Working on our Future Together

By Katrina Sataki (NIC.LV), newly elected Chair of the ccNSO

We – the ccTLDs – are diverse by definition, but we all are driven by our involvement and commitment to run our national country code top level domain registries on behalf of our respective local internet communities. At the ccNSO we meet, discuss ideas, exchange experiences and visions, develop policies and shape the future. For me, the strength of the ccNSO lays in its ability to listen to the community, to the small and large registries, the well-established and relatively new, and to those who are just learning about the multistakeholder model and those who are very versed in it. Via the ccNSO, the ccTLDs ensure that their unique place in the DNS-space is recognised and respected within global policy processes.

The recent historic acceptance of the CWG-Stewardship and CCWG-Accountability recommendations for the IANA stewardship transition will define the future of the management of the DNS. Representatives from the ccTLD community played a vital role in this collective effort and ensured that the ccTLD community could support the proposed way forward.

To enable the IANA Stewardship Transition the focus now has shifted to the implementation of the recommendations. The ccNSO, as well as others under the ICANN umbrella need to ensure that all necessary changes are made in time to meet the community requirements. In the short term, this means inter alia that by 15 August this year the proposed ICANN By-laws need to be accepted, the Customer Standing Committee needs to be established and the related ccNSO internal procedures need to be in place.

Regular policy work must also continue. The ccNSO will launch a policy development process on retirement of ccTLDs and a review mechanism for decisions pertaining to the delegation, revocation, transfer and retirement of ccTLDs. This is expected to be a multi-year project that will require a lot of efforts. We are counting on the community members involved in the Framework of Interpretation Working Group to help to drive this process.

ICANN Accountability is a popular topic, but we also should look at ourselves: the ccNSO Council, individual councillors and the ccNSO as whole should be held accountable. The ccNSO Council has already taken steps to improve its transparency – its minutes are always posted, as are Council attendance sheets and all meeting documents and audio files. We have also developed a wiki space where all ccNSO Council related material is open for public scrutiny. Is this enough? Only the community can answer that question. Currently the ccNSO Council is working on a survey to set a baseline of community expectations. This baseline will be taken into account by the ccNSO Council in its quest for enhanced transparency and accountability.

I started the article by pointing at the importance of the ccNSO as global platform and meeting place for ccTLD managers. In my view this is complementary to the important work of the Regional ccTLD Organisations, AfTLD, APTLD, CENTR and LACTLD. They do bring together their communities and serve their needs. I believe that in the near future the role of the ROs will become even more important. The CENTR community has always set ambitious goals and many CENTR members are very active in the global arena. Very often CENTR is a pioneer for new and innovative activities.

I thank you, and the whole community for your trust. Chairing the ccNSO is a big challenge, and also a huge responsibility: but I am looking forward to it. I will not be able to achieve the ambitious goals of the ccNSO on my own – I heavily rely on the support and wise guidance of the vice-chairs Byron Holland and Demi Getschko; I know how committed and hard working my fellow councillors are, the ccNSO Secretariat, Regional Organisations and both ccNSO members and non-members. Will it be easy? Certainly not. Is it doable? Together we can accomplish everything.

Your contribution to the work of the ccNSO is and will always be greatly appreciated.

2016 Board offsite: what's in the cards for CENTR

*By Jörg Schweiger (DENIC),
Chair of CENTR's Board of Directors*

Meeting to discuss the future of an association such as CENTR, which is constantly working to best serve the needs of its members, is a wonderful but demanding challenge, especially considering the changing times in our industry. On 19-20 April 2016, CENTR's Board of Directors, together with the CENTR staff, met in Bruges, Belgium, to discuss path-breaking issues that will give direction to the organisation and help define CENTR's goals for the year to come. The Board assessed the implementation of the 2016 strategy and came to conclusions, as well as a set of actions point.

