DomainWire

Edition 7 – March 2014
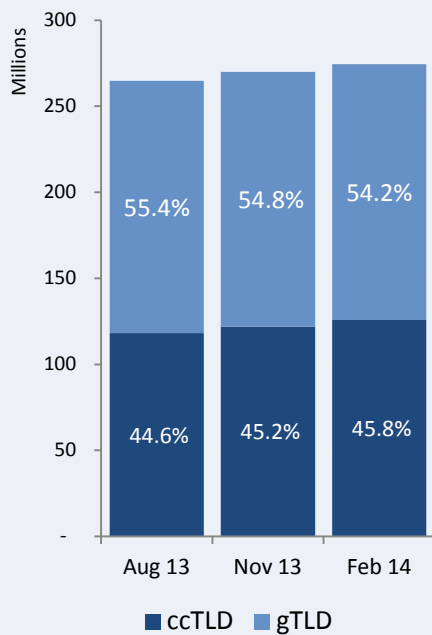
Domain Name
Stat Report

DomainWire Stat Report is CENTR's quarterly 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 association. 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 52 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*

	Aug 13	Nov 13	Feb 14
gTLD	55.4%	54.8%	54.2%
ccTLD	44.6%	45.2%	45.8%

As at February 2014 the total number of domains across all Top Level Domains (TLDs) stood at **274.5 million**. This represents a growth of roughly 1.6% since November 2013 (or 4.4 million registrations) with the largest growth found among ccTLDs at 3.1%.

The first new gTLDs have been delegated over the past few months. At the end of February 2014 around 120 new gTLDs were delegated and their total registrations stood at just under 200,000 – this represents a market share of around 0.1% of all domains globally. This report will continue to track their evolution as more new gTLDs get delegated and grow.

	Registrations	% Change (Quarter)
ccTLD	124,532,110	3.1%
ccTLD IDN	1,196,135	-1.6%
gTLD	147,554,439	0.5%
sTLD	1,179,992	-7.4%
Total	**274,462,676**	**1.6%**

Source: ZookNIC
*ccTLDs include ccTLDs and ccTLD IDN. gTLDs include gTLDs and sTLDs

Top 20 Largest ccTLDs

1	Tokelau (.TK)	22.2
2	Germany (.DE)	15.7
3	United Kingdom (.UK)	10.6
4	China (.CN)	10.3
5	Netherlands (.NL)	5.4
6	Russian Federation (.RU)	4.9
7	European Union (.EU)	3.8
8	Brazil (.BR)	3.3
9	Argentina (.AR)	3.0
10	Australia (.AU)	2.8
11	France (.FR)	2.7
12	Italy (.IT)	2.7
13	Poland (.PL)	2.5
14	Canada (.CA)	2.2
15	United States (.US)	1.9
16	Switzerland (.CH)	1.8
17	India (.IN)	1.7
18	Spain (.ES)	1.7
19	Colombia (.CO)	1.5
20	Belgium (.BE)	1.4

Scale: Millions
Source: Zooknic, CENTR (Feb 2014)

The top 20 largest ccTLDs represent roughly 82% of all ccTLD registrations globally and 37% of all domain names globally (gTLDs, ccTLDs etc).

The ccTLD for Tokelau (.tk) has the largest zone with over 22 million reported domain names. It is important to note that .TK offer mostly free domains on a global level and gets its revenue based on a fundamentally different business model than traditional ccTLDs. From those found in the top 20 list, the table (left) shows some of the highest growth ccTLDs observed in the past quarter. China's .cn experienced the highest growth with 16.5% for this quarter.

