RIPE NCC Update

The Path Ahead: Risks and Opportunities

Hans Petter Holen | 26 January 2021 | Roundtable Meeting for Governments

A Different World

- The pandemic has had a significant impact on how we work

  - All Internet governance meetings either cancelled or virtual (including our own)

  - RIPE NCC offices have been closed since mid-March; staff working from home

- No noticeable impact on our services

  - Only major change was cancelling all face-to-face training courses

- Organised two successful virtual RIPE Meetings

  - A number of smaller regional events were also moved online successfully

  - Expanded existing and invented some new forms of online engagement

  - This is our third fully virtual government-focussed event

Business As Usual

- Around 24,000 Local Internet Registry accounts by end of 2020

  - Expecting a small decrease to 23,000 by the end of 2021

  - Growth has slowed after the IPv4 run-out and we expect some consolidation via mergers / resource transfers

- Solid financial basis going forward

  - Fees to remain stable at € 1,400 per LIR account

  - Expected income of € 38.5 million (+3%)

  - Budgeted for € 33.5 million on expenses (-3%)

  - Surplus returned to members or added to reserves

  - FTE count growing from 165 to 170 (+3%)

Registry Operations in 2020

- Made 9,242 address resource allocations (IPv6, IPv4 and ASNs)

  - Recovered IPv4 address space is distributed via the waiting list (small blocks of 256 addresses only)

- Processed 4,254 IP address transfers (-10%)

  - Number of transactions spiked end of year

  - Number of IP addresses that are transferred remains stable

  - Inter-RIR transfers now also possible with LACNIC (Latin American region)

Governance Changes

- Welcomed Raymond Jetten (Finland) to the Executive Board

- The membership agreed to changes in our bylaws

  - Minor housekeeping due to changes in Dutch civil code

  - Implemented a change suggested by a membership task force, strengthening the board election process:

"…the nominee shall need to submit (a) a certified copy of his/her official identification document and (b) a signed statement in which he/she declares that he/she shall adhere to the Code of Conduct for candidates for the Executive Board as adopted by the Executive Board and published on the Association's website, and that he/she has never committed any fraud or other financial misconduct in any jurisdiction."

Noteworthy Changes and Events

Country Information in the RIPE Database

- The RIPE community agreed to publish the country in which a member is **legally** registered

  - This is now publicly visible via the RIPE Database Whois service

  - Adds clarification and makes it easier to determine the appropriate jurisdiction

  - Any changes to this field must be approved by the RIPE NCC and supported by documentation

- This is a new field; there are no changes to the existing data

  - IP addresses can still be used in countries other than where the member is based

  - Change is applied to the **organisation** objects only - country attributes in IP and ASN objects reflect the needs of network operators

  https://labs.ripe.net/Members/stefania_fokaeos/our-plan-to-fix-country-codes

☑ Highlight RIPE NCC managed values

```
organisation:    ORG-RIEN1-RIPE                                          Login to update ≡
org-name:        Reseau  IP Europeens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)
country:         NL
org-type:        LIR
descr:           RIPE NCC Operations
address:         P.O. Box 10096
address:         1001 EB
address:         Amsterdam
address:         NETHERLANDS
phone:           +31205354444
fax-no:          +31205354445
e-mail:          ncc@ripe.net
admin-c:         MENN1-RIPE
admin-c:         MDIR-RIPE
abuse-c:         ops4-ripe
mnt-ref:         RIPE-NCC-HM-MNT
mnt-ref:         RIPE-NCC-MNT
mnt-by:          RIPE-NCC-HM-MNT
mnt-by:          RIPE-NCC-MNT
created:         2012-03-09T13:21:52Z
last-modified:   2020-12-16T12:41:50Z
source:          RIPE
```

Seizure of "Right to Registration"

- We recently processed our first IPv4 transfer on the basis of a Dutch court order (that originated in Germany)

- Order was for the seizure of a member's "right to registration of IP addresses" for the recovery of money

- It was understood that the resources were not owned by the member, but it was the **right to the registration** that was seized

- Terms of the auction included a requirement that RIPE Policies and RIPE NCC procedures must be followed by any prospective buyer

  - https://labs.ripe.net/Members/ciaran_byrne/seizure-of-the-right-to-registration-of-ipv4-addresses

EU Sanctions

- EU sanctions target countries in our service region

  - Several people on the sanctions list are involved with RIPE NCC members

- Three RIPE NCC members' accounts are currently "frozen"

  - They haven't lost their resources, but they cannot update the registration information or transfer their resources

- We are confident in our compliance and have improved our processes and monitoring

  - Updated "Due Diligence for the Quality of the RIPE NCC Registration Data" https://www.ripe.net/publications/docs/ripe-748#31