The main takeaways from this offsite meeting were that CENTR's strategic plan and budget are on track, that members receive the service they expect and that they are key areas on which CENTR will orient its work in 2016-2017. Expect the launch of CENTR position processes this year, more involvement of the membership in policy issues and an in-depth assessment of associate members' access to CENTR content, particularly the CENTRstats platform.
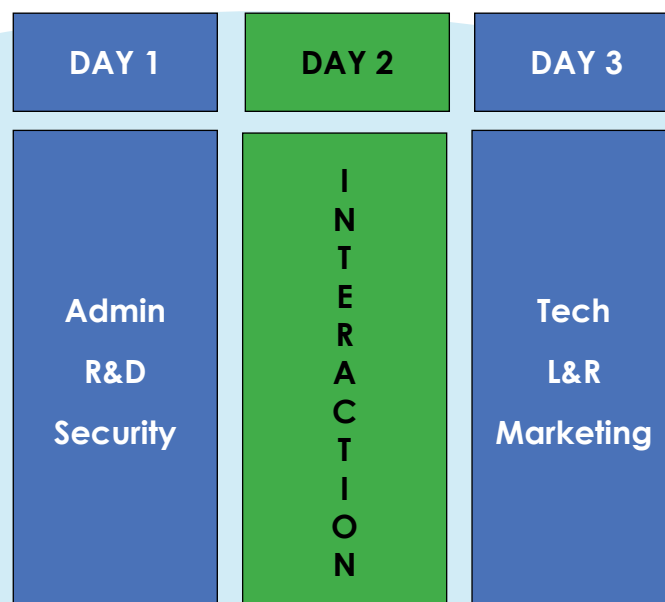
The involvement of CENTR in Internet Governance issues will be reassessed on a regular basis, options for CENTR Awards in 2017 will be explored and the Secretariat will be drafting a meeting strategy to evaluate the number and format of meetings throughout the year, as well as related costs. CENTR will still be keeping track of the IANA transition process, watching over members' interests in the implementation phase.

It seems that each year, CENTR is facing more diverse expectations from its membership but also ever greater support. The Board and Secretariat are striving not only to keep delivering high quality service, but also to anticipate the needs of its members in their evolving roles as ccTLD registries, in a changing domain name industry. CENTR's reason for being a platform for exchange, dialogue and innovation has never seemed timelier for its membership.

Quick guide to the CENTR Jamboree 2016

CENTR will be holding the third edition of its annual Jamboree on 17-19 May 2016 in Brussels, kindly hosted by EURid. As we all strive to make it as relevant as possible to all participants a bit more each year, 2016 will definitely be no exception and should offer plenty of exciting discussion opportunities to all attendees. To help you navigate the multiple agendas across the 3-day meeting, here's a quick overview of what to expect.

Day 1 will be dedicated to full-day workshops of the Administrative, R&D and Security working groups (WG). Highlights will include the approval of the "registry requirements towards registrars" table (Admin WG), registry-registrar relations (Admin WG), contributions from OpenINTEL Consortium and TCINET on measuring the DNS name space and new cryptographic algorithms in software libraries (R&D WG), as well as interactive discussions on security incidents & processes (Security WG). It should be noted as well that Mohsen Souissi will be stepping down as co-Chair of the R&D WG: the CENTR community is extremely grateful for his dedication to the R&D working group over the past years.

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
Admin R&D Security	INTERACTION	Tech L&R Marketing

09.00-10.00	Data protection / privacy	Internet of Things	Use of a domain name	Security awareness game (group 1)	Advanced presentation skills	Centrstats Demo (group 1)
10.00-11.00	*part 2*	*part 2*	*part 2*	Secure Coding	*part 2*	Threats to the industry
11.00-11.30	break	break	break	break	break	break
11.30-12.30	Hot topics from other regions	Innovation culture within registries	EU-Commission Security expert	Crash course on EU policy-making	Centrstats demo (group 2)	Zero Growth
12.30-14.00	break	break	break	break	break	break
14.00-15.00	Domain name abuse	Centrstats Demo (group 3)	Engaging the channel	Security awareness game (group 2)	Registry liability	*Break-out room*
15.00-16.00	Cybersecurity demo	Big Data	Crisis management	Collaboration pitches	CENTR RAR Day preparations	Unconference/ Open Space
16.00-16.30	break	break	break	break	break	break
16.30-17.30	NIS Directive	Data monetisation	*part 2*	ID federations	Security awareness game (group 3)	*part 2*

Day 2 is dedicated to breakout sessions: six separate rooms will be used to host a wide variety of topic discussions, ranging from data protection to training on presentation skills, security awareness game, crisis management, liability, CENTRstats platform demo and much more. You can find the overview of all sessions here and a more detailed description of each here. Don't forget to register to the sessions you wish to attend! There is also a survey circulating to collect input on the CENTR Registrar Day (5 October 2016 in Belgrade), which will feed into the session on RAR Day prep.

Day 3 is dedicated to the workshops of the Marketing, L&R and Technical working groups. Highlights will include a discussion on market shares with our own stats gurus and a competition lawyer (Marketing), a new open mic session on key topics (L&R), and liability issues and case studies (L&R).

Overview, how to register and practical info: you will find all the information you need on the Jamboree 2016 event page, including a sneak peek at the social events, which will include a welcoming cocktail (Monday), Belgian beer tasting (Tuesday) and a night on Brussels' only island (Wednesday).

Also happening at the Jamboree: **launch of the new CENTR website!** CENTR is proud to announce the official launch of its new website at the Jamboree. To celebrate the occasion, we will have a small bag of branded goodies for you at registration. There will also be a professional photographer on Day 1 to take portraits for the Who's Who section (members' area of the website). Expect a surprise quiz as well! We hope to see many of you in Brussels in just a few weeks!

