.eu

YOUR EUROPEAN IDENTITY

EURID'S QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

SECOND
QUARTER

08

EURid

"We immediately saw the symbolic value of adopting the .eu domain name. Because it strongly expresses who we really are and what we stand for. Besides that, it helps generate more visibility for our website in the search engines. We also see that it is a very powerful illustration of our cross-border capability, which is essential if you talk about corporate or investment banking, because we strive on making the right connections between countries. It sends a very strong signal internally but also to our customers and other stakeholders. To me, the .eu domain name carries a very strong subconscious connotation of the best in Europe, the best of Europe. So, any institution, any company that really wants to express this ´Europeaness´ should go for it today rather than tomorrow."

Marc Beckers, unicreditgroup.eu, Italy

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IN BRIEF

The .eu top level domain saw a variety of developments over the second quarter of 2008. The most significant, perhaps, was the sharp rise in .eu domain name registrations during the month of June. The rise came about as the result of a promotion programme instituted by the EURid management team. For more information, see page 8.

There were other registration-related developments as well. The .eu domain is becoming increasingly popular in Central/Eastern European Member States. Over the past quarter .eu registrations grew by more than 40% in eight countries when compared to the second quarter of 2007. The average growth for the EU as a whole was 15%.

The top ten list of countries by total .eu domain name registrations changed over the second quarter as well. The Netherlands passed the United Kingdom in total registrations and became second on the list. In addition, Poland passed Italy, and Belgium overtook Sweden. The full list is published on page 14.

Finally, during this quarter EURid added several anycast name servers to make its network more robust and implemented IPv6 on two of the registry's name servers.

"We want to represent our company as an EU company and not one coming from that one individual Member State. We offer potential business partners a door inside the EU market."

Juha Multisilta, lindberg-yhtiot.eu, Finland

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

"We will continue our efforts to make .eu the first choice for everyone who wants to show that they are open for business across Europe."

As the quarters pass, .eu has gone from being a novelty to becoming an established top-level domain. The numbers are looking good and .eu registrations are growing, particularly in Eastern Europe and the newest members of the European Union. As something becomes established, it develops a reputation. We wanted to find out what .eu's reputation was within the online community. EURid conducted a brand personality study to discover what Europeans think about .eu as a domain name extension compared to other top-level domains. Not surprisingly, .eu is first and foremost known for being European. I am pleased to report that .eu is also connected to values such as *innovative*, *reliable*, *credible* and *trustworthy*. That makes me believe that we are on the right track as more Europeans get their own domain names. We will continue our efforts to make .eu the first choice for everyone who wants to show that they are open for business across Europe.

MARC VAN WESEMAEL

BACKGROUND ON EURID AND .EU

EURid is the not-for-profit organisation appointed by the European Commission to operate the .eu top-level Internet domain. The first initiative to establish .eu as a European top-level domain (TLD) was taken in 1999 by the European Council. Subsequently EURid was appointed in May 2003 as the operator of the .eu registry. The actual service contract was signed in October 2004.

The .eu TLD was added to the root zone of the Internet Domain Name System in May 2005. That means that, technically speaking, .eu has been in existence since then.

EURid was founded in April 2003 by the three organisations operating the national registries for Belgium, Italy and Sweden. Later the organisations operating the TLDs for the Czech Republic and for Slovenia also became members. The European Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC) joined EURid in 2006, followed by the BusinessEurope organisation in 2007.
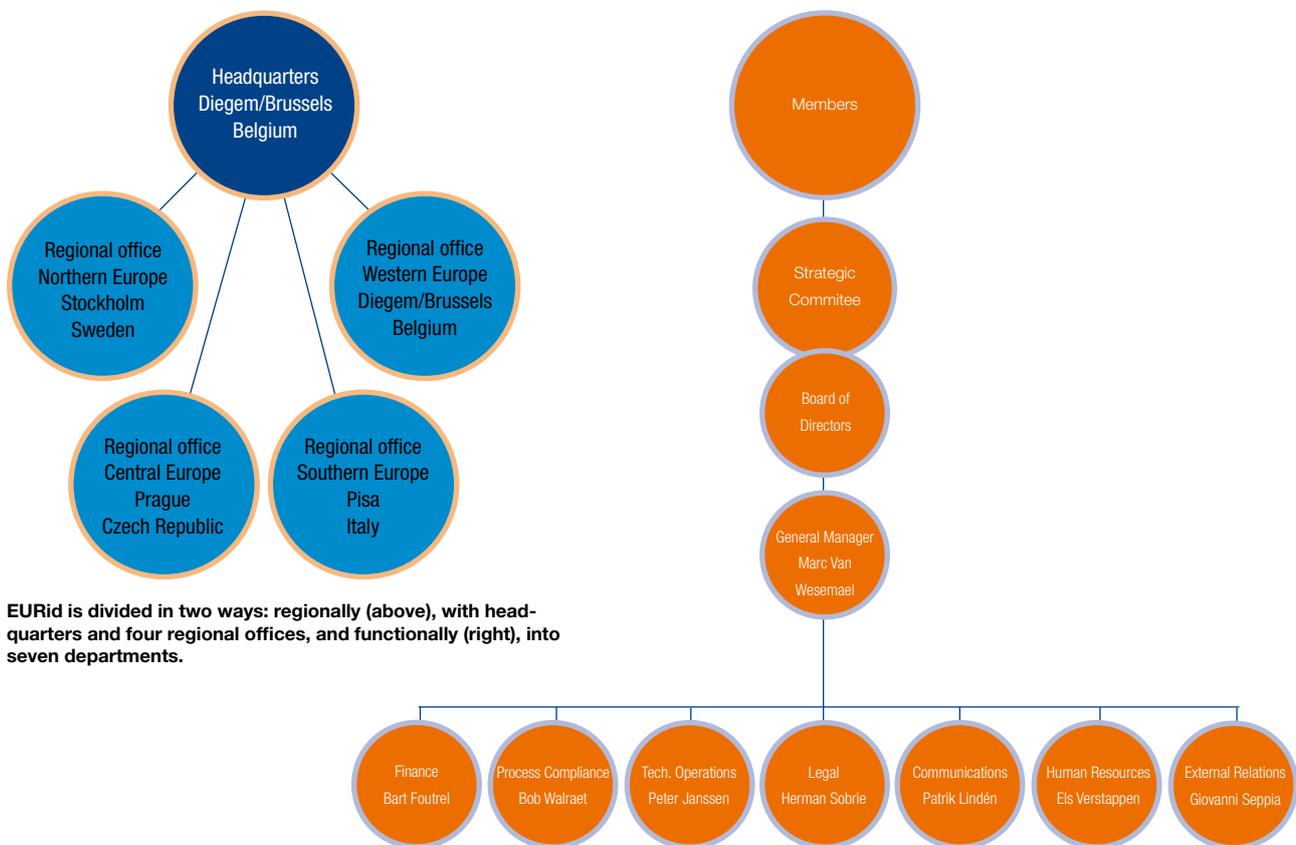
Between December 7, 2005, and April 6, 2006, the .eu registry began accepting applications for domain names on a limited basis. Only those individuals and organisations holding some type of legal protection for a name within a Member State of the European Union was eligible to apply for domain names during that time. This period of phased registration is referred to as the Sunrise period. On April 7, 2006, EURid opened the .eu TLD for general registration on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

