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**EMEA Newsletter**

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**TOP STORY**

**ICANN59 Community Webinar**

ICANN will be holding an informational webinar on Tuesday, 16 May 2017, at 1600 UTC to provide the community with a full update on ICANN59. The webinar will go over logistics, accommodations and travel, as well as details of the meeting schedule. The call is open for all to attend, and the presentation and recording will be posted after the call.

For details on how to join, please click [here](#).

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**SPOTLIGHT**

**It's Time to Register for ICANN59**

*Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-29 June 2017*  
The ICANN59 Policy Forum is just six weeks away. The program will focus on policy work and cross-community dialogue, with topics driven by ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. [Registration is now open](#).

Before booking your flight, check the [ICANN59 home page](#) to find out if you need to obtain a visa to travel to South Africa. This page links to the immigration page on the Government of South Africa’s official website. There, you’ll find detailed information about visa requirements, the application process and deadlines.

Also, the ICANN59 mobile app is now available for download on the App Store, Google play, Windows Store and BlackBerry World. You can use it to manage your meeting experience - access the meeting schedule, network with fellow participants, view the venue map, find information about Johannesburg and more.

We hope to see you in Johannesburg!
ICANN's presence has been increasing at RightsCon, held in Brussels, Belgium, from 29-31 March. The 2017 conference marked the third year with ICANN sponsorship.

The event, with more than 250 sessions, attracted more than 1,500 participants from civil society, startups, major tech companies, academia and governments.

ICANN Supports Publication of Primer on Internet Policy

The primer on Internet policy, to be released in mid-May, is targeted at decision-makers from government, civil society, and businesses participating in G20 meetings in 2017. Published by iRights International and Wikimedia Germany, the primer will provide an introduction to digital politics with articles introducing policy concerns around cybersecurity, algorithms and artificial intelligence, privacy and data protection, Internet of Things, role of intermediaries, copyright and Internet access. Multistakeholder Internet governance is one of the common themes.

An overview of the key current topics, actors and forums that influence digital policy was shared at the G20 Multi-Stakeholder Conference on 6 April in Düsseldorf, Germany.

ICANN Participates in Russian Internet Governance Forum

On 7 April, Michael Yakushev, VP of Stakeholder Engagement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Alexandra Kulikova, Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, took part in the Russian Internet Governance Forum (RIGF) in Innopolis, Tatarstan. The forum celebrated the 23rd anniversary of the delegation of the .ru top-level domain (TLD). Yakushev spoke at the opening session, describing ICANN’s role in the Internet ecosystem since the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) transition.

Unlike the preceding years, this year’s event was hosted outside Moscow, in Innopolis, a newly built town near Kazan, the capital of the Tatarstan Republic. The city is expected to become one of the country’s innovative technology hubs. Tatarstan, one of the most technologically developed Russian regions, became an inspiration for the delegation of the new generic TLD (gTLD) .tatar.
ICANN Supports New gTLD Study by Higher School of Economics in Moscow

On 28 March, the Higher School of Economics (HSE) held a half-day round table in Moscow titled "Digital Transformation of Business on the Basis of Next Generation ICTs." The event's topics ranged from building a smart digital economy to 5G technologies and outer space networks. HSE researchers presented the findings of a study on the new gTLD marketplace supported by ICANN. The research was conducted during 2016 and is now available in English. The slides of the presentation are available in Russian.

Webinar on ICANN Fellowship: Why and How?

On 21 April, Michael Yakushev, VP of Stakeholder Engagement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Alexandra Kulikova, Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, held a webinar on the ICANN Fellowship Program for stakeholders in the Eastern Europe and Central Asian region. Noting that the round of applications for ICANN60 is still open, ICANN introduced the purpose and benefits of the program.

Siranush Vardanyan, ICANN Fellowship Coordinator, described the program and its benefits, both for individual participants and the ICANN ecosystem in general. Olof Nordling, Head of the ICANN Brussels Office and VP of Policy Development and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Relations, greeted the audience in Russian. He gave some great examples of how the Fellowship Program leads to "cross-fertilization" of policy talent between the community and ICANN. ICANN58 Fellows Kateryna Oliinyk (Ukraine), Alexander Isavnin (Russia) and Vladimer Svanadze (Georgia) shared their experiences and impressions, hoping to motivate and inspire potential future fellows.

