CENTR

Shaping best practices and dialogue among registries

RIPE NCC meeting, Nairobi, Kenya
July 29, 2004

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What is CENTR?

- Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries
- Forum for TLD managers
  - Primarily ccTLDs (but gTLDs)
  - Mainly European (but members from 5 continents)

CENTR's history

- Established as a non-profit organisation in 1999
  - Originated out of a RIPE working group
- Steady growth of members (two new members at the last GA)
- Staff grown from one office to three – Oxford, Salzburg, Brussels

CENTR's structure

- Executive Committee
  - 5 members, including the Chairman and the Treasurer
  - 2 years appointment
  - It runs the organisation in accordance with CENTR members wishes
- Secretariat
  - General Manager
  - Communication Officer
  - Technical Officer
  - Administrative Officer

CENTR's office re-invention

- From September 1, 2004, CENTR offices will be relocated in Brussels
- Main targets of this change:
  - Closer contacts with the European institutions
  - Enlarging our role in the Internet industry
  - Improve the work efficiency

CENTR's work flow [1]

- The work flow is decided together by the Excom and the Secretariat

- CENTR Members gather at least four time a year during the GA. The GA is the governing body of CENTR

- CENTR Secretariat organises administrative, legal and technical workshops on a regular basis as well as ad-hoc ws

CENTR's work flow [2]

- In carrying on its activities, CENTR is assisted by a Legal & Regulatory working group

- This WG goes through all legal matters that can be of CENTR members interest both at a "domestic level", (eg. Changes to CENTR AoA), and at an international level (eg. ICANN bylaws)
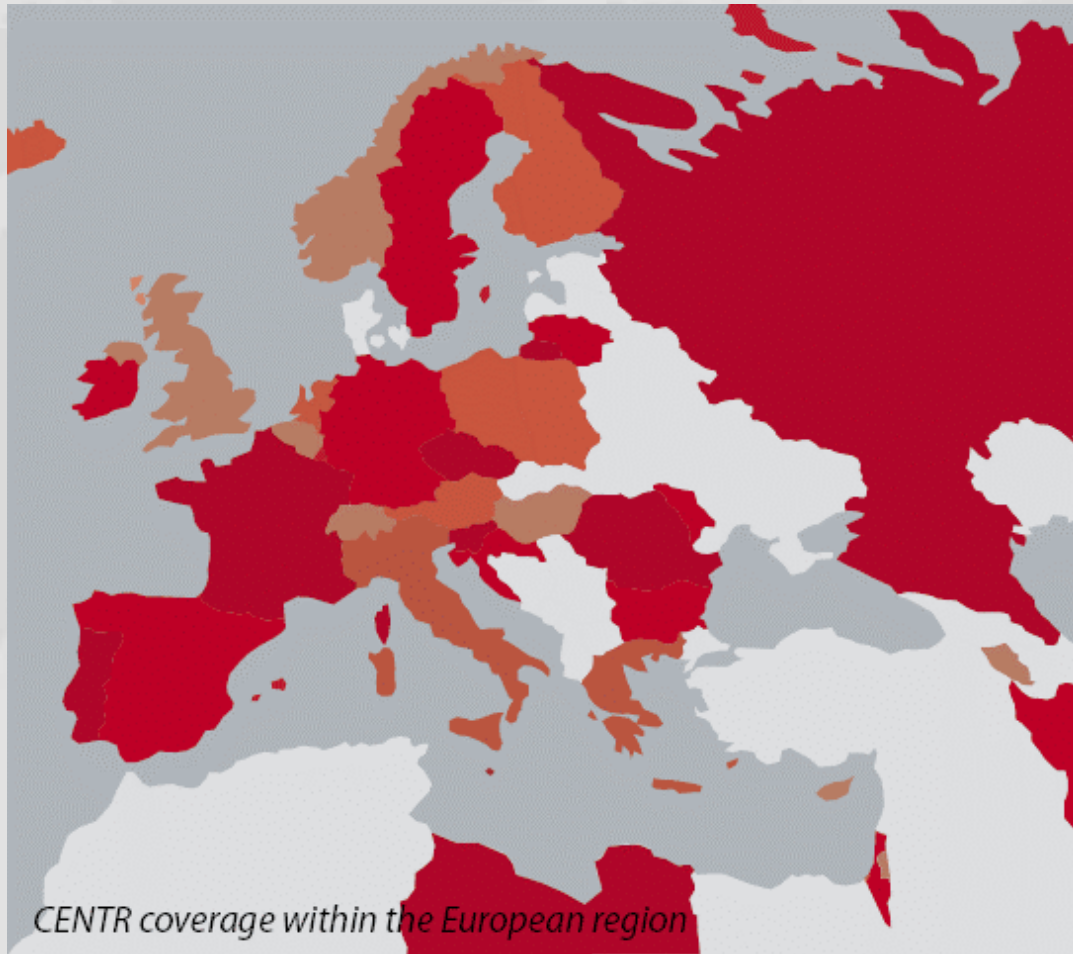
CENTR's Membership