"I chose .eu because I wanted a more international domain name, and because I think it makes us stand out. Longer term, it's more aspirational for us. We hope to attract more clients from across Europe and use the .eu domain to establish a pan-European platform for us. .eu is associated in the market as being new, modern, fresh and cutting edge, which are all important to us as we are advising clients on using the latest online marketing methods."

Jon Reed, reedmedia.eu, the United Kingdom

ORGANISATION

Regional structure (left diagram)

- Headquarters Diegem/Brussels Belgium
  - Regional office Northern Europe Stockholm Sweden
  - Regional office Western Europe Diegem/Brussels Belgium
  - Regional office Central Europe Prague Czech Republic
  - Regional office Southern Europe Pisa Italy

EURid is divided in two ways: regionally (above), with headquarters and four regional offices, and functionally (right), into seven departments.

Functional structure (right diagram)

- Members
- Strategic Commitee
- Board of Directors
- General Manager Marc Van Wesemael
  - Finance Bart Foutrel
  - Process Compliance Bob Walraet
  - Tech. Operations Peter Janssen
  - Legal Herman Sobrie
  - Communications Patrik Lindén
  - Human Resources Els Verstappen
  - External Relations Giovanni Seppia

As a not-for-profit organisation, EURid does not have owners. Instead it has stakeholders that are members of the organisation. Each of the members has a seat on the Strategic Committee, which discusses all major issues. Via the General Assembly, the members also elect the board (see page 24) to which the general manager reports.

The largest department, by far, is External Relations. External Relations is responsible for support to the .eu registrars and the general public in all EU languages, as well as EURid's relations with international organisations such as CENTR and ICANN. The department spans EURid's four regional offices, which together cover the entire European Union. Each office provides support in the languages local to its region. EURid's headquarters, which is also the regional office for Western Europe, is located just outside of Brussels in Diegem, Belgium. The three other regional offices are located in Stockholm, Sweden; Prague, the Czech Republic; and Pisa, Italy.

UPDATE

Three anycast name servers implemented

In April three new name servers that use a technology called anycast were added to EURid's network. From a network perspective, each anycast server operates as a single machine. In practice, however, each server is based on multiple machines that are located all over the world, which increases security and reliability. Now EURid's network has a total of nine name servers on different branches of the Internet and, in reality, many more places due to the anycast technology.

EURid continues to use its six original name servers, which are located in Amsterdam, Brussels, Ljubljana, London, Milan and Prague. Each name server is connected to its local national Internet Exchange. EURid is evaluating the introduction of additional anycast name servers later this year.

IPv6 deployed at the name server level

Following ICANN's recent deployment of the new standard for IP addresses, IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6), at the root level of the domain name system, EURid has introduced IPv6 to the .eu top-level domain.

IPv6 supports a greater number of IP addresses than the current standard, IPv4, and is gradually being deployed across the Internet as the number of IP addresses in demand steadily approaches the maximum number permitted under IPv4. Two of the .eu name servers are running IPv6: the name server based in Ljubljana, Slovenia and one of the new anycast servers.

Promotion increased registrations by 84% in June

In January EURid introduced a pilot promotion programme that gave registrars one credit for every new .eu domain name registered between January 1 and May 31. Each credit could be used to register one new .eu domain name free of charge during the month of June only. This successful promotion resulted in a total of 139 368 new registrations in June, an increase of 84% compared to the June 2007 total.

.eu considered innovative and credible

Based on the initial results from a brand-personality study, the .eu top-level domain is associated with values such as *convincing, innovative, credible, reliable, trustworthy* and *familiar.* The survey, conducted by survey company InSites, confirmed the obvious strong ties between .eu and the idea of Europe in the minds of those surveyed in ten European Union nations. The .eu domain is primarily associated with functional values rather than emotional values in the minds of those surveyed.

INTERNATIONAL

During the second quarter of 2008, EURid attended the following meetings:

- IGF consultations in Geneva, Switzerland, 13 May
- Towards local IGFs in Rome, Italy, 19 May
- The European IPv6 Day in Brussels, Belgium, 30 May
- 13th CENTR Administrative workshop in Crete, Greece, 4 June
- 36th CENTR General Assembly in Crete, Greece, 5-6 June
- 32nd ICANN meeting in Paris, France, 22-26 June

Updates on EURid, on registry-registrar relations and on technical developments were given on the occasion of the CENTR Administrative workshop in Crete and as part of European IPv6 day.

