



# CENTR in 2016

An overview of the European ccTLD landscape in the year to come

By Peter Van Roste, CENTR General Manager

Every year in May, the CENTR Board asks itself the question: what do we expect to happen in our industry in the next year? Similar exchanges take place with all CENTR members during one-to-one calls in June. What comes out of those discussions forms the core of CENTR's annual strategic plan and essentially gives us the roadmap for the year ahead. So what do we expect in 2016 and how do we plan to address the challenges for our industry?

The domain name **market is changing**. Growth has slowed down significantly over the last year and will continue to do so. There are three ways in which CENTR plans to support its members. Firstly we will continue to invest in data analysis by creating a portal that will allow members to access a rich data mine that will help them not only to benchmark, but also to predict trends and anticipate them. Members can already join the beta trial version on [centrstats.org](http://centrstats.org). Secondly, we will bring together the existing market research across the membership, combine the findings and identify knowledge gaps. Where necessary we'll incubate additional research. Thirdly, we also expect that - in particular the larger - registries will continue to diversify and bring new services to the market. CENTR will act as a platform to share best practices and will explore opportunities for collaboration on some of these new projects.

The **legal environment is changing**. At the end of last year we have seen a surge in new EU legislation and regulatory initiatives. Those were particularly visible in the areas of cybersecurity and data protection, but also with regards to the role of intermediaries our environment will be changing. The NIS directive is all set for adoption in a few months from now. Consultations on platforms, intermediaries and copyright will continue to require our input. We plan to increase our educational efforts in the institutions in Brussels. The CENTR working groups have the expertise on these issues and will dedicate significant portions of their meetings assessing impact of these changes and providing input to the regulatory pro-



cesses. On the privacy front, we expect nervousness across the ICT industry as the fall out of the annihilation of the Safe Harbour agreement becomes clearer. CENTR will provide a general overview of the possible impact on ccTLDs shortly.

Those two forces do not only affect ccTLDs but have an impact on the wider DNS industry and Internet ecosystem. Therefore we will team up with other stakeholders in our industry and beyond. In 2016 it will be more important than ever to increase the cooperation with registrars. To that end we are collaborating on three projects: (1) an EU-wide overview of registrar accreditation policies; (2) an information hub on EPP extensions; and (3) an exchange of datasets that help better understanding the needs of the registrants. The CENTR Registrar Day for this year is planned for 5 October in Belgrade, save the date!

2016 will be the year when the stakeholders **set out their roadmaps for the next decade**. With EuroDIG setting up camp in Brussels, we will team up with other industry players such as EuroISPA and RIPE to jointly address the regulatory issues, in particular the intermediary liability. We will also reinforce our educational outreach to the EU institutions, partnering up where relevant.

We expect to see the IANA Stewardship Transition and the related elements of the ICANN accountability improvement process come to a close before the summer. It will be crucial for the TLD community to be ready for the implementation phase and identify the right individuals for the newly created roles.

And finally 2016 will also see the launch of our revamped website. Members in particular will benefit from improved access to information and integrated data sources.

An ambitious program for what promises to be an interesting year!

Although CENTR has an ambitious programme for the year ahead, it is always interesting to highlight our activities in the past year as well. We definitely kept busy in 2015, and hope to keep the pace this year to best serve our membership!

# CENTR IN NUMBERS IN 2015



**19**

**WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS HELD IN**

**9**

**COUNTRIES**

- .be** BELGIUM
- .dk** DENMARK
- .de** GERMANY
- .it** ITALY
- .ie** IRELAND
- .ro** ROMANIA
- .rs** SERBIA
- .se** SWEDEN
- .uk** UNITED KINGDOM

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

**WORKSHOPS 29** **GENERAL ASSEMBLIES 70**

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

**JAMBOREE 187**



**37**  
Publications

**59**  
EU updates

**18**  
Surveys

**28%**  
Increase in Twitter followers

**94**  
Likes on Facebook page

## The next decade of Internet governance

*CENTR issue paper*

2015 set the fundamentals for the next decade of Internet Governance (IG) with the IANA stewardship transition and WSIS+10 being high on everyone's agenda. This does not mean that 2016 will be an idle year. Stakeholders will map out their strategies aligning them with the WSIS roadmap. This paper gives an overview of the key issues that will influence IG processes in 2016, explains roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in these processes, and helps ccTLDs find the red thread through the myriad of events and interests and identifies possible ways of getting involved.



# EU Policy Update

By Nina Elzer, CENTR Policy Advisor

## Encryption

**United Kingdom** - The UK Draft Investigatory Powers Bill contains data retention (domains visited for 12 months) and mass surveillance clauses. Over-the-top communication service providers (e.g. iMessage or Whatsapp) fear that they could be obliged to build in backdoors in their end-to-end encryption, so that security services could eavesdrop on messages. [Read more](#) (France, The Netherlands, open letter to governments)

## Safe Harbour

Negotiators are unlikely to meet the end-of-January deadline for a new agreement on data transfers from the EU to the US. "Even if some agreement was reached, it would be a political agreement", EDPS Buttarelli said. Stumbling blocks include judicial redress, guarantees for data and security requests to be necessary and proportional, and a system to monitor and enforce rules for EU citizens in the US. [Read more](#)

## Online extremism: Tech execs meet with US government

The CEOs of big US tech companies, such as Google, Microsoft and Facebook, met with their government to discuss ways to combat radicalisation and recruitment by terrorists online. Not unlike the [EU Internet Forum](#), the meeting content, invitees and expectations towards industry remain largely secretive.