ICANN Presents at Internet Governance Forum Afghanistan

The first edition of Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Afghanistan took place in Kabul on 29-30 March. The event was organized by ISOC Afghanistan, and was supported by local and international players. The highly interactive meeting attracted over 150 participants from across the Internet governance ecosystem, who discussed the most pressing Internet governance (IG) issues pertaining to Afghanistan. Despite our remote participation, ICANN was a strong presence.

Baher Esmat, VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement in the Middle East, participated in the opening session and gave an overview of ICANN and its role in the IG space. Patrick L. Jones, Senior Director of Global Stakeholder Engagement, and Dave Piscitello, VP of Security and Information and Communications (ICT) Coordinator, led workshop sessions on ICANN's Security, Stability and Resiliency (SSR) team's involvement in mitigating Domain Name System (DNS) abuse. Lastly, Sarmad Hussain, Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) Programs Director, provided an overview of the IDN Program.

Middle East Outreach Leading Up to ICANN60

On 26 March, Baher Esmat, VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement in the Middle East, participated in a workshop in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on cybercrime and the digital economy in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. The event was organized by the Mohammed Bin Rashed School of Government (MBRSG). Baher talked about the ICANN SSR team's role in:

- Collaborating with partners to conduct DNS awareness and DNS abuse training around the world
- Participating in efforts to prevent Domain Name Generation Algorithm (DGA) botnets such as Conficker and domain name abuse cases such as the recent Avalanche takedown

On 10-12 April, Esmat also participated in the Commonwealth ICT Investment Forum in Dubai. He spoke about new gTLDs as an opportunity for innovation and business growth.
Both events gave ICANN the opportunity to engage with policymakers, local and international businesses.

ICANN Leads Three-Day Workshop at Middle East Network Operators Group 17
ICANN had a strong presence at the 17th edition of the Middle East Network Operators Group (MENOG) - marking MENOG’s 10th year. The event was held 16-20 April in Muscat, Oman, and attracted more than 200 physical attendees, in addition to another 200 remote participants. Champika Wijayatunga, Regional SSR Engagement Manager of Asia Pacific (APAC), and Fahd Bataneyh, Stakeholder Engagement Manager in the Middle East, participated in the event.

ICANN led a the three-day workshop on DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC). During the plenary, ICANN updated participants on the root zone key signing key (KSK) rollover. The event also provided a venue for networking with the regional technical community.

You can find slides and recordings of the event here. The event was also covered by Oman Daily Observer; read about it here.

ICANN Travels to Kenya for Connected Summit 2017
On 9-13 April, ICANN participated in the 9th Connected Summit in Diani, Kenya. The summit’s theme was “Shaping the Future.” Over 500 participants attended the event - they came mainly from the business and government sectors and global ICT businesses. Key topics at the event were the protection of citizens’ data - lessons learned, best practices, policy and regulation - and how ICTs fit into the economic future of Kenya. In addition to making the most of networking opportunities, ICANN introduced participants to our multistakeholder model and mission.

ICANN Presents at WACREN 2017 Conference in Côte d’Ivoire
The West and Central Africa Research and Education Network (WACREN) 2017 Conference took place in in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, on 29 and 30 March. Attendees were mostly members of African higher education institutions and key partners in WACREN projects, which aim to foster information sharing within academia and improve access to the Internet.

ICANN’s presentation focused on how academia can play a role in the Internet ecosystem, sharing the example of Addis Ababa University leading the label generation panel for the Ethiopic script. ICANN invited participants to volunteer for the label generation panel for the Latin script, as most African languages use the Latin script.

ICANN Visits Republic of Congo for Two IG Events
In April, ICANN played an important role in two events in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo:
Central Africa IGF, April 10-12. Five countries were represented at the event. ICANN called for improving the organization of the event, with more stakeholders participating.