In preparation for the next Internet Governance Forum (IGF), EURid engaged in discussions with the IGF CENTR working group and contributed to a workshop proposal called "Around the world in 8 ccTLDs". A working group meeting was held on the occasion of the ICANN meeting in Paris. During the ICANN week, EURid also participated in a breakfast meeting about the programme for the next ICANN Studienkreis conference.

On 3 June 2008, EURid organised a dinner at the European Parliament hosted by Bill Newton Dunn, MEP for the East Midlands, United Kingdom. The objective of the dinner was to celebrate the second anniversary of .eu and to raise awareness and understanding of EURid's work and achievements in managing and promoting the .eu domain.

The dinner was attended by 47 participants, including 9 MEPs. Attendees also included .eu domain name holders, key European Commission officials and attachés from Permanent Representations for Information Communication Technology. Antti Ilmari Peltomäki, Deputy Director General for the Directorate-General for Information Society and Media, gave a speech, followed by Marc Beckers, head of Group Identity and Communications for the UniCredit Group. Mr Beckers gave a testimonial on how a .eu domain name has supported the company in its European rebranding process. EURid's general manager, Marc Van Wesemael, ended the speakers round with a historical overview of EURid and .eu.

The approach for the reception and dinner was to create an event different from the numerous traditional cocktail receptions that are held daily in Brussels. MEPs were linked with company executives, from their constituencies, who attended the dinner. This partnership concept proved to be a win-win for both the organisations and the MEPs in terms of building new contacts and gaining external visibility.

THE .EU DOMAIN

During the second quarter of 2008, the total number of .eu domain name registrations stayed close to 2.8 million. Between the first quarter and second quarter of 2008, there was a decrease of 0.1% in total number of registrations. The total number of registrations at the end of the second quarter represented an increase of 14.8% compared to the total number at the end of the second quarter of 2007. The 2008 results show a notable improvement over 2007, when the number of registrations dropped by 5.3% between the first quarter and the second quarter.

The weak second quarters were due to the large number of domain names that come up for renewal in April each year, since more than 1.6 million .eu domain names were registered when the .eu domain was launched in April 2006. The relatively small drop in registrations during the second quarter of this year was partly due to the April effect growing smaller as time passes (190 000 deletions in April this year compared to 280 000 deletions in April last year) and partly due to the promotion programme, which resulted in about 60 000 more domain name registrations in June 2008 compared to June 2007.

.eu registrations during the second quarter
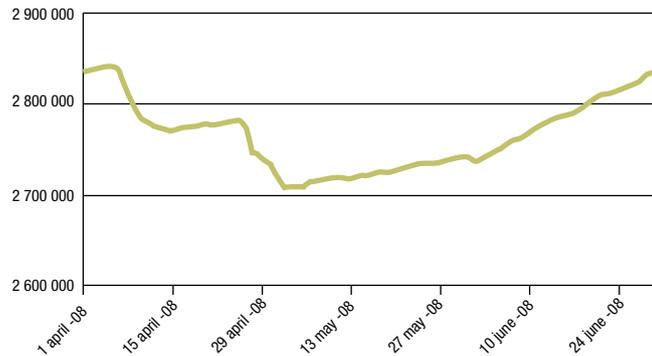
The April effect on total .eu registrations can be seen above, along with the effect of the promotion programme that began in June.

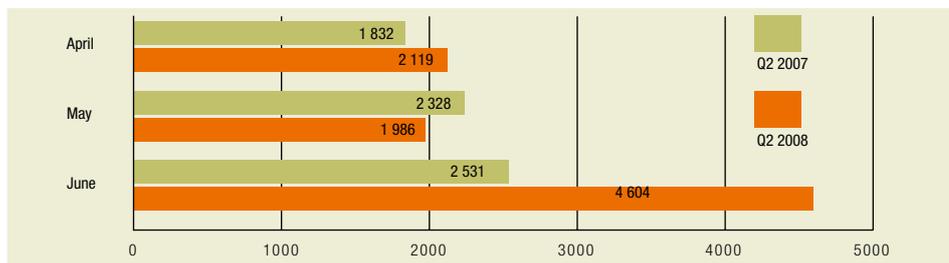**Total .eu registrations by month, second quarter 2008**
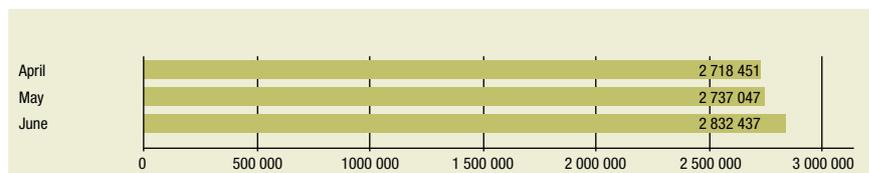
Renewal rates

