

EURID'S QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Fourth Quarter 2010



EURid

The European Registry of Internet Domain Names

www.eurid.eu



*Belgian Royal Palace in Brussels
Photo: iStockphoto*



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Highlights 2010

2010 has been a notable year for EURid and the .eu top-level domain. Our most important measure, the number of .eu registrations, grew by 6% year over year and .eu finished the year with 3 332 253 registered domain names.

Technological innovation

Throughout 2010, EURid has been working towards a more secure Domain Name System by taking steps to implement Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) for .eu. Registrars were encouraged to participate in the DNSSEC test bed phase during Q1. The .eu zone was signed for DNSSEC on 15 June and the .eu DNSSEC key material inserted to the Internet's root zone on 2 September 2010, thus completing the chain of trust for .eu. This means that everyone visiting a website using a signed .eu domain name can be confident of its authenticity since name server responses can now be validated all the way up to the Internet root zone. .eu was amongst the first top-level domains to have full DNSSEC support, fulfilling EURid's objective to be at the forefront of implementing Internet security measures via proven standards.

Enabling registrars to learn more about .eu and related systems was achieved through April's introduction of EURid's e-learning platform. This online training tool was welcomed by the .eu accredited registrar community and the various e-learning courses have been well attended during the year.

In the second quarter, EURid continued to strengthen the robustness and resilience of the .eu name server infrastructure by adding another Domain Name System anycasting provider. Anycasting brings the domain name service closer to the end-user, thereby shortening domain resolution response times.

Preparing for the changeover from IPv4 to IPv6 has continued during 2010. As with the uptake of any technological standard, EURid's activities are dependent on the market availability of commercial IPv6 services.

Marketing and communication efforts

Activities to promote .eu via registrars using new and existing channels continued in 2010. The Co-funded Marketing Programme saw the submission of 41 proposals in 2010. The Flexible Promo-Credit Programme also continued throughout 2010 and 262 834 .eu domain names were registered using promo credits, representing 32% of new registrations.

In February, EURid launched .eu Identity, a new magazine that features inspirational success stories about .eu websites. Three issues were published this year.

April saw the fourth anniversary of .eu which EURid celebrated by hosting a seminar presenting facts and statistics in Brussels. Other milestones were marked during 2010 included the passing of one million registered .eu domain names in Germany in September and the first anniversary of .eu Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) on 10 December.

In June, EURid introduced a new report series called .eu Insights, which assess particular aspects of the domain-name environment. Four reports were issued during 2010.

EURid continued its outreach activities by adding a Twitter feed and a YouTube channel featuring the latest .eu testimonial videos.

International activities

In June, EURid hosted the 38th ICANN conference in Brussels, one of the most well-attended meetings in ICANN's history. The President of the European Council, Vice President of the European Commission, CEO of ICANN and other European dignitaries spoke at the opening ceremony.

EURid continued to participate in ICANN's country code Names Support Organisation (ccNSO) and was active in both the IDN Policy Development Process and Strategic Plan working groups. EURid chaired the CENTR-IGF working group in 2010.

Registrar relations

In 2010, liaison managers attended over 100 registrar meetings and eight registrar lunches. EURid held its Annual Registrar Meeting on 20 June to coincide with the ICANN Brussels Meeting. The Registrar Advisory Board met three times.

Human resources

At the end of 2010, EURid had 63 employees which is equivalent to 53.6 full-time members of staff. We welcomed a new member of the board of directors, Mr Christopher Wilkinson, and a new member of the management team, Ms Brigitte Lagrou.

From the General Manager

.eu finished 2010 strongly with a 6% annual growth rate in domain name registrations. This upward trend was reinforced in Q4 by .eu registrations increasing in 26 of the 27 EU Member States and renewal rates remaining above industry average at a healthy 77%. Concluding the year with over 3.3 million .eu domain names is a considerable success, of which we are proud. The increase in .eu registrations was driven by dramatic growth in Bulgaria (43%) and Estonia (39%), but also by strong growth in some larger markets, including Poland (14%) and Italy (14%).