OSIANE 2017 (Salon International sur les Technologies de l’Information et l’Innovation), 11-14 April. ICANN partnered and participated in the event’s first edition. Pierre Dandjinou, VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement in Africa, delivered a keynote address during the opening ceremony. ICANN was represented on three panels and led a two-day long workshop. The workshop covered DNS business, general ICANN outreach, multistakeholder model, role of the GAC and the KSK rollover.

A new study by Analysys Mason shows that Universal Acceptance of Internet Domain Names is a $9.8 billion opportunity. The study has enjoyed wide media coverage in the EMEA region.

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<td>Zawya</td>
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<td>$ 9.8 Billion Investment Is Expected In The Ranges Of Size Of The Internet</td>
<td>Universal Acceptance of Internet Domain Names Is a USD 9.8 Billion Opportunity, New Study Shows</td>
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In an interview at the Russian IGF, ICANN's Michael Yakushev spoke about ICANN's interest in the development of the Russian language on the Internet.

| Telecom Daily | Михаил Якушев, ICANN: «Мы очень заинтересованы в развитии русского языка в интернете» |
| 24 April 2017 | 24 April 2017 |

ICANN Organization: Complaints Office Update

The Complaints Office is being established to help the ICANN organization with its effectiveness, and to provide additional transparency and accountability, all in service of ICANN’s mission. In a recent blog, Krista Papac, ICANN's Complaints Officer, discusses her plans for the office, the objectives, the process and the timeline moving forward, including the news that the office is now accepting complaints. Any complaints related to the ICANN organization - for example, a process that appears broken or insufficient handling of an issue - can now be submitted to the Complaints Office.

Read Krista Papac's blog.
Capturing the Past: ICANN's History Project

The ICANN History Project is capturing the institutional memory of the organization, community and Board through the posting of interviews, documents, pictures and videos. We have recorded several conversations with key players in ICANN's past, which are now posted on the new ICANN History Project microsite.

The project explores ICANN's past through various tracks or themes. The first one - The U.S. Government's Historical Relationship with ICANN - will soon be supplemented by additional interviews, while other historical themes are still being developed. As such, the project will constantly be expanding and evolving.

Those who want to share their blogs, videos and pictures relating to ICANN History Project tracks are encouraged to do so via Twitter using #ICANNHistory.

New ICANN Learn Course in French: History and Evolution of Internet Governance

At-Large member Professor Aziz Hilali has created a new seven-part lecture series called Histoire et évolution de la gouvernance de l'Internet, now available on ICANN Learn's French platform. You can take this free course at any time, at your own pace, on any computer or mobile device. Register now.

ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy

A guiding goal of the anti-harassment policy is to "emphasize, encourage, and promote the spirit of mutual respect expected within the ICANN community." This document explains the expected standards of behavior and the proceduring for reporting and filing complaints. Download the document.

FY17 Q3 Quarterly Stakeholder Call

Did you miss the ICANN Quarterly Stakeholder Call that described the activities for the quarter ending 31 March? The presentation and recordings are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

EXPLORE NEW ICANN CONTENT

NextGen and Fellows Video

The NextGen@ICANN and Fellowship programs are both aimed at bringing people to ICANN Public Meetings. ICANN has created a short video that walks you through each program - what sets it apart and who should apply. Explore your options and opportunities! Click here to start your journey with ICANN.

Empowered Community Powers infographic

We’ve created a new infographic to help explain the Empowered Community Powers - a process for raising concerns about the ICANN Board or organization. The infographic
KSK Rollover

Quick Guide: Prepare Your Systems for the Root KSK Rollover
Available in Seven Languages

Translations Available for KSK Quick Guide
These materials help you understand the upcoming root zone key signing key (KSK) rollover. The KSK Quick Guide is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Japanese and Korean translations are coming soon. Download the KSK Quick Guide.

New KSK Rollover Video Available in Four Languages
We've created a short video that explains in plain, accessible language how to prepare your systems for the KSK rollover.