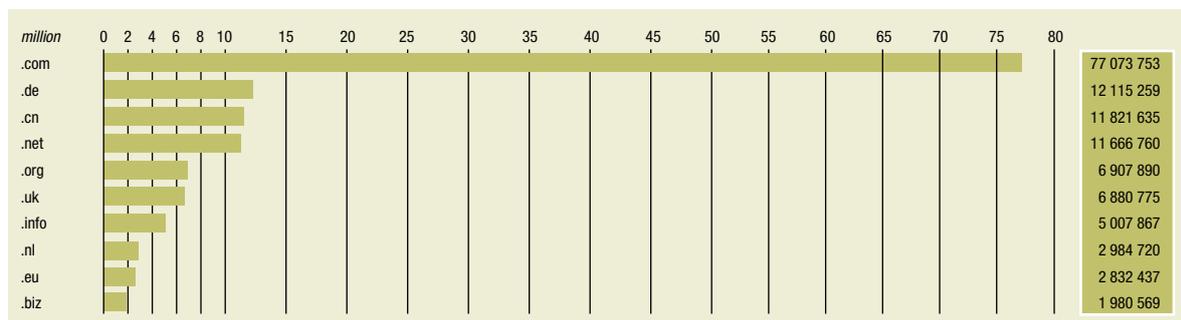| Month	2008	2007
January	79.6%	---
February	76.9%	---
March	77.8%	---
April	75.7%	83.1%
May	70.1%	82.5%
June	71.2%	87.2%

The renewal rates for the second quarter of 2008 were slightly lower than for the same period last year and have moved closer to what is normal in the industry.

New .eu domain name registrations per day

| Month	Q2 2007	Q2 2008
April	1 832	2 119
May	2 328	1 986
June	2 531	4 604

The graph shows the number of new .eu registrations per day, on average, for each month of the second quarter of 2008 and 2007. The success of the promotion programme is clearly visible in the results for June. During the second quarter of this year, 2907 new .eu domain names were registered per day, on average, for the quarter as a whole. This represents an increase of 43% when compared to the 2026 domain names registered per day, on average, during the first quarter of 2008.

World top ten list of top-level domains by registrations, second quarter 2008

million	registrations
.com	77 073 753
.de	12 115 259
.cn	11 821 635
.net	11 666 760
.org	6 907 890
.uk	6 880 775
.info	5 007 867
.nl	2 984 720
.eu	2 832 437
.biz	1 980 569

China's .cn has moved up one position since last quarter.

Percentage of .eu registrations by country compared to percentage of EU population

Country   ▬ % of EU population   ▬ % of .eu registrations
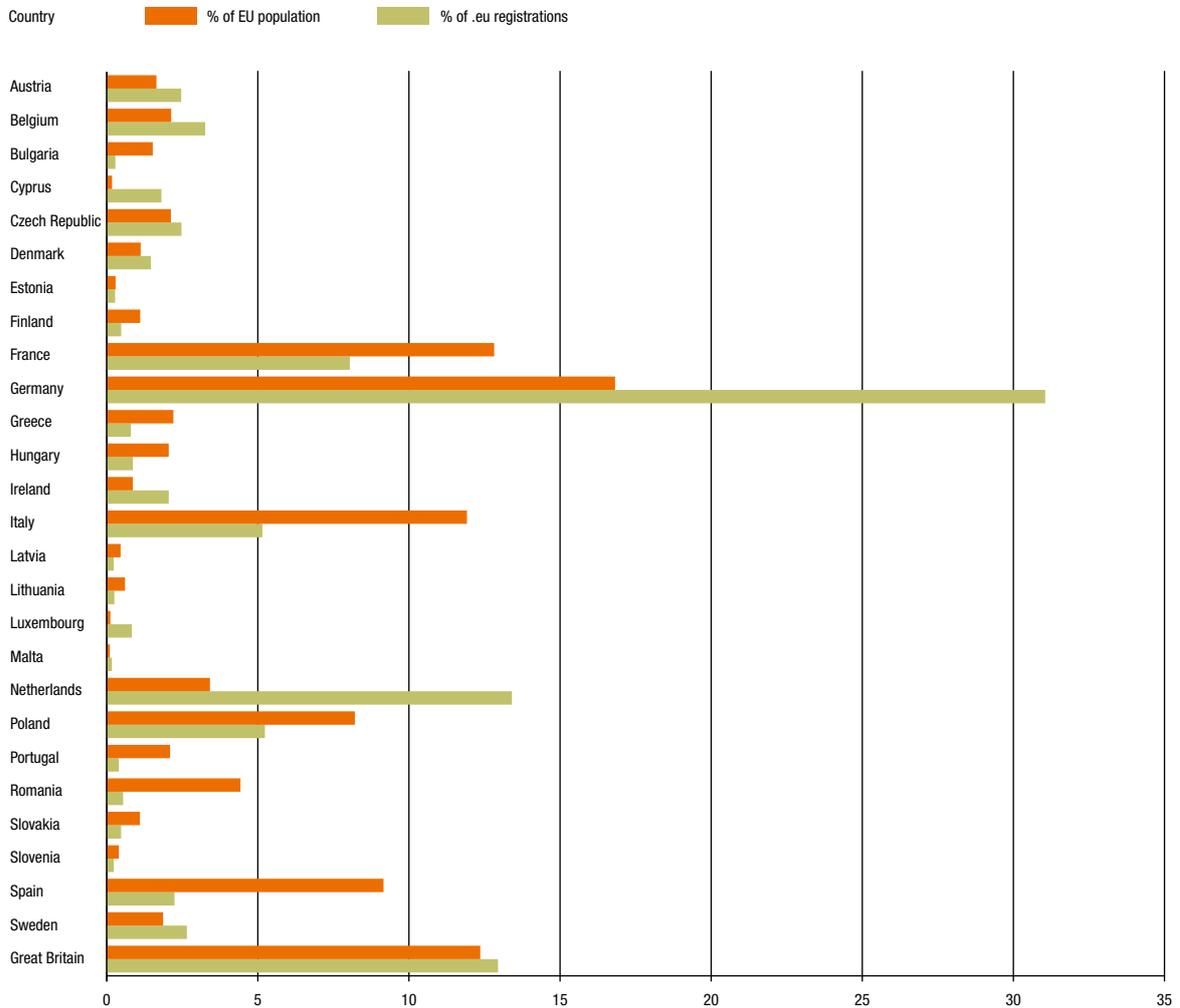
As shown in the graph above, Germany and the Netherlands have far more .eu registrations than what is proportionate to the size of their populations. The opposite holds true for France, Italy and Spain, which have fewer .eu registrations than would be expected given their populations.

