



Regional Events  
Calendar



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Feedback



## TOP STORY

### Register Now for the ICANN70 Virtual Community Forum



ICANN70 will be held [virtually](#) due to the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In consultation with community leaders, the dates have been modified slightly to 22-25 March 2021. Those interested in attending ICANN70 must [register](#) to participate.

To learn more about the meeting time zone and language interpretation options, visit <https://70.schedule.icann.org>.

### Update on ICANN Public Meeting Innovation

Read [this blog](#) about several actions and improvements that will be implemented for ICANN70 as a result of the community engagement process to innovate ICANN org's support for Public Meetings.



### ICANN70 Internet Access Reimbursement Program

ICANN will be continuing financial assistance for ICANN70 for community members who have limited Internet capacity. The goal is to facilitate participation in ICANN Virtual Public Meetings during the pandemic. The application deadline is Friday, 5 March 2021.

Details on the application process are available [here](#).



## SPOTLIGHT

### Apply Now for ICANN Leadership Positions

The ICANN Nominating Committee

(NomCom) is [inviting applicants](#) for key leadership positions within ICANN, including:

- Three members of the ICANN Board of Directors
- Three regional representatives to the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) – one each representing the Africa region, Asia, Australia, and Pacific Islands region, and Latin America and Caribbean region
- Two members of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council – one representing the Contracted Parties House and one representing the Non-Contracted Parties House
- One member of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council
- The deadline to submit applications is **18 March 2021 at 23:59 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC)**.



Find more information on the positions and application process at the [NomCom webpage](#).

## Listen to the ICANN Board's Open Session



The ICANN Board of Directors held its first workshop of 2021. During the Open Session, the Board shared details of its progress on its 2021 Priorities.

If you missed the Open Session, listen to the recording [here](#).

Read Board Chair Maarten Botterman's blog on the workshop [here](#).

## Changes Coming to Registry Reports on the ICANN Open Data Platform

ICANN's [Open Data platform](#) will become the permanent home of Registry Reports beginning on 15 March 2021. With this change, these reports will no longer be available on <https://icann.org> as of 15 March 2021.

Read more [here](#) about which Registry Reports will be available and how to register for the Open Data platform.



## ICANN Org Audit of Registrar Compliance with DNS Security Threat Obligations

ICANN org has launched an audit program aimed at reviewing how registrars are fulfilling their contractual obligations related to addressing reports of potentially abusive domains. On 11 January 2021, ICANN Contractual Compliance



sent pre-audit notifications to the registrars selected for the audit. The selected registrars will receive a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) on 25 January 2021 containing the audit questions.

For more information, [read this announcement](#).



## EMEA ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

### ICANN Perspectives on EU Digital Initiatives



**Elena Plexida**  
VP for Government and IGO Engagement,  
ICANN



**David Conrad**  
Chief Technology Officer, ICANN



### Europe Stakeholder Assembly: ICANN Perspectives on EU Digital Initiatives

On 27 January, ICANN Europe hosted a stakeholder assembly for the European regional stakeholders presenting ICANN org reflections on current European Union initiatives, including:

- Digital Services Act (DSA)
- Digital Market Act (DMA)
- Network and Information Security (NIS2) Directive

The recorded webinar and presentations can be found [here](#).



## EUROPE

### ICANN Europe Holds the First Nordic Region Workshop

On 3 March 2021, ICANN is hosting a workshop for the Nordic region, focusing on ICANN and its technical mission. The workshop will be conducted in cooperation with the .dk registry, DK Hostmaster, and .fi registry, Trafikom.



The goal of the workshop is to bring ICANN org closer to technical communities in the Nordic countries. Many will have heard of ICANN but will not be fully familiar with what ICANN actually does and how it technically impacts their presence online. Topics such as the IANA functions, the DNS Root Server System, and ICANN-led technical projects will be presented. The participants will also be able to interact with our technical experts. Our hope is that the workshop will give

participants a better understanding of our technical mission and demystify the ICANN organization.

Although the goal is to attract a technical audience mainly from the Nordic regions, participants from other regions are also welcome!

More information is available [here](#). To register click [here](#). The registration deadline is 26 February 2021.