Quarter Growth
(Nov13 – Feb14)

China (.cn)	16.5%
Tokelau (.tk)	7.6%
Canada (.ca)	1.9%
France (.fr)	1.7%
Belgium (.be)	1.4%
European Union (.eu)	1.3%
United States (.us)	1.2%
Switzerland (.ch)	1.2%
Australia (.au)	1.1%
Italy (.it)	1.1%

European ccTLDs
Status update

European ccTLDs closed February 2014 with just under 66 million registrations a net growth of 0.7% for the past 3 months. The chart (right) shows quarter growth rates (at each month) for both European ccTLDs and global gTLDs since the beginning of 2013. It suggests a continued trend downward of both domain types however over the past 6 months there has been somewhat of a stabilisation.
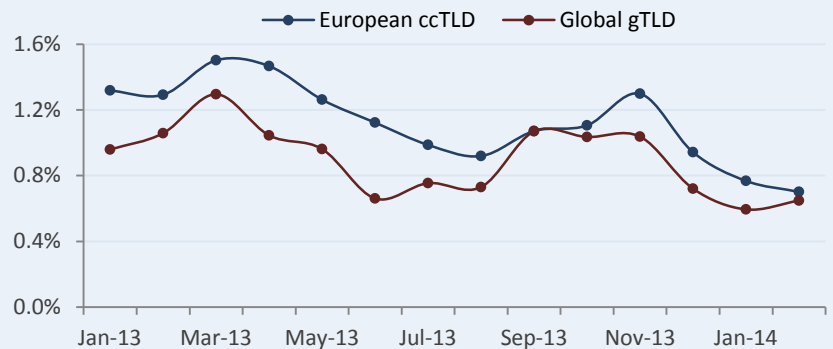
In general ccTLDs and gTLDs have closely aligned growth rates. The largest contribution to the February 3-month growth rate was .nl adding in total over 61,000 domains net.

Over the past 12 months, European ccTLDs grew 4.3% as compared to 3.4% among global gTLDs.

On a sample of 34 European ccTLDs, the median rate of 'new domains' added to a ccTLD zone was 23% for 2013 and a rate of 81% for renewals.

European ccTLDs **At a Glance**

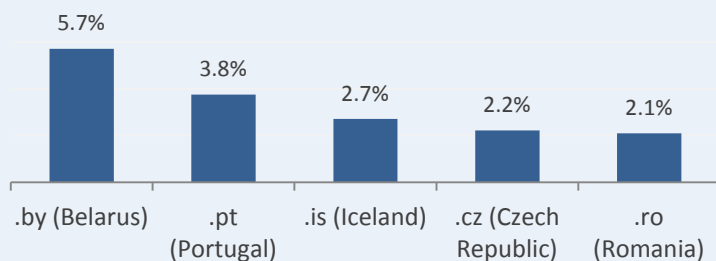|	
Total ccTLD registrations in Europe	65,996,604
Growth – Quarter/1 year	0.7%/4.3%
Average Renewal Rate (2013)	80.6%
Highest quarter growth	.by (Belarus) 5.7%
Largest Zone	.de (Germany) 15.7 million
DNSSEC Status	Deployed in 33 zones
No. Zones offering IDNs	25

To smooth the growth line, 3 month rates are used rather than 1 month

Source: CENTR, Hosterstats, IANA (DNSSEC stats)

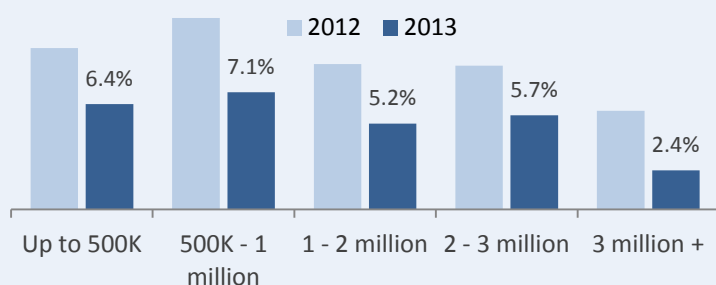## European ccTLDs – Domain name growth

Highest Quartely Growth - Nov13 - Feb 14

.by (Belarus)	5.7%
.pt (Portugal)	3.8%
.is (Iceland)	2.7%
.cz (Czech Republic)	2.2%
.ro (Romania)	2.1%

The chart (left) shows the top 5 highest growth European ccTLDs over the quarter. .by (Belarus) who are the most recent addition to the CENTR membership achieved the highest growth at 5.7% % followed by the .pt (Portugal) at 3.8%.

