



**Council for European National Top-level  
Domain Registries**

iis.se Internet Dagarna  
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**Council for European National Top-level  
Domain Registries**

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**About CENTR**

- An international association of ccTLD Registries.
- Started as RIPE project in March 1998 (TLD WG).
- Became non-profit organisation in June 1999.
- Small secretariat based in Oxford, UK.
- European focus, but no geographical limits.
- ccTLD representatives form General Assembly.
- Currently 33 Full Members, collectively register over 7.5 million domain names (over 2/3 of global total for ccTLDs)

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### Members

Andorra (.ad)	Germany (.de)	Netherlands (.nl)
Armenia (.am)	Greece (.gr)	Norway (.no, .bv, .sj)
Ascension Island (.ac)	Guernsey (.gg)	Poland (.pl)
Austria (.at)	Hungary (.hu)	Portugal (.pt)
Belgium (.be)	Iran (.ir)	Romania (.ro)
Canada (.ca)	Ireland (.ie)	Russia (.ru)
Croatia (.hr)	Israel (.il)	Slovenia (.si)
Cyprus (.cy)	Italy (.it)	Spain (.es)
Denmark (.dk)	Lithuania (.lt)	Sweden (.se)
Finland (.fi)	Luxembourg (.lu)	Switzerland (.ch & .li)
France (.fr & others)	Malta (.mt)	United Kingdom (.uk)

Associate Members: Japan (.jp), NSI Registry

Observers: European Commission, RIPE Chair

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### Main Aims

- Forum to discuss matters of policy affecting ccTLDs.
- Acts as channel of communication to Internet administrative bodies & other organisations.
- Promotes interests of non-profit ccTLDs and lobbies on their behalf.
- Focal point for enquiries about ccTLD practices.
- Document policies and practices of ccTLDs.
- Encourage harmonisation of practices and improve service.

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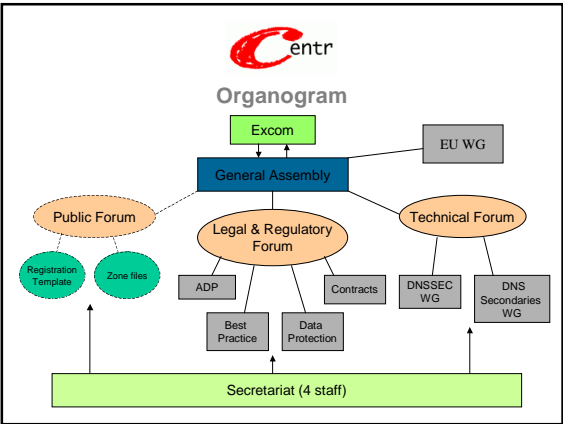
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### Legal & Regulatory Activities

- Managers & registry lawyers participate
  - Smaller WGs formed to look at specific issues
- Examining results of CENTR Survey
  - Data protection, registration policies, Whois
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
  - looking at ccTLD version of the WIPO UDRP.
- ccTLD Best Practice
  - CENTR Best Practice Guidelines adopted by members 2/6.
  - Mechanism to receive wider input and improve the document
  - Registries encourage to sign up to the guidelines.

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### Legal & Regulatory Activities [2]

- Contract for services
  - Formalisation of relationship with ICANN
  - Guarantees on root services
  - Redelelegation procedures
- Cybersquatting /domain name warehousing.
  - US legislation being examined
  - EU urging legislation in member states
- EU issues
  - Single market rules, competition issues, Data Protection directive

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### Technical Activities

- Transfer of name records out of RIPE Database
  - Was accounting for large percentage of total entries.
  - ccTLDs moving towards operating own Whois servers.
- Intelligent Whois Service
  - Web interfaces with back-end intelligence (e.g. Uwhois).
  - Referral records in DNS (e.g. SRV + intelligent clients).
- DNSSEC
  - NLnet Labs conducting scalability tests.
  - 1 year pre-production trial with secure zones.
- Internationalised DNS (ability to use local characters)
  - Monitoring IETF IDN working group

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### Domain Name Registration Forum

- Open forum for registries, registrars & registrants.
- Inform wider Internet Community of CENTR activities.
- Provide CENTR with feedback on how services might be improved etc..
- 3 meetings per year @ RIPE events.
- Work areas identified:
  - Common Registration Templates (e.g. XML).
  - Access to zone files & data protection issues.
  - Registry information (part of CENTR Survey).
- Mailing list <dnr-forum@lists.centr.org>

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### CENTR Survey

- CENTR is documenting registry structure & practices.
- 25 responses so far (from 33 members).
- Considering extending survey to all ccTLDs.
- Useful for:
  - Technical standards
  - General Informational purposes.
  - Development of 'best practice'
  - Understanding legal structures and relationship with governments in relation to Agreements with ICANN

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### CENTR Survey (cont..)