## MIDDLE EAST

### ICANN Fosters Relations with Youth in Turkey

In line with the [Middle East Regional Action Plan- FY21](#), the ICANN org regional team engaged with youth in Turkey through different collaborations and partnerships. The first was participating in the sixth Youth Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Turkey, held virtually between 10-12 December. Youth were introduced to ICANN and its role in the technical Internet ecosystem, as well as to ICANN's NextGen and Fellowship Programs. The event was coordinated by the ICANN organization along with ISOC Turkey, Turkey Media Literacy Association, and Diplo Foundation.



You can learn more and view recordings of the Youth IGF Turkey [here](#).

On 15 January 2021, ICANN org presented “How to preserve the Domain Name System (DNS) as a critical component of a secure and reliable Internet” at the Middle East Technical University (METU). This was the second time ICANN was invited to METU by Associate Professor Cengiz Acartürk, who is also one of ICANN's newly appointed Universal Acceptance (UA) ambassadors, based out of Turkey.

We are thankful to our partners for this continued collaboration with ICANN in Turkey, which is allowing us to talk to a new audience, raise awareness of ICANN, and encourage participation in its multistakeholder community.

ICANN org seeks more partners in academia in Turkey and the Middle East. If you're interested, please contact us at: [MEAC.swg@icann.org](mailto:MEAC.swg@icann.org).

To stay up to date with our activities in Turkey, subscribe to our Turkish mailing list [here](#).

### Technical Engagement in the Middle East Update

On 18-19 January 2021, the ICANN organization hosted a virtual DNS operations workshop to staff members of the .ye ccTLD registry. The workshop was attended by 8 people who utilized ICANN's cloud platform.

This workshop was a request that came in as part of a technical needs assessment during

November and December 2020. As part of ICANN's [Regional Plan for the Middle East](#), members of the regional plan working group recommended ICANN org run a technical needs assessment with DNS industry players in the Middle East to understand the regional technical capacity building needs in the short-run (FY21) and the longer-term (FY22).

There will be more webinars and virtual workshops lined up across the region. One of which will be a webinar for the Sudanese community on DNS operations, DNS abuse, and Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) in partnership with the Sudan Network Operators Group (sdNOG).

We continue to encourage our regional community to reach out to us for any capacity building inquiries related to the Domain Name System at [meac.swg@icann.org](mailto:meac.swg@icann.org).

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## The Middle East Space Three Years On

The Middle East Space was first held at ICANN60 in Abu Dhabi in late 2017 and went on to become a regular feature at most ICANN Public Meetings. To date, nine Space sessions have been organized covering seven different topics. Each session came out with a document that was either submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors or to an open Public Comment proceeding.

While 2020 brought its challenges with COVID-19, the co-chairs of the Space, Tijani Ben Jemaa and Nadira Alaraj, ensured that it kept its momentum and organized four different Space sessions in coordination with the wider Middle East community.

A list of the community's Middle East Space activities can be found [here](#).

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to both co-chairs for their leadership in steering the Middle East Space to where it currently stands. In late 2020, both Jemaa and Alaraj's terms as co-chairs of the Space concluded, paving the way for new leadership. If you are interested, please write to us at [meac.swg@icann.org](mailto:meac.swg@icann.org).

ICANN org's GSE Middle East Team supported the Space since its inception, and we look forward to continuing our support of this important regional discussion platform.



## AFRICA

### Webinar on Domain Name Abuse Reporting System for African ccTLDs

ICANN org's GSE Africa team and Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) Technical Engagement Middle East and Africa team continue remote engagement efforts during the pandemic. They hosted a regional webinar on 4 February 2021 for African country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators to build awareness and seek their participation in ICANN's Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR) program. The webinar was the first in a series of planned informational and capacity building webinars for the African ccTLD operators in 2021. Stay tuned for details of future webinars in the pipeline.

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### Technical Engagement in Africa Update

As part of the ICANN organization's technical engagement mission in Africa, ICANN org will provide a series of trainings to better inform staff at operators, Internet service providers, government, regulators, lawyers, academics, and end users on how the Internet works in general, especially on the critical role of Domain Name System.

The program will be composed of eight modules of theoretical and practical courses from 4 February to 13 May 2021. During the series, we will also look at DNS standards and best practices as well as the necessity of collaboration and engagement in maintaining the Internet's coordination, security, and stability.