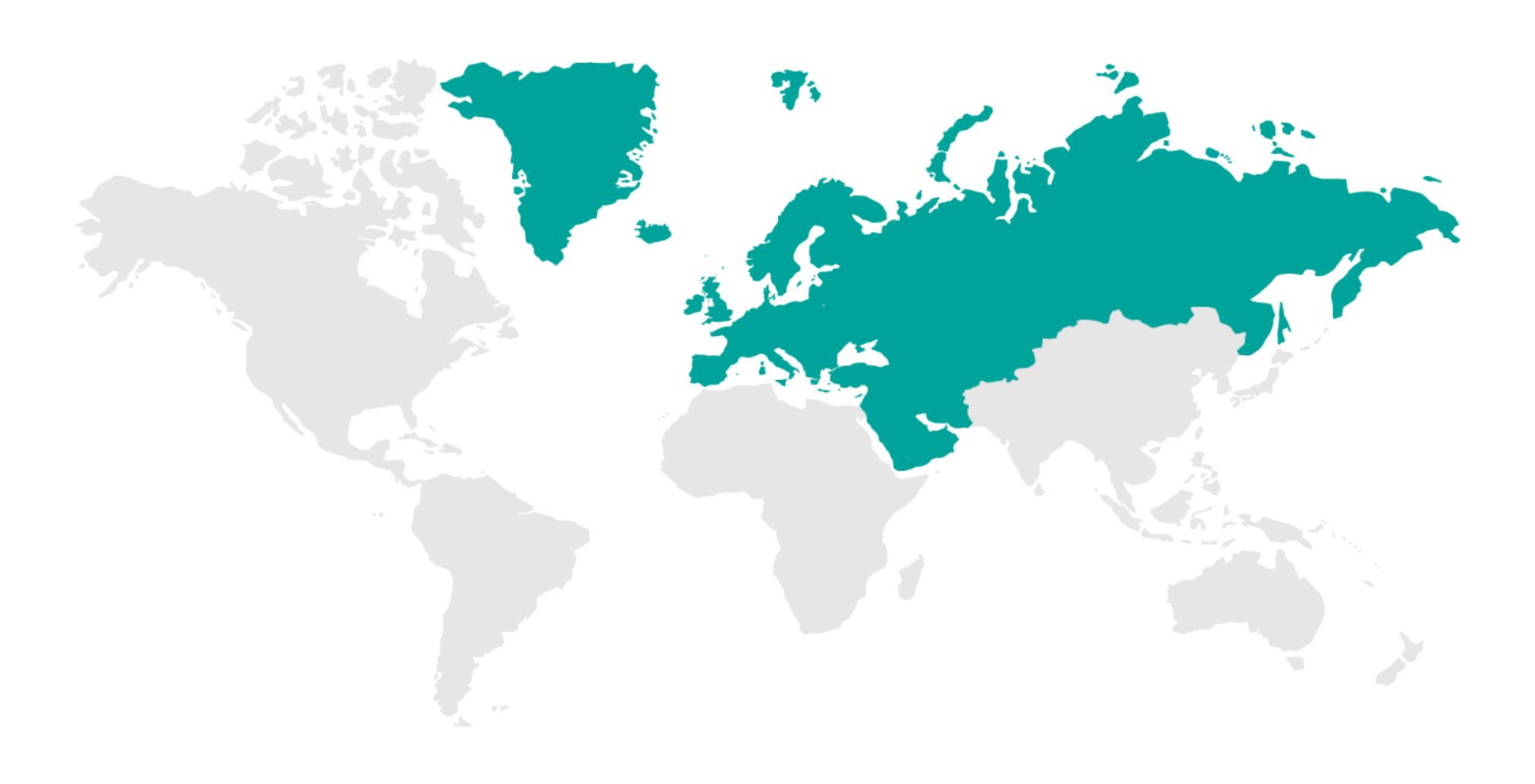- Currently discussing a way forward with the Dutch government

The Return of Geopolitics

Our Challenge Going Forward

Our Service Region

Sanctions and Regulatory Impact

- Pressure from sanctions as well as other regulatory changes across our service region are a matter of some concern

- Over the long term, this trend may start to interfere with our ability to provide services to all RIPE NCC members on an equal basis

- We are in the early stages of a project to identify long-term regulatory scenarios and plan for contingencies

- Status quo will **NOT** work over the long term

Our Position

- The wider Internet governance system is essential to the stability of the global Internet and should not be undermined

- All RIPE NCC members should be able to access our services equally

The Risks

- Our banks' need to comply with sanctions could impact our finances and billing going forward

- Imposing sanctions could interfere with Internet connectivity

  - Large groups or even whole countries could lose access to the Internet

- Our location (and jurisdiction) might come under scrutiny

  - Especially from countries outside the EU

- This risks the stability of the multistakeholder model

  - Increased pressure to implement an intergovernmental solution

- **At stake: the single, open and unfragmented network that we easily take for granted**

What We Need

- A dialogue with the different stakeholders

  - To mitigate these risks and reduce unintended side effects resulting from policy decisions

- To separate core functions of the Internet from political debates

  - Naming, numbering and routing are fundamental to how it all works

  - This neutral core needs to remain so

- We all need to work together to preserve the single Internet

  - Appeals to our collective values of freedom, openness and security

  - This global platform drives innovation, enables communication, and is crucial to the economic and social fabric of our societies

Questions ?

hph@ripe.net
@hpholen
@ripencc