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## EMEA Newsletter

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Policy Update



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Feedback



### TOP STORY

#### Share Your Input on the Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025

ICANN published the FY21 - FY25 Draft Strategic Plan for Public Comment at the end of December 2018. Please [click here](#) to share your input to help shape the future of ICANN as it sets out long-term strategic objectives that reflect the ICANN mission and vision. The Public Comment will be open until 11 February 2019.

To prepare for the development of this plan, ICANN initiated a process to identify internal and external trends that impact ICANN's future, mission, and operations. The ICANN community, Board, and ICANN org all provided extensive input to this effort.

After this Public Comment period, ICANN org will revise the draft. A strategic planning session is scheduled at ICANN64 in Kobe to further refine the plan.

Following ICANN64, the ICANN organization will incorporate any last revisions to the draft Strategic Plan. The Board will then finalize and adopt the new FY21 - FY25 Strategic Plan.

To learn more about the strategic planning process and to stay up-to-date on progress, please visit the [ICANN Strategic Planning page](#).



### EUROPE

#### Save the Date: ICANN Workshop for Civil Society in Brussels

ICANN is hosting a seminar on "ICANN's Approach to Internet Policy" for civil society on 29 January in Brussels, Belgium. The full-day seminar will take place at ICANN's Regional Office in Brussels, and several ICANN staff and community members will participate.

There will be presentations on the following topics:

- An Introduction to the Domain Name System (DNS)
- ICANN's role and remit in relation to the DNS
- ICANN and Civil Society
- Policy Development at ICANN



- Compliance, Security, Data, and the DNS

Click [here](#) to RSVP and for more information.



## EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA



### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Eastern European DNS Forum Wraps Up Successfully in Moscow

On 4-5 December, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Eastern European DNS Forum took place in Moscow, Russia. Following successful Forums in Kiev, Ukraine (2016), and Minsk, Belarus (2017), the 2018 Forum attracted over 250 participants from the region. It was the first ICANN-initiated event in Russia and was co-organized with the [Coordination Center for .RU/.РФ](#). From ICANN, several staff members and a Board Member participated onsite.

The first day was dedicated to high-interest technical topics such as Artificial Intelligence and Domain Name System (DNS) abuse, DNS over Transport Layer Security (TLS) protocol, DNS over HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) protocol developments, and evolution of the root zone service. The second day featured discussions about legislation and policy aspects of the domain industry. Among these topics: international cooperation tackling DNS abuse; the transborder effects of national legislation on DNS functionality; and examples of successful regional community participation in global DNS policy development processes.

If you were unable to participate, you can watch the recordings [here](#) and view the presentations [here](#).



## MIDDLE EAST



## The ICANN63 Readout Session in Istanbul Attracts Youth

In November, ICANN organized its first Readout Session in Turkey, the first ever in the Middle East. The ICANN63 readout session was held on 28 November and hosted by ICANN partner **Istanbul Bilgi University**. It attracted around fifty onsite participants, comprised mostly of university students and young professionals.

This was a unique readout session for ICANN. This session was a collective effort led by ICANN staff members based in the Istanbul Office. Moderated by Baher Esmat, VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement in the Middle East, the **agenda** covered key topics discussed at ICANN63 such as General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); Expedited Policy Development Process; as well as updates from Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC).

If you are interested in hosting a Readout Session in your local community, you can contact [meac.swg@icann.org](mailto:meac.swg@icann.org).

## ICANN Participates in Several Events in Lebanon

ICANN's Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team in the Middle East took leading roles in events and engagement activities in Beirut, Lebanon, in November.

From 19-21 November, ICANN participated in the **Bread and Net**, where civil society organizations from across the Middle East and North Africa came together to discuss human rights in the digital space. The event was hosted by Social Media Exchange (**SMEX**), and ICANN was among the sponsors. The ICANN team discussed the role of civil society in ICANN's policy development processes, ICANN's current work on human rights, and WHOIS developments in relation to the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).



On the sidelines of the event, ICANN engaged with the **OGERO Telecom**, a leading internet service provider in Lebanon, International Information Systems Audit and Control Association, (**ISACA**) **Lebanon Chapter**, and

### University of Balamand:

- OGERO Telecom: the ICANN team presented to OGERO staff members on ICANN's role in the Internet ecosystem.
- ISACA Lebanon Chapter: the ICANN team discussed ICANN's work towards the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet's unique identifier systems.
- University of Balamand: the ICANN team met with the Computer Science and Engineering students and gave a presentation on the history of the Internet, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), the creation of ICANN, and the Key Security Key (KSK) Rollover.