Trades, transfers and deletions of .eu domain names

When a registrant (the holder of a domain name) wants to change the registrar he or she uses, this is known as a domain name transfer. Transfers can be carried out at any time. They are initiated by the registrant's new registrar and must be confirmed by the registrant before they are processed. A current registrar cannot stop a registrant from choosing to use another registrar.

When a domain name changes ownership, the process is called a trade. The registrar for the new domain name holder initiates the trade, which must then be confirmed by both the existing domain name holder and the new holder of the domain name.

Registrants can, via their registrars, delete domain names they no longer find useful from the .eu registry. A domain name slated for deletion is quarantined for 40 days after a deletion request. It can be reactivated during that period only at the request of the registrant. The quarantine period is a safeguard to prevent domain names from becoming deleted by mistake. After that period the deleted name becomes available for general registration.

When EURid receives a request for a trade or a transfer during business hours, it is normally handled within an hour or two. The complete process will take longer, however, as registrants have 14 days to give their consent.

Executed trades, transfers and deletions

Month	Trades	Transfers	Deletions
April	55 764	10 863	189 347
May	20 057	4 968	48 616
June	9 097	4 474	45 436

The high number of deletions in April was due to the large number of domain names that come up for renewal every April, the month the .eu domain was originally launched.

DNS queries per minute
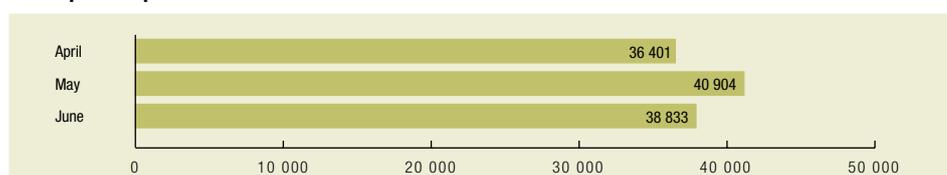
One method of determining the actual use of .eu domain names is by measuring DNS queries to the .eu name servers. The chart above shows the average number of queries per minute during the last seven days of each month.

Domain name disputes

To protect intellectual property rights, an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) policy was put in place for .eu domain name disputes. This policy is described in more detail in EC Regulation 874/2004. The dispute resolution procedure is administered by the Czech Arbitration Court, an independent body offering its services in all EU languages. Additional information about the .eu dispute process is available on the official website of the court at www.adr.eu.

The ADR procedure is appropriate for those who believe that they enjoy legal protection, in one or more Member States, for a name that has been registered as a .eu domain name by another party who:

1. Has no right to or interest in the name or
2. Has registered it in bad faith.

The ADR process for .eu disputes is similar to the dispute processes offered by most major top-level domain registries.

Number of ADRs initiated during the second quarter of 2008

Month	Number of ADRs initiated
April	11
May	9
June	7

A total of 27 ADR disputes were filed during the second quarter of 2008. This was considerably fewer than the 34 filed during the first quarter of 2008 and the 50 filed during the second quarter of 2007. During the second quarter of this year, 24 ADR decisions were published. Of those, 22 (92%) were decided in favour of the complainant.

THE REGISTRANTS

Top ten countries with most .eu registrations
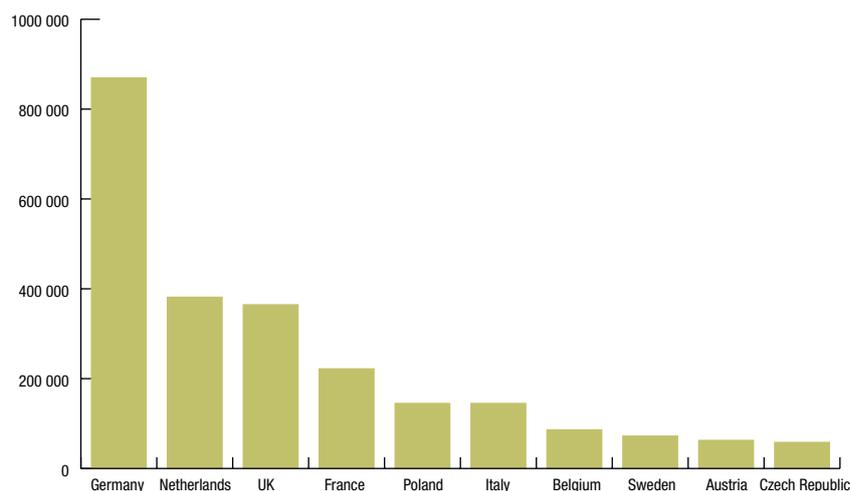
In contrast to the first quarter of 2008, by the end of the second quarter the Netherlands had more .eu domain name registrations than the United Kingdom, Poland had more than Italy, Belgium had more than Sweden and the Czech Republic pushed Cyprus off the top ten list.

Total number of .eu domain names by country of registrant

| Country	Number of names	Country	Number of names
Aaland Islands	210	Italy	147 179
Austria	68 805	Latvia	7 144
Belgium	90 612	Lithuania	7 884
Bulgaria	7171	Luxembourg	24 344
Cyprus	52 315	Malta	4 622
Czech Republic	68 571	Martinique	72
Denmark	41 900	Netherlands	385 568
Estonia	7 430	Poland	147 244
Finland	13 675	Portugal	10 941
France	222 069	Reunion Islands	251
French Guiana	17	Romania	17 162
Germany	872 420	Slovakia	15 464
Gibraltar	4 488	Slovenia	5 231
Greece	22 764	Spain	63 390
Guadeloupe	158	Sweden	75 446
Hungary	24 415	United Kingdom	365 611
Ireland	57 864		

This table is based on country codes. Some territories and provinces, such as Gibraltar, the Aaland Islands and Guadeloupe, have their own country code. That is why they are included in the list even though they are not individual EU Member States.