ICANN56: what is a "policy forum" exactly?

As you may have heard, there is quite a bit of talk about the format and agenda of the next ICANN meeting in Helsinki: this is because it will be a first attempt at implementing the new ICANN future meeting strategy, which defines meeting B as a "policy forum" that should last only 4 days. The idea is for this meeting to be focused on policy work and outreach.

But what difference will it make? And what can you expect in terms of content and agenda in June?
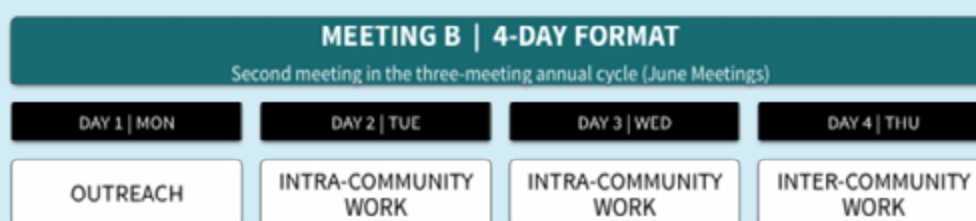
Shorter meeting

Most SO/AC have struggled to shape agendas fitting into this new meeting format. It is still unclear how this will affect the final agendas, but according to most recent draft versions, here is an overview of what to expect.

CCNSO: day 1 (Monday) will be a dedicated tech day. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are still TBD, but it seems likely that the CCNSO Council meeting will be held on Thursday morning.

GAC: the GAC agenda is taking shape, with a selection of topics scheduled in for the first three days. Thursday afternoon will be focused on planning ICANN57 and producing a Statement of Outcomes.

GNSO: similar to the GAC, the GNSO has selected certain PDP WG topics to be covered from day 1. It has allocated time for bilateral meeting requests on Wednesday morning. It will be holding its Council meeting on Thursday morning and wrap-up session in the afternoon.

MEETING B	4-DAY FORMAT			
Second meeting in the three-meeting annual cycle (June Meetings)			
DAY 1	MON	DAY 2	TUE	DAY 3	WED	DAY 4	THU
OUTREACH	INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK	INTRA-COMMUNITY WORK	INTER-COMMUNITY WORK

No public forum

The public forum will be held in two parts in meetings A and C. This new format will allow for the two portions of the public forum to have different focus, but it is still unclear what the focus will be and how this will translate into practice.

Other regular items that will be excluded from meeting B include the welcome ceremony, high-interest topics, public board meeting and the sponsor exhibition area.

Focus on outreach

The main idea for all SO/AC at meeting B is for day 1 to be dedicated to outreach, day 2 and 3 to intra-community work and day 4 to inter-community work. The general feeling, however, is one of confusion and frustration across all SO/ACs. All participants will have to wait for final agendas to trickle in to truly get a sense of what will be covered.

Geographic location imperative

All of this has been constructed in order to allow smaller venues around the world the opportunity to host ICANN meetings, in accordance with ICANN's frantic efforts to be more global and inclusive. Ok, it may have already failed with ICANN56, which was supposed to be held in Panama City, but the Zika virus outbreak is nobody's fault. Helsinki will do just fine this time. Let's see how it goes for next year's meeting B in Johannesburg!

And more importantly: let's see how the SO/ACs' agendas for ICANN56 are taking shape, how attendance ratings go and how much policy work actually gets accomplished. To be continued!

EU Policy Update

By Nina Elzer, CENTR Policy Advisor

New DSM announcements in May - After some delay, the Commission is set to publish on 25 May several proposals linked to its digital single market strategy (DSM), including geo-blocking, parcel delivery and Internet platforms. DSM measures of most relevance to ccTLD are: Internet platforms (with a potential review of the intermediary liability provisions), the copyright review (expected end of September, including enforcement rules), and a review of the e-Privacy directive (in December).

More on platforms: A recently leaked document identified 8 different categories of platforms, e.g. search services, social media, marketplaces – not ccTLDs. However, the issues raised in this context (e.g. liability, harmonised notice and takedown) could have a wider impact.

More on e-privacy: The current directive covers telecom providers (with rules on data breach notification, spam, etc.), a review could see an expansion to OTTs (over-the-top providers, e.g. VOIP) – again, not ccTLDs. However, issues such as the development of privacy standards could become part of it.

Commission set to conclude EU-US Privacy Shield to in June: before this can happen, however, the Privacy Shield has to 'pass' the adequacy test ("adequacy decision" procedure) to make sure that Europeans' personal data are as well protected when being processed in the US as when in the EU. In a first step, the Article 29 Working Party (Member States' data protection authorities) shared its (sceptical) opinion. The opinion of the Article 31 Committee (Member State representatives) is expected by 19 May. However, safeguards to surveillance of Europeans by US intelligence still remain the major stumbling block.