**Categories:**

- A - Legal Status of Registry, Derived Authority
- B - Contracts with Registrars and Registrants
- C - Registration Procedures (what needs to be provided)
- D - Rules (languages, sub-domains, who may register)
- E - Cancellation
- F - Dispute Resolution (WIPO etc..)
- G - Data Protection
- H - Policy formation & community consultation
- I - Technical (WHOIS, SOA values, databases, validation)

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### ccTLD Constituency

- Informal group open to all ccTLD Managers
- Administered by representatives from the 5 regions recognised by ICANN:
  - N. America, Latin American and Caribbean, Europe and Asia Pacific
- Also provision for any affiliation of 10+ ccTLDs
  - Currently IATLD
- Constituency meets at INET & ICANN meeting
  - Matters of policy
  - electing representatives
  - Technical workshops

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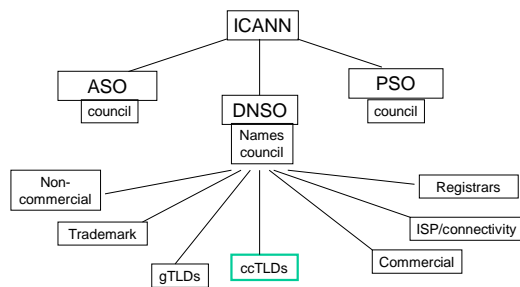
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### Current Relationship with ICANN



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### Relationship with ICANN [2]

- ccTLD Managers want:
- Agreements with ICANN
    - Stable & secure DNS
    - Quality Root Services
    - Assurances on delegation/re-delegation of the TLD
  - Many see a lightweight role for ICANN in respect of ccTLDs
    - Primarily technical coordination
    - ccTLD regulation coming from Local Internet Community including government
  - Most want a direct relationship with ICANN (not only via DNSO) possibilities include:
    - Separate Support Organisation for ccTLDs
    - Seats on the ICANN board
    - ICANN propose re-introducing a TLD forum IANA functions

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### Relationship with ICANN [3]

GAC Committee see:

- A triangular relationship:
  - A form of communication between government and the ccTLD manager establishing 'authority'
  - ICANN to seek confirmation from the government before entering agreement with a ccTLD manager
  - Agreement between ICANN & ccTLD Manager which can be terminated at the request of the government

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### Relationship with ICANN [4]

ICANN want:

- Agreements with ccTLDs:
  - A condition of the transition agreement with US Government
- Funding
  - 99/00 ICANN requested that 35% (\$1.49m) of their budget come from global ccTLDs
  - ICANN issued invoices for 99/00 based on Domain name numbers
  - Many ccTLD registries rejected the invoices on the basis that agreements not yet reached
  - Where possible voluntary 'donations' are being made with CENTR members donations totalling around \$850,000

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### Relationship with ICANN [5]

**Key issues in making a contract for services:**

- Can ICANN guarantee Roots services?
  - As yet, no agreements with Root Server consortium
- Delegation/re-delegation
  - Authority of existing Managers (IANA/Jon Postel/RFC 1591)
  - Small minority of disputed registries
  - ICANN do not want to risk litigation over redelegation (changes currently go the US DoC for approval)
  - Triangular relationship puts responsibility with the governments
- Jurisdiction & applicable law:
  - ICANN established under Californian law
  - differing legal systems throughout the 240+ ccTLDs
  - Perhaps California law with ICC style arbitration?

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### Relationship with ICANN [6]

#### Recent developments:

- Meeting of EU GAC representatives, registry managers, CENTR & ICANN staff in Brussels 13/9
  - Highlighted difficulties of a one-size-fits-all solution
  - Problems with proposed letter to be sent by ICANN to governments authorising the registry in their country.
  - Some registries GAC compliant (registry status enshrined in law or run as a government department)
  - Most registries not GAC compliant (private companies, foundations or associations where government has no legal basis to authorise without introducing legislation which could take years.

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### Relationship with ICANN

#### Recent developments:

- Two-tier approach now being suggested
  - Letter from ICANN in which governments can either
    - 'authorise' a registry (GAC compliant) or
    - confirm 'no objection' to an existing registry (non-compliant)
  - Two contract options between ICANN and ccTLD Managers
    - GAC compliant registries receive minimal regulation from ICANN, on Local Internet community/government for regulation and re-delegation
    - Second contract where ICANN provide a regulatory role in accordance with existing RFC1591 principles
- Interim agreements being investigated.....

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### Relationship with ICANN

#### Recent developments:

- CENTR Legal Group have made a draft contract
- Meeting sought with ICANN staff
  - To discuss potential contract wording
  - To review progress with letters to governments
- CENTR to hope to have progress in advance of the ICANN meeting in LA, 11/00 when:
  - Global ccTLD community meet
  - Government Advisory Committee meet
  - ICANN board meeting to be held.

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### Creation of .EU

- Consultation process including open meeting, 28/3
- Report on CENTR findings submitted to EC:
  - Welcome the e-Europe initiative.
  - Support in the community for .EU TLD.
  - Concerns at lack of detail in EC proposal.
  - CENTR experience/expertise in registry management offered in development of detailed proposal options.
- EC Steering Committee and WGs, with CENTR participation, to make a more detailed proposal 4/00
- Communication to the EU parliament 7/00
- ICANN respond to Commissioner's request for .EU 7/00
- ICANN board resolution to accept 2-letter codes from ISO 3166 reserve list (permitting .EU to be a ccTLD) 9/00
- Commission now seeking EU approval for .EU proposal

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