Relative popularity of .eu domain names compared to ccTLD registrations by country

Country	No of .eu/1000	No of ccTLD/1000
Cyprus	65.8	n/a
Luxembourg	50.3	80.8
Netherlands	23.5	181.9
Ireland	13.1	23.7
Malta	11.3	n/a
Germany	10.6	147.3
Belgium	8.5	75.3
Austria	8.3	91.1
Sweden	8.2	80.6
Denmark	7.7	168.2
Czech Republic	6.6	42.3
UK	6.0	112.3
Estonia	5.5	44.0
Poland	3.9	28.2
France	3.5	18.3
Latvia	3.1	n/a
Slovakia	2.9	29.3
Finland	2.6	34.5
Slovenia	2.6	27.9
Italy	2.5	25.9
Hungary	2.4	38.8
Lithuania	2.3	24.2
Greece	2.0	n/a
Spain	1.4	21.4
Portugal	1.0	21.0
Bulgaria	0.9	n/a
Romania	0.8	n/a

The figures above show the number of domain names per 1000 inhabitants based on population data from Eurostat and ccTLD information from national registries. Countries that have a small population, such as Cyprus, Malta and Luxembourg, create anomalies in the table but the comparison can be useful when it comes to countries with larger populations.

Growth per country compared to second quarter last year
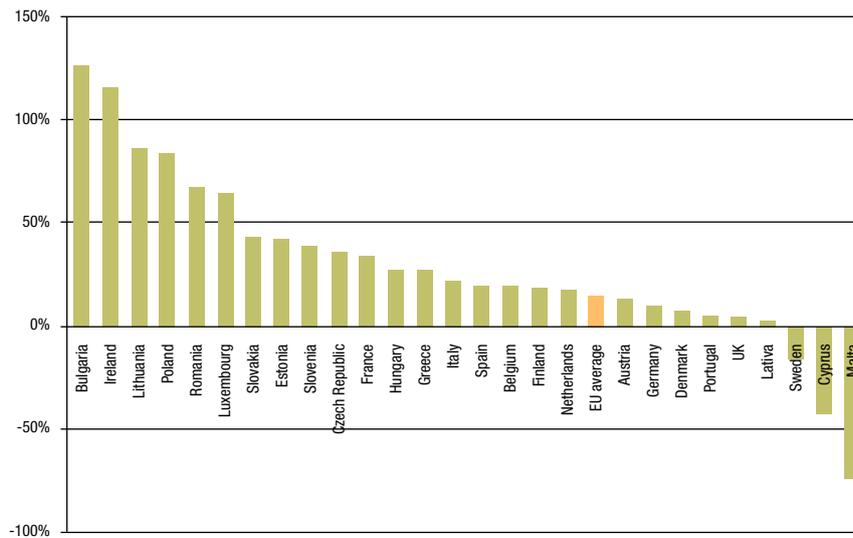
Compared to the same quarter last year, 24 countries showed an increase in the number of .eu domain name registrations, while 3 countries showed a decrease.

"The main reason we chose .eu is the sense of membership in a dynamic and intercultural environment like the European one, which goes beyond national borders and embraces the principles of openness and integration. Our website was born with the .eu domain. Thanks to the .eu domain name, every day we receive attention from different countries. The .eu domain name enables us to be seen by users in a different light: as more dynamic, new and more European. To other people wishing to switch to .eu, I can say it is the best choice to make and the sooner the better."

Natale Curatolo and Olivier Cacciato, arkkos.eu, a web solution company, Italy & Belgium

THE REGISTRARS

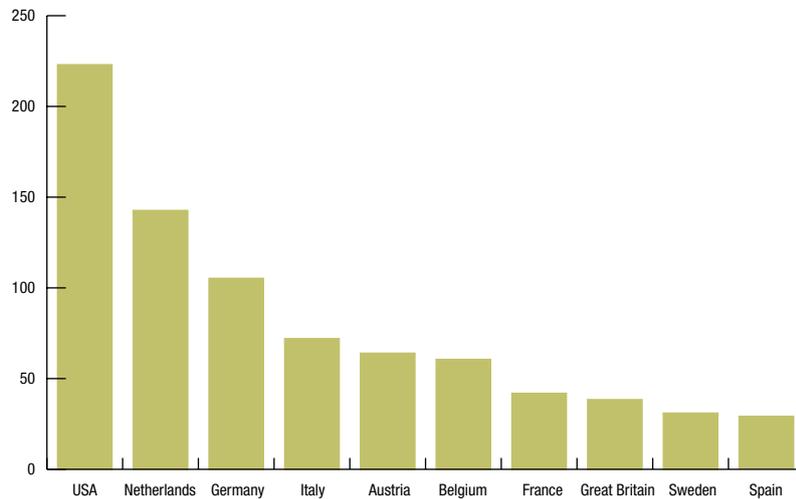**Top ten countries based on registrations by country of registrar**
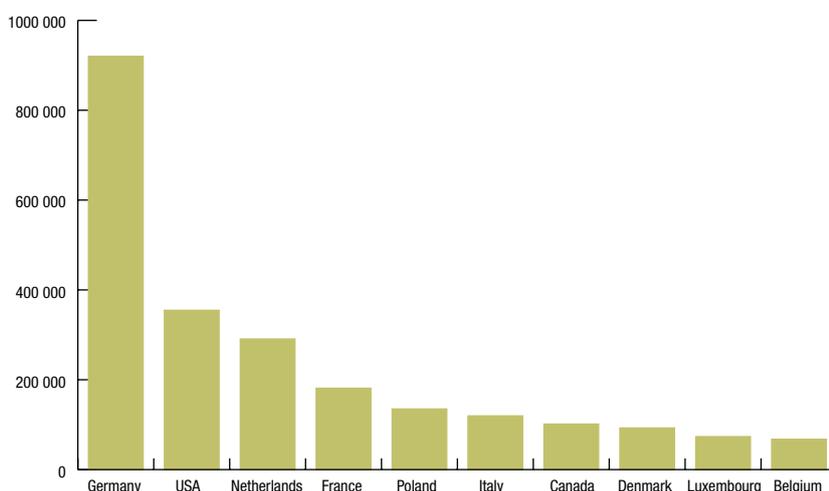
In a change from the previous quarter, Polish registrars now manage more .eu domain names than Italian ones. Registrars from Luxembourg and Belgium made it into the top ten list, pushing the United Kingdom and Australia off the list.