- 3 Members categories
  - Full Members
  - Associate Members
  - Observers
- Admission as new Member only with the consent of the simple majority of the Members

CENTR's Membership

CENTR coverage within the European region

CENTR's Membership

- **AFGNIC Afghanistan (.af)**
- STA Andorra (.ad)
- ISOC.AM Armenia (.am)
- NIC.AC Ascension Is. (.ac), Diego Garcia (.io), St Helena (.sh)
- NIC.AT Austria (.at)
- DNS Belgium Belgium (.be)
- Digital Systems Bulgaria (.bg)
- CIRA Canada (.ca)
- CARNet Croatia (.hr)
- UCY-DNS Cyprus (.cy)
- CZ.NIC Czech Republic (.cz)
- DENIC Germany (.de)
- FICORA Finland (.fi)
- AFNIC France (.fr), Mayotte (.yt), Reunion (.re), St. Pierre & Miquelon (.pm), Wallis & Futuna Is. (.wf)
- GibNet Gibraltar (.gi)
- GR-Hostmaster Greece (.gr)
- Island Networks Guernsey (.gg), Jersey (.je)
- CHIP Hungary (.hu)
- IEDR Ireland (.ie)
- IPM Iran (.ir);
- ISNIC Iceland (.is)
- ISOC-IL Israel (.il)
- IT-NIC Italy (.it)
- JPRS Japan (.jp);
- NIC.LY Libya (.ly)

- LITNET NOC Lithuania (.lt)
- RESTENA DNS-LU Luxembourg (.lu)
- NIC Malta Malta (.mt)
- NIC-Mexico Mexico (.mx)
- MoldData Moldova (.md)
- SIDN Netherlands (.nl)
- ISOCNZ New Zealand (.nz)
- NORID Norway (.no), Bouvet Is. (.bv), Svalbard & Jan Mayen Is. (.sj)
- Palestinian Registry Palestine (.ps)
- NASK Poland (.pl)
- FCCNPortugal (.pt)
- RNC Romania (.ro)
- Ros-NIIROS Russia (.ru)
- RED.ES Spain (.es);
- ARNES Slovenia (.si)
- IIS Sweden (.se)
- SWITCH Switzerland (.ch), Lichtenstein (.li)
- **SITA (.aero)**
- Nominet UK United Kingdom (.uk)
- NeuStar United States of America (.us)
- VeriSign (.com, .net)
- Afilias (.info)
- Public Interest Registry (.org)

CENTR's position

- A "regional" ccTLD organisation
  - 3 others: LACTLD, AFTLD, APTLD

- No strict geographic boundaries like RIRs

- Recognised as a key representative body for TLDs (by ICANN, ITU, European Union, national governments etc.)