On 28-29 November, ICANN participated in the first **Lebanon IGF** at the American University in Beirut (AUB). The event was a good platform for engaging with the wider Internet community in Lebanon to discuss the role of ICANN in the wider Internet ecosystem and the I\* Organizations. The ICANN team also participated in a panel on the Lebanese ccTLD, .LB, with experiences being shared from panelists on how ccTLDs are operated globally.

The ICANN GSE team engagements in Lebanon proved fruitful, and the team looks forward to continuing engagement with the Lebanese Internet community.

If you are interested in having an ICANN representative speak about the Internet ecosystem at your event, you can contact: [meac.swg@icann.org](mailto:meac.swg@icann.org).

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### **ICANN Participates in Workshop and Holds Bilateral Meetings on Cybercrime in Turkey**

From 10 to 13 December, ICANN participated in 5th International Workshop on Cybercrime held in Ankara, Turkey, organized by the Cybercrime Department of the Turkish National Police. Baher Esmat gave an overview of ICANN's role in ensuring the security, stability and resiliency of the DNS. The event was attended by around 200 people including high-level government officials and experts from the industry and law enforcement agencies.



During the same week, senior ICANN regional executives Baher Esmat, Nick Tomasso, and Mert Saka held bilateral meetings in Ankara with the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) Chairman Mr. Omer Abdullah Karagozoglu and the Middle East Technical University (METU) Vice President Prof. Dr. Gulser Koksal. The meetings were very productive, with discussions on the local domain industry, Universal Acceptance, and Internet Protocol v6 (IPv6). The group agreed upon action items to further strengthen the relationship with ICTA and METU.



## **AFRICA**

### **ICANN Takes Part in Several Events Across Africa**



### Kingdom of Eswatini

ICANN held a DNS abuse workshop on 19-20 November in the Kingdom of eSwatini, attracting participants from both the government bodies and Internet service providers. The workshop was hosted by the National Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology. Similar workshops were held in Madagascar, Botswana, and Malawi throughout 2018, and in Ghana during the Africa Regional Workshop for Heads of Cybercrime Units.

ICANN workshops on DNS abuse for Law Enforcement Agents (LEAs) in Africa help us promote DNS security. These workshops expose the participants to the strategies, techniques, and tools that operational security professionals use for identification of DNS abuse.

### Tanzania

ICANN's Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team members in Africa participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> **UbuntuNet Connect Conference** on 22-23 November in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The theme of this year's conference was "Towards Smart Universities: Services that Matter."

The event provided a platform for ICANN to share with academia ICANN's key regional and global initiatives.

### South Africa

On 28 to 29 November, ICANN's GSE Africa team members attended the Southern Africa IGF (**SAIGF18**) in Durban, South Africa, held under the theme "Promoting Internet Governance for Sustainable, Secure and Inclusive Digital Economy for Southern Africa." Over 150 delegates including representation from 12 of the 15 **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** member states attended. You can find reports and presentations from the event [here](#).

### Kenya

ICANN participated in the **Africa eCommerce Week** hosted by the government of Kenya in Nairobi from 10-14 December. It was the first time this high-level event, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), was held outside of Geneva, Switzerland. The event was officially opened by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, and attracted over 2,000 diverse delegates from UN agencies, International Telecommunication Union, governments, civil society, and the private sector. ICANN participated in a panel exploring various ways of building trust on the Internet to help realize the full potential of e-commerce.

### Tunisia

From 26-30 December, ICANN's GSE team members in Africa as well as ICANN Board Members Khaled Koubaa and Rafael Lito Ibarra were in Hammamet, Tunisia, for **AFRINIC-29**. ICANN GSE team members participated in two sessions at the event:

- The AFRINIC governmental working group session with a presentation on digital economy, threats, and opportunities in Africa
- A plenary session on cybersecurity issues related to the use of emojis in domain names.



### EPDP Update

On 21 December 2018, the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Team on the Temporary Specification for Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Registration Data closed the Public Comment proceeding on its Initial Report. The EPDP Team has been actively reviewing all comments received and preparing its Final Report. From 16 to 18 January, the EPDP Team will meet in Toronto, Canada with the goal of finalizing its Final Report.