Watch the video: English | French | Portuguese | Spanish

ICANN58 By the Numbers
Just published, this report uses easy-to-read graphics and charts to present data on a range of topics, including: attendees, most popular sessions, remote participation, use of the mobile app and website, and the technical infrastructure of the meeting. Download the report (in English).

Post-ICANN58 Policy Report - Translations Available
Last month, the English version of this report was published. Translations are now available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, Russian and Turkish.

WHAT’S NEW IN REVIEWS

Participate in ICANN Reviews
ICANN Specific and Organizational Reviews are of vital importance to the ICANN community and how we operate. They
only work with your participation, and you can play a big role in driving continuous improvement through the findings and recommendations that Reviews deliver. Theresa Swinehart has written about the latest opportunities to get involved. Find out how you can:

- Participate in shaping the future of the new gTLD marketplace
- Help improve ICANN transparency and accountability
- Provide input as to whether the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Review should be deferred
- Follow the progress of the At-Large Review and the Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency of the Domain Name System Review (SSR2)

For more information on all reviews, please click here.

POLICY UPDATE

Deferral of ccNSO Organizational Review

During its meeting at ICANN58, the Country Codes Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council requested a deferral of 12 months for the start of the ccNSO Organizational Review. The decision was in response to a letter from the chair of the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC) to the ccNSO Council. The ccNSO is currently reviewing and updating its internal documents to ensure that they capture current practices, recommendations from the previous review, and the requirements as set in the new ICANN Bylaws.

A public comment proceeding aimed at gathering community feedback about the proposed deferral closes on 19 May.

New GAC Website Coming Soon

The new website of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) will launch shortly after ICANN59. The website team held two webinars for GAC members on 3 May to walk through new features, answer questions and capture any additional feedback. Some of the new features include the ability to extract and import content for translations; notifications; news articles; and restructured content that highlights important work, advice, and meetings through consistent navigation.

ALAC and RALO Election Cycle Underway

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and the Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) started their election cycle to fill leadership positions that will begin at the end of ICANN60. The positions up for election include five ALAC member positions selected by RALOs, as well as the chair, vice chair, and secretariat positions within the RALOs. Some of these positions have term limits. In addition, the Nominating Committee will select three ALAC members this year. The nomination period ends on 12 May and regional elections, if needed, will take place 22-26 May. Read more.

At-Large Community Responds to the Independent Review Draft Report

Following the publication of the At-Large Review Draft Report by ITEMS, the ALAC and the At-Large Review Working Party (WP) submitted one comprehensive response as an ALAC statement in late March.

The ALAC fully supports 8 of the 16 recommendations proposed by ITEMS, partly supports 5, and rejects 3. The recommendations that the ALAC supports are generally about its roles in outreach, awareness raising, and participation in ICANN policy and processes. The ALAC believes many of these recommendations are already being implemented. A strong focus of the ITEMS recommendations and implementation suggestions involve significant structural changes to the At-Large Community. The ALAC believes that these proposals do not recognize existing policies that allow and support individual members.

Holding views similar to the ALAC and the WP, the five RALOs jointly submitted a separate statement focused on the issues and recommendations particularly relevant to them. Notably, 73 At-Large Structures
(ALSes) participated directly in online ratification votes on the RALO statement, which resulted in overwhelming support.

GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group Engages with the ICANN Community

Starting in February 2016, the GNSO New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group (WG) has been evaluating the experiences of the 2012 round of the New gTLD Program and identifying possible areas for future GNSO policy development. To help the broader ICANN community gain insights into its important and complex work, the WG has been issuing a monthly newsletter since March 2017, providing detailed updates on its overall work progress and the development within its four work tracks.

Furthermore, as part of its efforts to engage the ICANN community on the issue of geographic names at the top-level, the WG held two webinar sessions on 25 April 2017. Various organizations and individual ICANN community members presented their positions on the treatment of geographic names. The webinars served as the beginning of a discussion that will continue at ICANN59. In Johannesburg, the WG leadership team will hold an extended session to evaluate the positions presented in the webinars and to propose solutions on how to establish common ground.