This series is specifically targeted for the benefit of the Internet community in Cameroon but anyone can join. Similar activities have already been carried out in Benin, Nigeria, Senegal, and in the francophone region of Côte d'Ivoire. The Republic of Chad and Burkina Faso are also on the agenda.

To provide an opportunity for technical capacity building to Internet stakeholders in your country, please send an email request to [octo@icann.org](mailto:octo@icann.org) and ICANN's Technical Engagement team will contact you.



## POLICY UPDATE

### Nominations Now Open for 2021 ICANN Community Excellence Award

The nomination period for the 2021 ICANN Community Excellence Award is now open. Each year, the ICANN Community Excellence Award recognizes ICANN community participants who substantively contribute to policymaking within the ICANN ecosystem and who are deeply invested in developing consensus-based solutions within the ICANN multistakeholder model. The recipient will be recognized at ICANN71.



Learn more about the [nomination process](#) and submit your nomination(s) [here](#). The nomination deadline is 29 March.

### GNSO Council Confirms EPDP Intent to Modify Thick WHOIS Transition Policy



The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council confirmed that the intent of [Recommendation 7](#) from the Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data (EPDP) is to modify the Thick WHOIS Transition Policy. The confirmation comes in response to a question from the Registration Data Policy Implementation Review Team. The GNSO Council additionally recommended that this excerpt of the

EPDP Team's original language – “must be transferred from registrar to registry provided an appropriate legal basis exists and data processing agreement is in place” – should be included in the text of the Registration Data Policy.

### ccPDP4 Begins Important Work on IDN ccTLD Variant Management

A new subgroup within the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Working Group on the deselection of Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLD strings (ccPDP4) started its work on variant management this month. The 2013 ccNSO policy proposals for IDN

ccTLD string selection criteria, processes, and required documentation did not include variant management. The ICANN Board requested the ccNSO address variant management in coordination with the Generic Names Supporting Organization. The results of ccPDP4 will replace the 2009 IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process.

The ccPDP4 Working Group and the subgroup will work in parallel; each group will meet on alternate Tuesdays. In the future, ccPDP4 may form two additional subgroups related to confusing similarity and the deselection of IDN ccTLDs.

Learn more about the work of ccPDP4 [here](#).

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## GNSO Council Adopts Phase 1 Final Report of GNSO Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP



On 21 January 2021, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council [approved](#) the Phase 1 Final Report from the Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group on the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs. Prior to its vote, the GNSO Council held a [webinar](#) to discuss the details of the 35 final PDP Phase 1 recommendations. The RPM Working Group reached full consensus on 34

recommendations and consensus on 1 recommendation. The GNSO Council expects to approve a Recommendations Report in February 2021 and transmit it to the ICANN Board for consideration.

[Learn more.](#)

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## New GNSO Representatives

On 21 January 2021, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council made several appointments.

- Heather Forrest was appointed to the Community Representatives Group that will nominate the Independent Review Process (IRP) Standing Panel.
- Milton Mueller was appointed as the GNSO Non-Registry Liaison to the Customer Standing Committee.
- Farrell Folly was appointed as the GNSO mentor to the ICANN Fellowship Program for three consecutive ICANN Public Meetings, beginning with ICANN72.

[Learn more.](#)

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GDS UPDATE

## ICANN Teams with APTLD to Launch Regional Program to Promote Universal Acceptance

Last month, ICANN launched the first of its regional Universal Acceptance (UA) training programs, which are collaborative efforts between ICANN and regional top-level domain (TLD) organizations to raise awareness of UA.

Each program will provide a series of trainings on the technical aspects of UA and serve as a forum to discuss how to effectively address UA issues specific to each region. The first program was started in partnership with the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association (APTLD) for the APAC region; view the training schedule [here](#).



ICANN is looking to expand the program and collaborate with more regional top-level domain organizations. Interested in this opportunity? Contact [uaprogram@icann.org](mailto:uaprogram@icann.org) for more.