Online security has been a constant theme during 2010 and is another area where we have made progress. The main focus of our activities has been the full implementation of DNSSEC for the .eu TLD. Once we had completed this task in September, our focus shifted to monitoring the uptake of DNSSEC across the domain name industry.

During September and October, we took the pulse of DNSSEC implementation by the world's TLDs and shared this research as a .eu Insights report. We found that 87% of all TLDs had yet to deploy the protocol, meaning there is more work to be done to improve Internet safety. Although we see the DNSSEC deployment momentum slowly building, it still needs to gather pace and, as more TLDs join in, DNSSEC enablement will become standard and automatic. By using a .eu domain name and enabling it for DNSSEC, European businesses and consumers can be confident that they are benefiting from one of the safest TLDs on the market.

Our focus for 2011 remains on security and safety, where we are looking into enabling technologies, such as a DNSSEC signing service, to support the .eu registrar community.

“.eu finished 2010 strongly with a 6% annual growth rate in domain name registrations.”



Marc Van Wesemael

About 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. Technically speaking, .eu has been in existence since then.

Between 7 December 2005 and 6 April 2006, the .eu registry began accepting applications for domain names on a limited basis. Only those individuals and organisations holding legal protection for a name within a Member State of the European Union were eligible to apply during that time. This stage of phased registration is referred to as the Sunrise Period. On 7

April 2006, EURid opened the .eu TLD for general registration on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

The three organisations operating the national registries for Belgium, Italy and Sweden founded EURid in April 2003. Later, the organisations operating the TLDs for the Czech Republic and Slovenia also became members. The European Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC) joined EURid in 2006, followed by the BusinessEurope organisation in 2007.

EURid's head office, which is also the regional office for Western Europe, is located just outside Brussels in Diegem, Belgium. There are three other regional offices located in Pisa, Italy; Prague, the Czech Republic; and Stockholm, Sweden. Each office provides support for registrars and the general public in languages local to its region.

In Q4, .eu registrations increased in 26 of the 27 EU Member States and renewal rates remained above industry average at a healthy 77%.

International

During the fourth quarter of 2010, EURid participated in the following events:

- 21st CENTR Administrative Workshop, Brussels, Belgium, 6 October
- 43rd CENTR General Assembly, Brussels, Belgium, 7 - 8 October
- InternetDagarna, Stockholm, Sweden, 26 - 27 October
- 23rd CENTR Technical workshop, Rome, Italy, 14 November
- CENTR marketing workshop, Brussels, Belgium, 25 November
- LACTLD meeting, Cartagena, Colombia, 3 - 4 December
- ICANN 39th meeting, Cartagena, Colombia, 5 - 10 December

EURid continued to participate in the ccNSO IDN PDP and ccNSO ICANN Strategic Plan working groups. EURid also continued to chair the CENTR-IGF working group and hosted the second CENTR marketing workshop of 2010. A total of 13 presentations about EURid and various aspects of .eu were given at ICANN, CENTR and other international meetings. EURid attended 11 trade fairs during Q4 2010.

The increase in .eu registrations was driven by dramatic growth in Bulgaria (43%) and Estonia (39%), but also by strong growth in some larger markets, including Poland (14%) and Italy (14%).

The .eu domain

During Q4 2010, the number of .eu registrations increased by 85 906 domain names, or 2.6%, to 3.33 million. The total number of registrations at the end of Q4 represented an increase of 6.0%, or 187 641 registrations, when compared with the total number at the end of Q4 2009.

The number of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) in the .eu portfolio was 67 074, or 1.74% of all registrations at the end of Q4 2010. The number of IDNs as a percentage of new registrations is at the same level as that of other registries.