US surveillance continues – and expands? All 1,457 requests in 2015 – by the NSA or FBI – for electronic surveillance orders were approved by the so-called US Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (see article). The rather secretive court also dealt with the FBI's 48,642 "national security letters" (NSL). NSLs can require Internet and telecom companies to hand over customer data – both US citizens' and foreigners'. The Supreme Court, last week, approved a rule change, which could expand the FBI's hacking powers – unless rejected by Congress (rather unlikely). US judges would then be able to issue search warrants for computers in any jurisdiction (not just their own county/-ies). As a result, the FBI could access and search hundreds or thousands of computers through a single warrant.

TTIP leak – a threat to digital rights? The trade agreement's chapter on telecommunications could well mean a trend towards "law enforcement by private companies", according to a recent analysis by the digital rights organisation EDRi. For example, telecom regulators would have the power to circumvent or even repeal and modify EU legislation of any service that "classifies as a public telecommunications service".

News and Events

More e-commerce security in the .be-zone An efficient collaboration between the FPS Economy (Federal Government Department for the Economy) and DNS Belgium took more than 200 .be websites selling fake goods offline during a recent inspection.

Digital Economy in Portugal with data related to .pt domains The 2015 edition of the Digital Economy Study in Portugal was conducted by IDC for ACEPI and for the DNS.PT Association and included, for the first time, data related with .pt domains.

Regional partnership between RNIDS and UTIC Representatives of the University of Sarajevo tele-informatic centre (UTIC), which administers the Bosnia and Herzegovina .BA top-level domain and the Serbian National Internet Domain Registry Foundation (RNIDS), signed a Cooperation agreement on 21st April in Belgrade.

Introduction of short domains under .at Until now the minimum length of a domain name under the top-level domain .at has been three characters. This regulation will be changed which means that around 5.000 one and two character domains will be made available.

Joint efforts needed to ensure information security On 25-28 April, Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany) hosted the 10th International Forum on "State, Civil Society and Business Partnership on International Information Security", organized by MSU in cooperation with the Security Council of the Russian Federation. The forum brought together more than 100 scientists and experts from 13 countries, including experts of the Coordination Center for TLD.RU/РФ.

Changes in Conditions of domain name registration and the mojeID service Mid-May will bring changes to the Conditions of registration of .cz domain names and ENUM domain names as well as Conditions of the mojeID service for end users. The changes respond to the amendment on Consumer Protection.

CENTR publishes its IETF95 Report

The IETF95 meeting was held in Buenos Aires on 3-8 April 2016.

Report on
IETF95
Buenos Aires
3-8 April 2016

Upcoming CENTR events

17-19 May 2016

CENTR Jamboree 2016 (Brussels, Belgium)
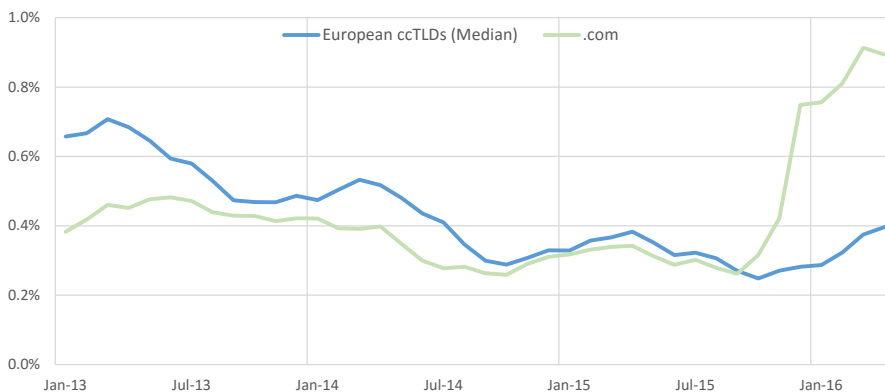
Upcoming industry events

9-10 June 2016

EuroDIG 2016 (Brussels, Belgium)

27-30 June 2016

ICANN56 (Helsinki, Finland)

Domain Name Statistics

Source: CENTR (based on 57 ccTLDs), ICANNwiki
Growth lines use 3-month moving averages to smooth the line * Refers to CENTR full members only

CENTR combined registrations*

72.7 *million*

The combined domains of all top level domains within the CENTR full membership is 72.7 million. Over a sample of 42 of these ccTLDs located in the European region, the median growth over the past 12 months was 4.2%

High growth European ccTLDs in Q1 2016 were .ee (Estonia), .me (Montenegro), .am (Armenia), .pt, (Portugal) and .cy (Cyprus).