## Digital Single Market: European Parliament votes on resolution

The plenary voted (19/01) on its view on the Commission's "Digital Single Market" strategy. The [adopted text](#) leaves readers hopeful, worried and confused. Hopeful, as the role of fundamental rights and the usefulness of encryption play a more prominent role again in MEPs' minds (especially as compared to the rather shocking [Dati report](#)). [Read more](#)

## e-Privacy Directive: Public consultation in March

The European Commission will seek the public's view on the current Directive from late March. The plan is to publish a reform proposal in 2017. The current directive dates back to 2002 and sets rules for telecom operators when processing personal data and to ensure their networks' security. Telecoms are worried that their sector will be overregulated while competing services from internet companies have to abide by less strict laws.



## Cybersecurity: European Parliament committee approves NIS directive

The committee approval clears the way for a vote in plenary. A slight change to the text clarifies that (lighter) requirements on digital service providers are truly harmonised (and not "gold-plated" as to the will of individual Member States). [Read more](#)

## Data protection: 2016 Priorities of the European Data Protection Supervisor

The EDPS, Giovanni Buttarelli, will mainly focus on the implementation of EU data protection rules, "post-Safe Harbour", as well as EU border protection and security. He sees his role in ensuring that the data protection perspective is included in the Commission's 2016 initiatives, especially those related to the Digital Single Market, but also to international agreements, such as TTIP. ([Priorities 2016](#))

## Net neutrality: Council of Europe (CoE) issues recommendations

The CoE takes a strong stance towards net neutrality, emphasising the need to protect and promote the rights to freedom of expression and private life. Interferences with internet traffic "may affect the quality of the Internet service delivered to users and may result in blocking, discrimination or prioritisation of specific types of content, applications or services. [Read more](#)

## Big Data: FTC issues recommendations to businesses

In its report, the Federal Trade Commission of the US acknowledges the benefits of innovative uses of big data to "underserved populations" in the fields of education, health, employment and access to credit. At the same time, it warns about biases or inaccuracies that could derive from big data and result in discrimination against certain groups. [Read more](#)

[Further reading](#)

**Save the date: The .CA Community Investment Program open for applications January 20 (.ca)** The .CA Community Investment Program announced that the next application period for funding will open on January 20th. The program will make \$1 million in funding available to Canadian registered charities, non-profit organizations and academic researchers.

**CNNIC Releases Research Report on Development of Car-hailing Service Market (.cn)** CNNIC has recently released its Research Report on Development of Car-hailing Service Market.

**The mojeld service has half a million users (.cz)** The mojeld service, which enables maintaining user data in one safe place and up-to-date, registered on 6 January its 500,000th user.

**.eu alternative dispute resolution fees discounted in 2016** The fee for a basic .eu Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedure will continue to be cut by 50%, following an agreement between the .eu registry EURid and the Czech Arbitration Court (CAC), the institution appointed to rule on Alternative Dispute Resolution proceedings for the .eu top-level domain in 2005.

**Meet SIDN at the webshop event in Utrecht (.nl)** Choosing a good, commercial domain name for your webshop is just as important as choosing the right name for the business itself.

**New Zealand Internet Research Forum (.nz)** InternetNZ, in conjunction with AUT's Institute of Culture, Discourse and Communication, is holding the second New Zealand Internet Research Forum and we'd love you to attend.

**7th Lusophone Forum of Communications (.pt)** ARCTEL-CPLP and LusNIC - Portuguese Language ccTLD's Association will organize the 7th Lusophone Forum of Communications under the theme "Digital Economy Challenges" to be held on 18 and 19 February in Sao Tome and Principe.

**Nominet strategy 2016** (By Russell Haworth, Nominet CEO) Having been the CEO of Nominet for a year now, I wanted to share my views on Nominet as a business, and our strategy and priorities moving forward.

## CENTR's RIPE71 Report

CENTR published its **report of the RIPE71 meeting** in Bucharest on 16-20 November 2015.



## Upcoming CENTR Events

3 February 2016

37<sup>th</sup> CENTR Administrative workshop (Lausanne, Switzerland)

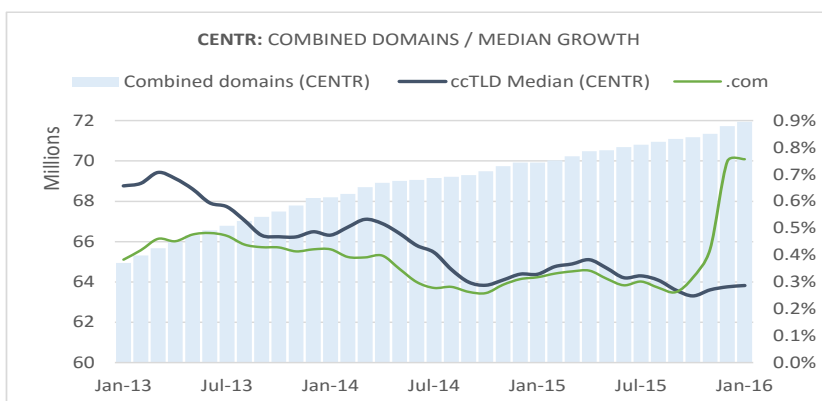
16 February 2016

55<sup>th</sup> CENTR General Assembly / 2016 Annual General Meeting (Budva, Montenegro)

1-2 March 2016

19<sup>th</sup> CENTR Marketing Workshop (Tallinn, Estonia)

## 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\*

**71.9 million**

Combined domains over 57 recorded CENTR members is 71.9 million. This represents a combined growth of 2.9% for the past 12 months and a median ccTLD growth of 3.9% for the same period.

It's estimated that ccTLDs in CENTR represent around 95% of all ccTLD registrations in Europe. CENTR produces detailed registration stats, trends and analysis to its members.