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## New Second-Level Reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs)



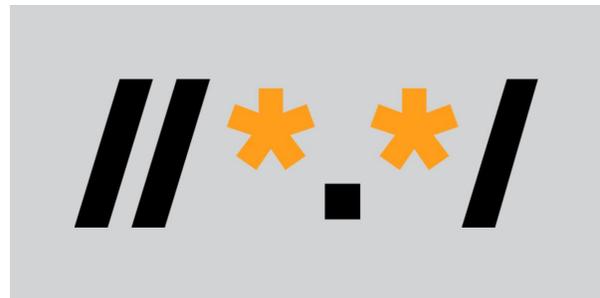
Additional second-level reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs) have been published, totaling 30 language-based reference LGRs and 13 script-based reference LGRs. These rules help improve the transparency and consistency of the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) table review process that facilitates the registry operations of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The remaining languages and scripts will be included in future releases as

relevant community input becomes available. [Click here](#) for more.

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## Planning Ahead for Supporting a Diverse and Global Internet

2020 was a year unlike any other. At a time when we've been more physically distant than ever, it's important to continue to make sure that the Internet becomes more inclusive, diverse, and multilingual for users around the world.



The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) is committed to advancing UA-readiness in the year ahead, and 2021 is

already proving to be a busy and productive year. Check out the most recent UASG content that includes a look at planned work in 2021, exciting Email Address Internationalization (EAI) developments, new working group leadership, and a special video on what UA means to its members. Follow [@UASGtech](#) on Twitter to stay up to date all year long.

- [Looking Back and Planning Ahead for Supporting a Diverse and Global Internet Universal Acceptance \(UA\) Readiness](#) (Blog)
- [UASG Finds Promising Results for Internationalized Email Support Among Global Systems](#) (Blog)
- [UASG Announces New Working Group Leadership for 2021](#) (Announcement)
- [What does Universal Acceptance Mean to You?](#) (Video)



### WHAT'S NEW IN REVIEWS

## Specific Reviews

The **second Security, Stability, and Resiliency Review (SSR2)** Final Report is now available for [Public Comment](#).

The [Final Report](#) contains 63 full consensus recommendations in the following areas:

- SSR1 implementation and intended effects.
- Key stability issues within ICANN.
- Contracts, compliance, and transparency around Domain Name System (DNS) abuse.
- Additional SSR-related concerns regarding the global DNS.

The SSR2 Review Team will host a webinar on 11 February 2021 at 15:00 UTC to brief the community on its final recommendations. Please see the [wiki page](#) for webinar details.

Per the ICANN Bylaws ([Section 4.6\(a\)\(vii\)\(C\)](#)), the Board shall consider the SSR2 Review Team Final Report within six months of receipt, by 25 July 2021.

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## Organizational Reviews

The **Nominating Committee Review Implementation Working Group** (NomComRIWG) [submitted its second implementation report](#) on progress to the Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC) of the ICANN Board.

This report provides an update on the implementation of the 27 recommendations and highlights two main areas of focus and activity during the past six months: Proposed changes to the ICANN Bylaws and a proposed charter for the NomCom Standing Committee.

Find out more about NomComRIWG work [here](#).

The **second Organizational Review of the Root Server System Advisory Committee Review Implementation Work Party** (RSSAC2 RWP) submitted its [second implementation report on progress](#) to the OEC. RSSAC2 RWP reported that of the six recommendations, two have been implemented, two are ongoing, and two are dependent on the progress of Root Server System Governance Working Group.

Find out more about RSSAC2 RWP work [here](#).

The **second Organizational Review of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee Review Working Party** (SSAC2 RWP) submitted its [second implementation report on progress](#) to the OEC. SSAC2 RWP reported that all 24 recommendations have now been either completed or integrated into ongoing SSAC processes, as documented in the SSAC Operational Procedures.

Find out more about SSAC2 RWP work [here](#).

The **second Organizational Review of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee Review Working Party** (SSAC2 RWP) submitted its [second implementation report on progress](#) to the OEC. SSAC2 RWP reported that all 24 recommendations have now been either completed or integrated into ongoing SSAC processes, as documented in the SSAC Operational Procedures.

Find out more about SSAC2 RWP work [here](#).

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Visit the [Reviews Status Update Table](#) for the latest progress of [Specific](#) and [Organizational](#) Reviews and links to additional key resources for each.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Check the ICANN org engagement calendar [here](#).

### ICANN AROUND THE WORLD

**Regional Offices:**

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