In the year of the Monkey

Thoughts from the outgoing Chair of CENTR's Board of Directors, Giovanni Seppia

2016 is the year of the Monkey in the Chinese calendar. According to the Chinese Five Elements horoscope, Monkey contains Metal and Water. Metal is connected to the wind, which implies that the status of events may change very quickly. Water is connected to wisdom and danger, meaning that we may deal with more financial events in the year of the Monkey.

The IANA transition and ICANN accountability processes should be fast drawing to a close (or at least we all wish they did), the latter far from being a multistakeholder journey, both with a budget that has unfortunately exploded. We may all personally wonder how long it will take ICANN to produce well-structured and sound budget practices for any of their projects and/or actions, as strongly and regularly demanded by the ccNSO SOP over the past five years. 2015 ended with the ICANN family spread among 3 hubs and 6 engagement offices whose real value has not yet being properly investigated and that suffer from inconsistent policies. 2015 ended with 634 new gTLDs being launched and the start of the evaluation of the new gTLDs to assess if there is the need for a future round. The year also ended with the predictable renewal of the IGF mandate and the confirmation that inde-

pendent initiatives such as Netmundial, which duplicate existing community-based mechanisms, never go very far. 2015 was a busy year for the DNS community, and 2016 will be equally busy.

The founder of the World Economic Forum recently stated in Davos that we may replicate the human brain in a robot, but robots will never have the ability to believe in something. And I would like to leave you with an invitation to keep believing, believing we can further serve our stakeholder communities as we have done in the past decades, believing that we can and should continue to constructively contribute to the ICANN and worldwide Internet governance processes, believing that we can all work together within the friendly spirit that has distinguished the CENTR community since its dawn, believing that the digital revolution that started a long time ago may soon lead to a new human renaissance.

I enjoyed a lot being the CENTR Board Chairman in 2015. Not only because I had the honour to work with great Board members, but also because I saw the CENTR Secretariat further developing, coping with new challenges, rolling out the Communication and EU Policies that were presented to us not so long ago.

And with the enthusiasm of the staff newcomers, the expertise of those we have known for several years and under a very good leadership, I believe the Secretariat managed to achieve high-level goals, to strengthen the relations with most of us, and to become a true point of reference for the EU institutions and other DNS industry stakeholders. Therefore, I would like to warmly congratulate the Secretariat on behalf of the current Board. Thank you.

*By Giovanni Seppia,
EURid External Relations
Manager and former
Chair of CENTR's Board
of Directors*

55th CENTR General Assembly
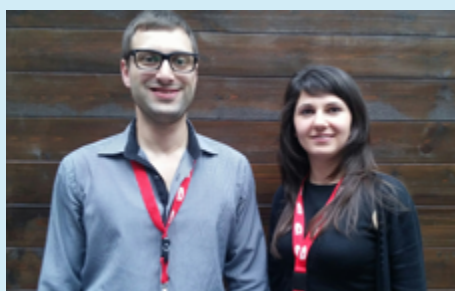
16-17 February 2016
Budva, Montenegro

New Board, new member welcomed and crucial topics covered at CENTR's 55th General Assembly

CENTR held its 55th General Assembly on 16-17 February 2016 in Budva, Montenegro. The meeting was well attended by 55 participants from 33 registries, and was kindly hosted by doMEn, the registry for the .me country code top-level domain (ccTLD).

The meeting was graciously opened by a keynote address from Vujica Lazovic, PhD, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications, Montenegro Representative on the Governmental Advisory Committee of ICANN and ccTLD Manager for .me TLD.

In addition to welcoming three new members to its Board of Directors as well as a new member to its community, participants got treated to a full agenda covering several issues of high interest to its membership. From a refresher on the IETF and special use of domains to registry liability, trends in domain name pricing, as well as several registry, CENTR secretariat, ICANN accountability and IANA transition updates, participants were not short on discussion topics.

Agenda and slides (full and associate members only)

CENTR welcomes its new Board of Directors

Budva, 17 February 2016 – CENTR is happy to announce that it has elected its new Board of Directors at the association's 55th General Assembly in Budva, Montenegro. Jörg Schweiger (DENIC, .de) was elected as Chair of the organisation's Board of Directors. Pierre Bonis (AFNIC, .fr) and Irina Danelia (Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.РФ) were also elected as Board members. All new terms are effective as of 17 February 2016. They join current Board members Elisabeth Ekstrand (IIS, .se) and Danko Jevtović (RNIDS, .rs/.СРБ), who were elected on 19 March 2015. Danko Jevtović has also been appointed Treasurer of the Board. Read more

CENTR welcomes MARnet (.mk) to its community

On 17 February, MARnet's (.mk, .МКД) membership application was approved by CENTR's 55th General Assembly in Budva, Montenegro, bringing the CENTR community to a total of 62 full and associate members.

MARnet is the registry for .mk and .МКД, the country code top-level domain of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The .mk ccTLD was established in 1994 within the Ss. Cyril and Methodius state university in Skopje. Since February 2011, the registry has been operating as an independent public institution. MARnet has also been operating the Cyrillic version of .mk (IDN) .МКД since 2014. It has more than 25,000 domains registered under .mk and more than 600 domains under .МКД.