.eu registrations by country of registrar

Country	Number of names	Country	Number of names
Australia	57 342	Korea	1 082
Austria	31 746	Latvia	3 990
Barbados	805	Lichtenstein	285
Belgium	69 901	Lithuania	6 005
Bulgaria	17	Luxembourg	72 098
Canada	101 891	Malaysia	182
Cayman Islands	2 188	Malta	69
China	10 897	Monaco	8 870
Cyprus	422	Netherlands	294 549
Czech Republic	57 966	Norway	30 074
Denmark	94 526	Poland	132 730
Estonia	5 053	Portugal	1 416
Finland	3 695	Romania	13 460
France	183 453	Singapore	984
Germany	959 454	Slovakia	8 978
Gibraltar	791	Slovenia	659
Greece	18 382	Spain	33 881
Hungary	16 237	Sweden	42 998
Ireland	6 987	Switzerland	11 851
Israel	1 455	Taiwan	205
Italy	120 512	UK	67 795
Japan	203	USA	356 353

Top ten countries by total number of .eu registrars

There was no difference in the order of the countries compared to the previous quarter.

Number of .eu registrars per country

Country	Number of registrars
Australia	15
Austria	65
Barbados	1
Belgium	61
Bulgaria	1
Canada	22
Cayman Islands	2
China	4
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	14
Denmark	18
Estonia	1
Finland	6
France	44
Germany	106
Gibraltar	1
Greece	19
Hungary	16
Ireland	6
Israel	3
Italy	73
Japan	2
Korea	3

Country	Number of registrars
Latvia	4
Lichtenstein	1
Lithuania	4
Luxembourg	10
Malaysia	1
Malta	1
Monaco	1
Netherlands	143
New Zealand	1
Norway	5
Poland	12
Portugal	6
Romania	9
Singapore	1
Slovakia	12
Slovenia	2
Spain	29
Sweden	30
Switzerland	3
Taiwan	1
UK	41
USA	224

At the end of the second quarter of 2008, there were a total of 1025 accredited .eu registrars. That was 8 fewer than in the previous quarter, partly due to mergers between registrars.

HUMAN RESOURCES

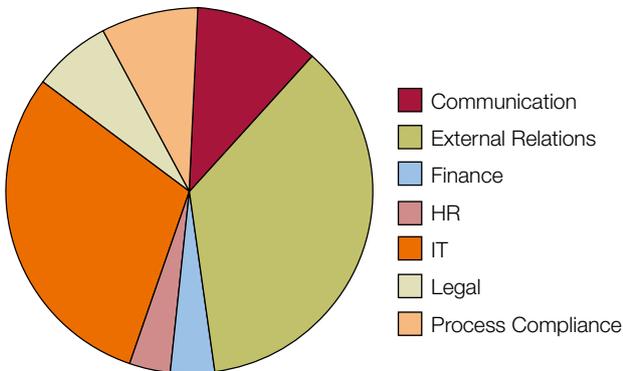**Headcount per department at the end of the second quarter, 2008**

Department	Headcount	FTE*
Communications	6	5.56
External Relations	25	18.65
Finance	2	2.00
HR	2	1.90
IT	16	15.50
Legal	4	3.60
Process Compliance	4	4.00

* Full-time equivalent

Headcount per office at the end of the second quarter, 2008

Office	Headcount	FTE
Diegem	41	37.46
Pisa	5	4.02
Prague	6	3.77
Stockholm	8	6.56
Total	**60**	**51.81**

Proportion of FTEs by office

Proportion of FTEs by department

- Communication
- External Relations
- Finance
- HR
- IT
- Legal
- Process Compliance

- Diegem
- Pisa
- Prague
- Stockholm
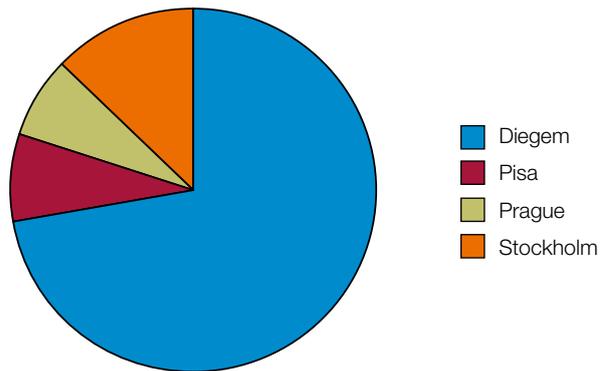
"Being a French-Slovak start-up, we definitely define ourselves as a European company. Our innovative fingerprint recognition software is used by customers worldwide... The www.innovatrics.eu domain name helps us to be identified as a company with a European base and international markets."