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Benefits of diverse participation

- CENTR values participation from many different registries
  - Western and Eastern Europe, Americas, Asia, Oceania
  - Different regulatory regimes, Internet community expectations, use of domain names etc.
  - Different challenges is ensuring stable DNS/Internet
- Provides added value because
  - Brings different perspectives to discussion
  - Helps to define guidelines and best practices that benefit everyone
  - Comes to agreed opinions based on this dialogue within CENTR, so there is a unified opinion to the global arena

Topical issues: ICANN/IANA[1]

- CENTR vision pursues the objective of co-operating to make the Internet root stable and reliable

- Each country's Internet community's right to administer their own ccTLD

- Ensuring the IANA (root) services are run simply and effectively

Topical issues: ICANN/IANA^2

- For these purposes, CENTR has:

  – Made a study on IANA on the basis of having monitored the IANA requests processing times from Sept 2003 till February 2004

  – Prepared a document on PGP verification of a request to IANA. PGP authentication can expedite times, making a genuine relationship manage at local level

  – Been keeping a mirror on IANA database (IANA shadowing)

Topical issues: ICANN/IANA[3]

- CENTR created an Internet Infrastructure Support Funding Account
  - to intensify the communication between CENTR Members and ICANN on the management of the IANA
  - to help ICANN to implement a target orientated system for the IANA management
  - to assist CENTR Members to provide ICANN with financial stability on the IANA function to promote the accuracy of the IANA database
- Ten CENTR Members have joined this scheme

Topical issues: ICANN/IANA[4]

- In the framework of the ccNSO – ccTLD discussion, CENTR
  - Fully support the ccNSO in the vision of being an on going process that will improve the relationship between ICANN and the ccTLDs community
  - Will be happy to play a liaison role in the ccNSO
  - Will work close to the ccTLDs Community to ensure that the ccNSO is an open forum where all the interested parties can intervene

Topical issues: WSIS

- The UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/56/183 encouraged other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to contribute to, and actively participate in, the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit and the Summit itself

- Within this context, CENTR:

    – Is an accredited member of the process

    – Monitors the progress of the actions laid out in the Geneva plan

    – Participate in the main session and stimulate the dialogue among its members

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Topical issues: IDNs

- So far CENTR has:

  - Organised workshops on this matter

  - Gathered information among its members

  - Been working on an IDN resource web site to be launched soon

Topical issues: membership mark

- Special logo to be linked to a special page on CENTR website

- The page will contain CENTR basic information as well as registry key elements in standard format

- Logos are different according to the membership status

Topical issues: outreach programme

- Launched in February 2004

- Aimed to support a stable and well functioning Internet in developing regions of the world

- Based on volounteer donations and on the expertise availability of CENTR Members

- The programme does not provide money in cash, but equipment, training and hosting of secondary servers

- If interested, please contact secretariat@centr.org

CENTR newsletter

- Provide our Members with an inside view of the crucial matters

- Create awareness of CENTR and ccTLD issues

- Distributed at ICANN, ITU, and other meetings

- Plan to publish it on a regular basis

CENTR new website

"Good heavens William, what have you downloaded off the internet this time?"

- Launched on July 26, 2004

- New "style" to allow people to find better the information

CENTR surveys

- Best practice guidelines for ccTLD managers (2001, 2003)

- WHOIS paper

- Internet relevant matters and CENTR vision (expected September 2004)

Future Meetings

- General Assemblies 2004 – 2005
  - Yerevan AM, Zürich CH, Brussels BE

- Technical, Administrative, Legal (September 10, Prague), workshops

- Regular attendance to Internet community meetings (RIPE, ICANN, IETF)

CENTR's long term vision

- Expanding the dialogue among registries, governments and international bodies

- Improving the best practices exchange among registries

- Making the Internet a reliable, stable and responsible structure

- Working close to all the Internet-related organisations

- Acknowledging the competences and expertise of each entity to provide the Internet with added values

Questions?

Thanks for your attention

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