In terms of 12 month growth, .pt achieved an impressive 15.5% net growth. Other high growth European ccTLDs over the 12 month period include .is (12.4%), .ru (11.9%) and .me (11.1%)

Median 1 year growth per zone size

■ 2012 ■ 2013

Zone size	2013 growth
Up to 500K	6.4%
500K - 1 million	7.1%
1 - 2 million	5.2%
2 - 3 million	5.7%
3 million +	2.4%

Note: Number of observations differ between categories.

The chart (left) shows the 12 month median growth rates for European ccTLDs split up according to Registry zone size for 2012 and 2013. The highest among these categories for 2013 was for ccTLDs which manage 500K-1 million domains (7.1% median).

Across all ccTLDs in the regions, the median were all down between 2012 and 2013 and was recorded as 5.7% for 2013.
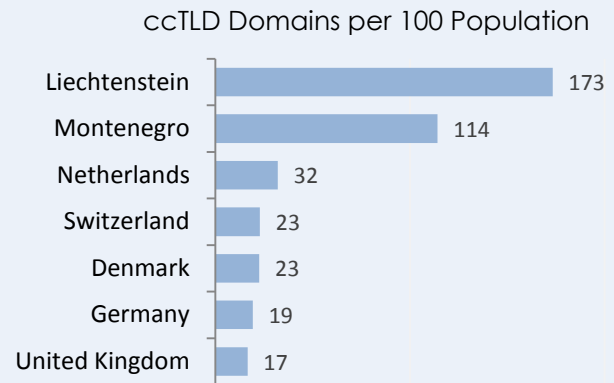
Source: CENTR

European ccTLDs – Domain name penetration

Measuring the number of domains per a unit of population can provide some insight to the relevance of domains within a country. The chart (right) shows the number of ccTLD domains per 100 population of each country. These numbers do not distinguish between domains registered under the local ccTLD from within and outside the country.

With a small population of 37,000, Liechtenstein retains the top position with 173 ccTLD domain names per 100 population.

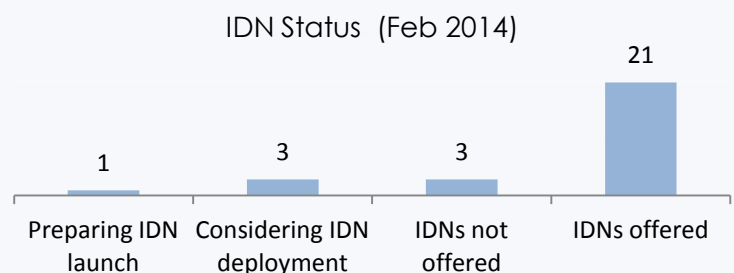Note: Montenegro (.ME) has a strong focus on markets outside its own country.

ccTLD Domains per 100 Population

Country	Value
Liechtenstein	173
Montenegro	114
Netherlands	32
Switzerland	23
Denmark	23
Germany	19
United Kingdom	17

Source: CENTR, EuroStat, WorldBank

Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) in Europe

Traditionally the "Latin Alphabet" (US-ASCII – script) was the only script that could be used for domain names. In 2003 the first European ccTLDs started to offer the possibility to register domain names using non-Latin characters. These are called Internationalised Domain names – or IDNs.

A recent CENTR survey, in which 21 European ccTLDs said they offer IDNs showed that as at December 2013, there were total of 1.2 million domain names in Europe containing at least one non-Latin character* - this represents around 6% of the domains in these ccTLDs. Compared to 6 months prior, the number of IDN domains in these ccTLDs grew with 17%.

IDN Status (Feb 2014)

Category	Value
Preparing IDN launch	1
Considering IDN deployment	3
IDNs not offered	3
IDNs offered	21

The uptake of IDNs varies and is influenced by factors such as the number of 'special characters' in the national script, the number of character sets the registry supports.

Below shows the top 5 largest number of IDN registrations by ccTLD as well as the year that ccTLD began offering IDNs.

	IDNs (Dec 13)	Year of Introduction
.РФ	851,535	2009
.se	77,598	2003
.eu	58,005	2009
.pl	55,525	2003
.at	29,000	2004

Source: All IDN data sourced from CENTR Survey: Launch and Use of IDNs (2014 edition)

For more details on IDN deployment, EURid (.eu) produce regular reports entitled 'World Report on Internationalised Domain Names Deployment'. See more here

SOURCES

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 .РФ 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