GNSO Council Comments on the ICANN FY18 Budget and Operating Plan

In response to the public comment proceeding on the proposed ICANN Budget and Operating Plan for FY18, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council approved and submitted the comments prepared by a small drafting team. At the request of the GNSO Council, the ICANN Finance team conducted a webinar covering aspects of interest to the GNSO community. As a Decisional Participant within the new Empowered Community (EC), the GNSO Council recognizes the power of the EC to veto budgets adopted by the ICANN Board and the importance of fully understanding the funding and expenses of ICANN operations. Read the GNSO Council comments.

GNSO Council Endorses GNSO Candidates for the Registration Directory Service Review Team

On 20 April 2017, the GNSO Council unanimously passed a motion to nominate Susan Kawaguchi, Erika Mann, Stephanie Perrin, and Volker Greimann as its four primary candidates for the Registration Directory Service Review Team (RDS-RT). Furthermore, the GNSO nominated Marc Anderson, Stefania Milan, and Timothy Chen to be considered for inclusion in the RDS-RT, should additional places be available. These 7 candidates were among the 14 that requested GNSO endorsement for their participation. The GNSO Standing Selection Committee (SSC) carried out the review and selection of the candidates, and submitted its full consensus recommendations and the ranking of the candidates to the GNSO Council.

GNSO Council Confirms Liaison Appointments

The GNSO Council confirmed the appointment of councilors as liaisons to several cross-community working groups, GNSO working groups, and implementation review teams. The appointees and their respective groups are: Susan Kawaguchi, Thick WHOIS Implementation Review Team (IRT); Rubens Kuhl, Translation and Transliteration of gTLD Registration Data IRT; Ed Morris, GNSO Rights and Obligations under the Revised ICANN Bylaws Drafting Team; and Julf Helsingius, Cross-Community Working Group on Internet Governance. These appointments stem from the resignations of previous liaisons or the end of a council member's term.

GDD UPDATE

New Report: Universal Acceptance Represents $10 Billion Opportunity
The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), in
partnership with ICANN, recently published a white paper documenting the benefits of Universal Acceptance (UA). The report, prepared by technology consulting and research firm Analysys Mason, underscored the economic, social and cultural benefits of becoming UA-ready. The findings highlight a nearly $10 billion opportunity for organizations that update their IT systems to accept all domain names and email addresses.

“Our analysis shows that the main impediment to Universal Acceptance is a lack of awareness issue, rather than any technical challenges,” said Andrew Kloeden, Principal at Analysys Mason. “This is not a heavy lift. The efforts required by software and application owners to implement UA are not particularly onerous; in fact, most companies treat UA issues simply as ‘bug’ fixes.”

Download the white paper.

New Procedure Published: Handling WHOIS Conflicts with Privacy Law
On 18 April 2017, ICANN published the updated Procedure for Handling WHOIS Conflicts with Privacy Law. This revision, which incorporates an additional trigger to invoke the Revised WHOIS Procedure, was effective immediately. Now a registry operator or ICANN-accredited registrar can invoke the procedure by providing ICANN with a written statement, from the applicable government agency, that indicates that an ICANN-contractual WHOIS obligation conflicts with applicable national law.

Read the announcement and the revised WHOIS Procedure.

DELEGATED TLDs

Two New gTLDs Were Delegated in April

RUGBY

HOTELS

See the full list here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these upcoming events in the EMEA region:

- 15-18 May, World Cities Expo Istanbul 2017, Istanbul, Turkey
- 16-18 May, DNSSEC Workshop, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 22-23 May, Middle East DNS Forum 2017, Cairo, Egypt
- 24-25 May, SEEDIG 2017, Ohrid, Macedonia
- 27 May - 2 June, Africa Internet Summit ’17, Nairobi, Kenya
- 5-8 June, Association of African Universities General Conference, Accra, Ghana
- 6-7 June, EuroDIG 2017, Tallinn, Estonia
- 26-29 June, ICANN59, Johannesburg, South Africa

Learn more about how ICANN will be participating in regional events near you.
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