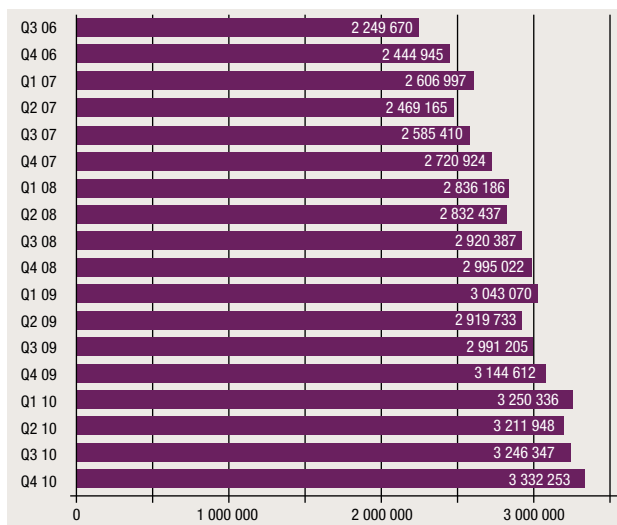
During Q4 2010, 20 039 domains out of 3.33 million were traded. This means that about one domain out of 170 was traded; this is an increase from Q4 2009 when one out of 195 was traded. In addition, there were a total of 862 accredited

.eu registrars by the end of the quarter. Finally, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 84.2% of all .eu registrations.

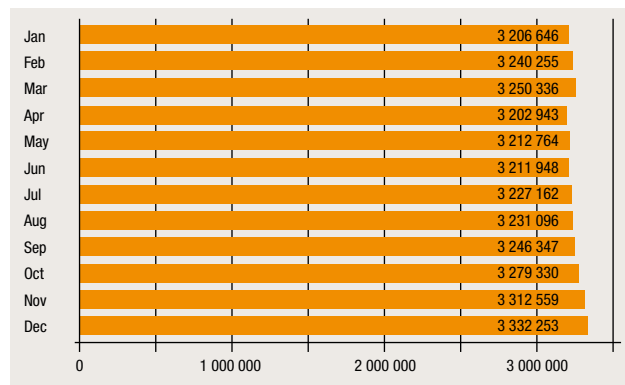
During the fourth quarter, the total number of .eu registrations increased in 26 of the 27 EU Member States. Bulgaria, Romania and Estonia all saw growth of more than 9%.

The national ccTLD market in EU countries¹ increased by 2.9% during Q4 2010, and grew by 10.5% from Q4 2009. Within the European Union, the market for gTLD domain names such as .com, .net, .org, .info and .biz, grew by 3.5% during Q4 2010 and by 16.9% from Q4 2009, according to statistics from Zooknic.

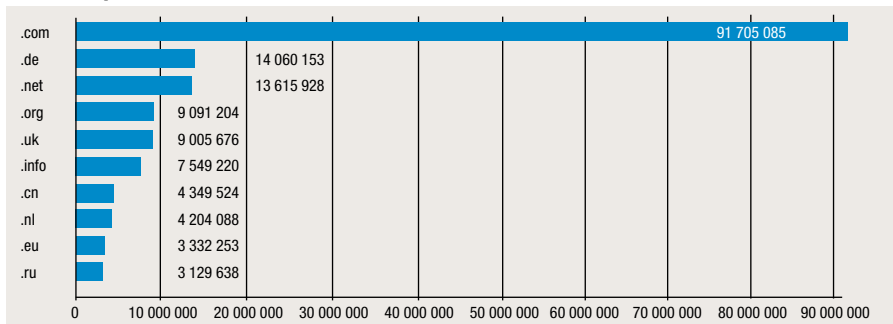
Total .eu domain name registrations by quarter



Total .eu registrations by month, 2010



World top ten TLDs



During Q4, .eu maintained its position as the ninth-largest TLD in the world.

^[1] Data from national registry websites was not available for Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and Malta.

.eu IDNs, Q4 2010

Quarter	IDNs	Percentage
Q4 2009	56 036	1.78%
Q1 2010	62 609	1.93%
Q2 2010	65 109	2.03%
Q3 2010	67 074	2.07%
Q4 2010	57 826	1.74%

PLEASE NOTE: Compared with Q1, the data on .eu IDN registrations has been cross-checked and corrected.

New registrations, deletions and renewals

There were 230 626 new .eu registrations in Q4 2010. The number of new registrations per day in October and November was slightly higher than during the same months in 2009. The number of new registrations in December was significantly lower than during December 2009. The large number of registrations in December 2009 was due to the launch of .eu Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs).