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### GNSO Council Update

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council:

- Adopted the GNSO [Review](#) of the ICANN63 Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Communiqué. The GNSO has transmitted the Review to the ICANN Board and informed the GAC.
  - Confirmed Heather Forrest to serve a two-year term as the GNSO representative to the ICANN Fellowship Program Selection Committee and nominated Andrew Mack to serve as an ICANN Fellowship Program mentor for a period of one year.
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### GAC Creates New Operating Principles Working Group

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Chair has created a new committee working group. The purpose of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group is to study, develop, and recommend to the GAC membership changes to the current [GAC Operating Principles](#). Potential recommendations will help the GAC improve the organization, scope, clarity, and specificity of the committee's operations, processes, and procedures, particularly in light of the ICANN Empowered Community.

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### At-Large Review Implementation

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) unanimously endorsed the [At-Large Review Detailed Implementation Plan](#). The plan outlines eight activities raised during the At-Large Review and includes timeline and resource implications. The document will be reviewed by the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC) shortly, and the ICANN Board will review it in January.

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### At-Large Appointments

- Justine Chew will be serving as the At-Large liaison to the New Generic Top-Level Domains Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group. Chew will also replace Maureen Hilyard on Work Track 5.
  - The ALAC Appointee Selection Committee (AASC) reviewed expressions of interest for the position of At-Large mentor for the ICANN Fellowship Program. The AASC selected Amrita Choudhury as mentor and Sarah Kiden as alternate. The ALAC endorsed the AASC selections.
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### APRALO Chair Participates in Vietnam Internet Day

Satish Babu, chair of the Asian, Australasian, and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO), participated in Vietnam Internet Day held on 5 December 2018. The main objective of the trip was to open ties with Vietnam, where the At-Large community still has no presence. The trip also served as means of enhancing awareness about ICANN, the At-Large community, and APRALO.

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### Approach of the Study Group on the Use of Emoji as Second Level Domains

At ICANN63, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Study Group on the Use of

Emoji as Second Level Domains received feedback that its charter is too risk averse by focusing too closely on the ICANN Board request to inform the community about risks identified in [SAC 095 | Security and Stability Advisory Committee Advisory on the Use of Emoji in Domain Names](#). However, the study group and the ccNSO Council reiterated that the study group is not just focusing on SAC 095 but is also seeking the perspectives from ccTLDs. As part of this balanced approach, the study group has approached individual ccTLDs who have the capacity to accept the registration of emoji domain names to solicit their views and perspectives and present those to the community. In addition, the study group reached out to the ccTLD community to seek broader input. The responses received will be discussed by the study group and included in a report that is expected by ICANN64. Learn more about the study group [here](#).

## We want your comments!

The ICANN org has posted its Draft FY20 Operating Plan and Budget for Public Comment. We want and need your feedback in this important process! Please share your comments by the 8 February deadline.

[Get Started Now!](#)



## GDD UPDATE



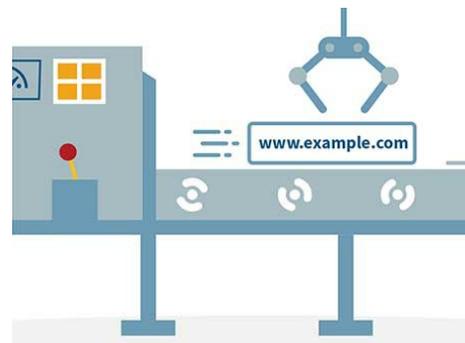
### New Technical Study Group Begins Work

The Technical Study Group on Access to Non-Public Registration Data met to start exploring technical solutions for providing third parties access to non-public data via Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP). Read more about the invited members and their background [here](#).

### New Registrant Infographic: Renew Your Domain Name!

New registrant content has been published in multiple languages across the ICANN websites.

Check out the new infographic: [Renew Your Domain Name Before It Expires!](#)



## WHAT'S NEW IN REVIEWS

### Opportunities to Participate: ICANN Reviews

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has several opportunities for community input and participation to announce below.



**Organizational Reviews** are led by independent examiners to assess the extent to which ICANN's Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, and the Nominating

Committee (NomCom) fulfill their purpose; and examine whether any changes in structure or operations are needed.

- The Nominating Committee (NomCom2) Review Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan is finalized and available [here](#).
- The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC2) Review Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan is finalized and available [here](#).

Visit the [Review Status Update Table](#) for the latest status on Specific and Organizational Reviews and additional key resources.

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## ICANN AROUND THE WORLD

### Regional Offices:

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Istanbul, Turkey  
Montevideo, Uruguay  
Singapore

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Nairobi, Kenya  
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

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