Viktor Fischer, innovatrics.eu, France & Slovakia

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Marc Van Wesemael, General Manager
Marc Van Wesemael has an MBA and a degree in electronic engineering. He has worked in the telecom and software industries as a consultant and as a manager in software engineering, general sales and marketing. He has been the managing director of not-for-profit DNS Belgium since January 1, 2000, when .be, the top-level domain for Belgium, was transferred from the University of Leuven to the newly created domain name registry.

Bart Foutrel, Finance Manager
Bart Foutrel has a masters degree in business sciences from Lessius Hogeschool, where he focused on finance and insurance plus accountancy and tax law. During his studies, he worked as an accountant at MENSURA, an insurance company. After graduation he worked as an adviser on Global Compliance Service at PricewaterhouseCoopers before joining EURid in early 2008.

Peter Janssen, Technical Manager
Peter Janssen has a masters degree in computer science from the University of Leuven. He joined the Belgian registry for .be in 2000 in the guise of technical director and was responsible for the domain's liberalisation in December 2002.

Patrik Lindén, Communications Manager
Patrik Lindén joined EURid in January 2006 after working as communications manager for the Swedish registry for .se. He also has four years of experience as a senior PR consultant and has previously worked as a journalist and editor.

Giovanni Seppia, External Relations Manager

Giovanni Seppia previously worked at ICANN as European regional liaison. Prior to that, he was general manager at CENTR. He has also served as head of external relations for the Italian Registry (ITT CNR) and has three years of experience in various roles at the European Commission.

Herman Sobrie, Legal Manager

Herman Sobrie studied law and notary studies at several Belgian universities. He worked as an attorney at the Bar of Gent, Belgium, until 1983. Since then he has held positions as legal counsel with Elsevier, Campbell and Siemens.

Els Verstappen, Human Resources Manager

Els Verstappen held a variety of HR roles at Scarlet, a telecommunication company, before joining EURid. Most recently, as HR business advisor, she was responsible for HR support for line management, selection and recruitment, among other things. Before working at Scarlet she was employed at KPN Belgium and at a European non-governmental organisation.

Bob Walraet, Process Compliance Manager

Bob Walraet has a masters in electronic engineering from the University of Liège. He has experience in IT development from working at Philips and Siemens, IT methodology from PWC, customer service and consultancy from Cullinet, Ethica and MSB and ITIL-based service management from Banksys.

THE BOARD AND STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

Pierre Verbaeten, Chairman of the board

Pierre Verbaeten is chairman of the Computer Science department of the Catholic University of Leuven, where he lectures on networking and distributed systems. He also leads the DistriNet research group, which conducts basic and applied research in computer networks, security, middleware, multi-agent systems and embedded systems. In 1989 Mr Verbaeten became the first manager of the .be registry, which was transferred to the not-for-profit organisation DNS Belgium on January 1, 2000.

Marko Bonač, Director of the board

Marko Bonač received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics (1981) and a masters in computer science (1988) from the University of Ljubljana. Between 1981 and 1992 he worked as a researcher and project leader in the field of computer networks. Since 1992 he has been the director of Arnes, the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia, which is also the registry for the Slovenian top-level domain, .si.

Östen Frånberg, Director of the board

Östen Frånberg is the chairman of the Swedish branch of the Internet Society, ISOC-SE. He is the founder of the Swedish Internet Infrastructure Foundation (IIS), the registry for the .se top-level domain. Mr Frånberg has also been a corporate director within corporate technology at Ericsson headquarters in Stockholm. He studied computer science and artificial intelligence for an uncompleted doctorate at Boston University.

Enrico Gregori, Director of the board

Enrico Gregori was a member of the team that developed the first Italian Internet node in 1985. He is now the director of the Institute for Informatics and Telematics and the director of the Italian top-level domain, .it. He sits on the board of the CREATE-NET Association, an international association with the aim of the development of the Internet. He is both a member of the editorial board of the Computer Networks, Cluster Computing eWireless Network journals and a member of the committee that supervises and coordinates the masters in Internet Technologies of the University of Pisa.

Tomáš Maršálek, Director of the board

Tomáš Maršálek has a masters degree in radio electronic science from the Czech Technical University in Prague. He founded and manages MARIAS s.r.o., an IT consultancy specialising in the development and integration of network operation centres. He is on the board of CZ.NIC, which oversees the .cz top-level domain. Mr Maršálek was one of the founders of GTS, the third commercial Internet service provider in the country.

Philippe de Buck, Member of the Strategic Committee

Philippe de Buck received a doctorate in law from the University of Leuven. After a post-graduate course in tax studies at the Ecole Supériure de Sciences Fiscales (ICHEC) in Brussels, he joined Agoria, the Belgian multisectoral federation for the technology industry. There he filled various functions until 2001, when he left the CEO position at the federation to join Business Europe in the role of Secretary General. Mr de Buck is also a member of the board of directors for both ING Belgium and BASF Antwerp and sits on the advisory board of the European Policy Center.

Michiel Leenaars, Member of the Strategic Committee

Michiel Leenaars is director of the Internet Society Netherlands. In EURid's Strategic Committee he represents ISOC-ECC, the joint European Chapters of the Internet Society. Since 2002 Mr Leenaars has worked for the Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research as an advisor on e-science, e-infrastructure and grid technology. In recent years he has been active within the e-Infrastructures Reflection Group, the European policy body coordinating the introduction of a grid-based infrastructure for e-science. Since 2005 he has served as the lead editor of the e-Infrastructures Roadmap, a policy document published by e-IRG.

Using .eu makes sense, according to Tobias Åbonde, CEO of Box Sweden. "The borders are being erased in logistics," he notes. "A lot of logistics companies have ambitions to be bigger. When you have that ambition, you are looking at a strategy to appeal to a large market."