, the largest addition was .ru for the month of August with almost 70 thousand domains. .ir (Iran) grew at the highest rate at 4.3% for the month



Click the titles to access the full articles

**CIRA hires Vice President for Product Development** In this newly created role, Dave Chiswell will lead CIRA in the pursuit of new product and service offerings that are complementary to its core .CA registration service.

**CZ.NIC Academy offers special courses in modern Internet technology** A total of 15 courses on the DNS system, DNSSEC security technology, BGP routing protocol, the IPv6 Internet protocol and the SIP protocol used in internet telephony are on the autumn schedule of classes at the Brno centre of the CZ.NIC Academy.

**Intelligent Routers Protect Users Against Internet Attacks** An efficient solution to cybernetic attacks may be the protection of home networks at the border with the Internet, i.e. in the home router. And precisely that is the objective of a new research project of the CZ.NIC Association, Turriss, the website of which has been launched today. Until now, the Association presented this project under its working name, "CZ.NIC router".

**.eu Q2 progress report now available** Hailed as the most important development for the .eu top-level domain in Q2, the .eu registry EURid expanded its membership to include five new board members in April, according to the its Q2 2013 quarterly progress report.

**The .fr TLD continues to gain market share** The concentration ratio of the .fr TLD market & the market shares of the various other TLDs are the focus of the latest Afnic Domain Name Industry Report

**IP Santarém Portugal with DNSSEC** IP Santarém (Polytechnic Institute) signed with DNSSEC all the domains and subdomains that are under their technical management. This initiative reveals how important is the support and training given by DNS.PT and it's a step in the safety of one more group of .pt domains. DNSSEC workshops are also being organised around Portugal

**.SE completes successful transition of the .nu domain** As of September the 2nd .SE has assumed responsibility for administration and technical operation of the .nu domain.

**Nominet announces registration policy review** The scope of the review focuses on whether there should be restrictions on the words and expressions permitted in .uk domain name registrations.

## What's coming up at CENTR?

29th CENTR Technical Workshop - Athens (Greece) – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013

5th CENTR Security workshop - Vienna (Austria) – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013

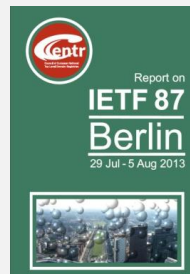
30th CENTR Administrative workshop - Florence (Italy) – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## Recent Publications



**DomainWire Stat Report** - The most recent edition of the quarterly *DomainWire stat report* was released at the end of September and covers basic TLD statistics globally such as market share between gTLDs/ccTLDs, the top 20 largest ccTLDs and net quarterly growth.

The report has a focus on European ccTLDs and shows their net quarterly growth as well as other key stats. An article from the CENTR database on how the ccTLDs are marketing is included in the report. **Read on**



**IETF87 Report** - The Tor Project was presented at IETF87 by computer activist Jacob Appelbaum amidst a new round of revelations from Edward Snowden, the former Booz Allen Hamilton employee who stripped naked several large-scale of the National Security Agency, NSA, and the British GCQH. In an adhoc session Wednesday night Appelbaum analysed the file deck on Xkeyscore (a several day TCP-dump of Internet data collected on more than 500 servers located all over the globe and allowing searches over the collections). **Read on**

## Contact CENTR

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