EU Policy Update

By Nina Elzer, CENTR Policy Advisor

The "new" Safe Harbour – Shield without protection

On 2 February, the European Commission proudly announced an agreement on the new EU-US Privacy Shield. For now, it is a list of "assurances", but no document has been seen. The main points: stronger obligations on US companies to protect Europeans' personal data, written assurance by the US and redress mechanisms. Read more

The Apple Case – How privacy could look in the future

Apple has received a US court order obliging it to crack an iPhone used during the December massacre in San Bernardino, US. So far Apple has refused to "hack its own customers", arguing that such a move would endanger consumer privacy and security and open the door to criminals. Building a version of iOS that bypasses security (i.e. wiping out all data if a wrong password is entered more than 10 times) would be equal to creating a backdoor. Read more

GDPR – impact on ccTLDs

CENTR is currently analysing how the new EU data protection laws could impact ccTLDs. First results will be presented at the upcoming L&R workshop. In the meantime, read this Privacy and Security Law Report by Bloomberg Law for a comprehensive overview of the main clauses of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its implications.

NIS Directive – where do we stand?

The final text of the NIS Directive still needs to be adopted by the European Parliament in plenary. Member States then have 21 months to transpose it into national law. Despite the fact that registries are specifically named in the Directive, this does not mean that they are automatically covered by its requirements. It is up to Member States to decide how critical an operator or infrastructure actually is. See the latest version (18 December 2015) and an overview of each EU institutions' position.

20% of Internet users affected by online security issues

This is the result of a Eurostat survey in 2015. Issues included viruses affecting their devices, abuse of personal information, financial losses, etc. This discouraged almost 20% of respondents from shopping online, using online banking (18%) or using WIFI if it was not their home connection. Read more

EuroDIG publishes a draft programme

The 150+ topic proposals have now been clustered and allocated to different session slots. CENTR and EuroISPA proposed a technical training workshop to explain how content control measures impact on the different layers of the Internet. The objective is to make this an independent side event in order to set the foundation for an informed debate with stakeholders on content control.

Umbrella Agreement not compliant with EU law

In a recent opinion the European Parliament's Legal Service said that the EU-US Umbrella agreement, which concerns the transfer of EU data to the US for law enforcement purposes, does not comply with EU primary law and does not respect fundamental rights. Further reading: Euractiv

Are IP addresses "personal information"?

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) will be hearing questions from the German federal court on 25 February 2016. Stay tuned!

Erika Mann joins Covington and Burling

Erika Mann, former German MEP and current ICANN board member, has joined the law firm Covington and Burling in Brussels.

Full EU Policy Update

Verisign Reports Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2015 Results VeriSign, Inc. (NASDAQ: VRSN), a global leader in domain names and Internet security, reported financial results for the fourth quarter and full year of 2015.

The CZ.NIC Association presented Domain Report for 2015 The CZ.NIC Association published a statistical overview of the .CZ domain for last year.

DENIC – A New Look for Our Jubilee Year With our new re-vamped website we start into the twin-jubilee year 2016. 20 years of the DENIC Cooperative and 30 years of .de: A strong motivation for us to stay actively involved in shaping the future of the Internet.

Contacting Afnic has never been easier With the new automatic callback service, Afnic has facilitated the use of its phone support by providing an interactive contact module with automated callback as soon as a customer advisor is free.

How to appeal a .ie registration Here at the IEDR we're different to other domain registries because we verify the identity of every domain applicant.

SIDN Seminar: The Global Internet Infrastructure We have the pleasure to invite you to attend the seminar Global Internet Infrastructure – transition, values and futures on Thursday 18 February 2016 in The Hague.

We live the Internet… Global – Safe – Local The seventh annual conference on the global development of the internet and the .RS and .СРБ domain spaces of Serbia – DIDS 2016, will be held 15th and 16th March, at the Hyatt Regency Belgrade hotel, organized by RNIDS.

National domains face new challenges The 69th Annual General Meeting of APTLD opened in Auckland, New Zealand, on February 18, bringing together representatives of national registries from Asia-Pacific, Europe, as well as from international organizations.

2016 CENTR Stat Survey: last call!

CENTR will be collecting responses from full members until 1 March 2016. Don't forget to complete the survey!

Take the survey
(full members only)

Upcoming CENTR Events

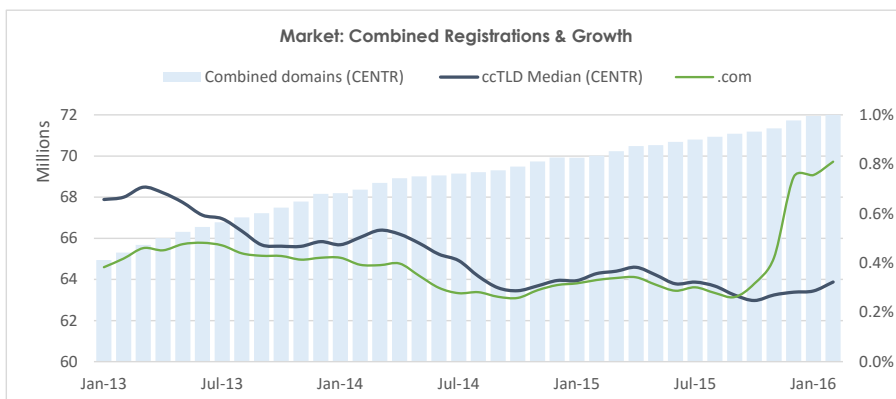*1-2 March 2016*

19th CENTR Marketing Workshop (Tallinn, Estonia)

17 March 2016

49th CENTR Legal & Regulatory Workshop (Lisbon, Portugal)

17-19 May 2016

CENTR Jamboree 2016 (Brussels, Belgium)

Market: Combined Registrations & Growth

Combined domains (CENTR) — ccTLD Median (CENTR) — .com

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*

72.1 *million*

The combined registrations of all top-level domains within the CENTR full membership is 72.1 million. Taking a sub-set of these TLDs, the median growth over the past 12 months is 4.1%

High-growth European ccTLDs in Q4 2015 were .ee (Estonia), .me (Montenegro), .am (Armenia), .pt, (Portugal) and .tr (Turkey).