Registrants can delete domain names they no longer find useful from the .eu registry through their registrars. During Q4 2010, there were 127 479 deletions. A domain name headed for deletion is quarantined for 40 days after the date specified in the deletion request. It can be reactivated during that period only at the request of the former registrant. The quarantine period is a safeguard to prevent domain names from being deleted by mistake. The deleted name becomes available for general registration after the quarantine period.

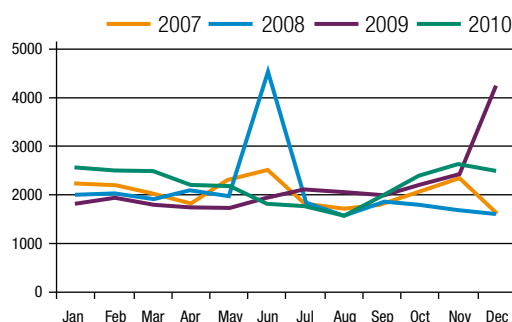
When combined, the new registrations and deletions for Q4 showed a net increase of about 1 100 names per day. Renewal rates stayed strong during Q4 at an average of 77%, somewhat higher than the industry average.

Renewal rates by percentage

Month	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	77%	78%	79%	100%
February	79%	78%	80%	100%
March	80%	79%	83%	99%
April	87%	84%	84%	81%
May	83%	80%	81%	82%
June	79%	69%	80%	86%
July	81%	80%	82%	84%
August	79%	81%	82%	80%
September	78%	79%	82%	83%
October	78%	78%	82%	82%
November	77%	79%	79%	83%
December	75%	79%	80%	84%

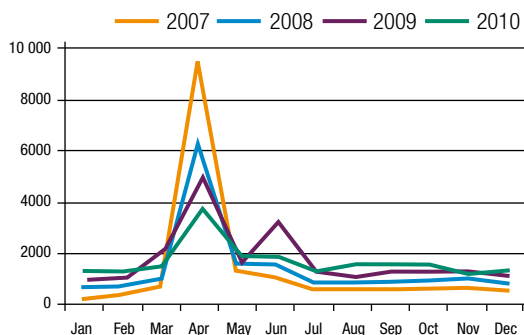
The table above shows the overall renewal rates per month. Renewal rates remained strong in Q4, at an average of 77%, somewhat higher than the industry average.

New .eu registrations per day



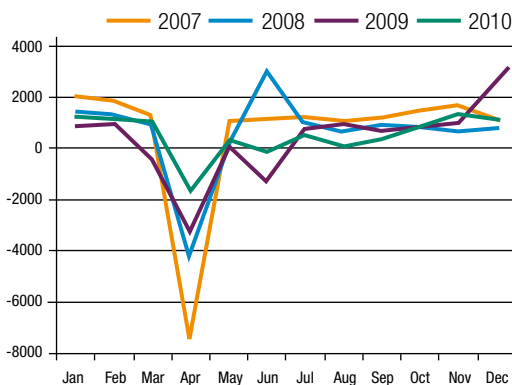
The number of new registrations per day in October and November 2010 was slightly higher than during the same months in 2009. The number of new registrations in December was significantly lower than during December 2009, the large number of registrations that month was due to the launch of .eu Internationalised Domain Names.

Deletions per day



The month of April sees a spike in deletions each year, as many domain names come up for renewal then. April is the month the .eu domain was officially launched. This high peak is quite common for any TLD that was launched after the 1990s, as those that were already in the market followed a more regular growth pattern.

Net growth per day



Q4 saw an increase of about 1 100 names per day.

Trades and transfers

When a domain name changes hands, EURid calls the process a “trade”. The registrar for the new registrant initiates the trade, which must then be confirmed by both the existing registrant and the new holder of the domain name. During Q4 2010, 20 039 domains out of 3.33 million were traded. This means that about one domain out of 170 was traded; an increase from Q4 2009 when one out of 195 was traded.

When a registrant wishes to change registrars, this is known as a domain name “transfer”. Transfers can be carried out at any time. A transfer is initiated by a registrant's new registrar and must be confirmed by the registrant before it is processed. During Q4 2010, about one domain out of 240 was transferred, for a total of 14 153 transfers. During the same quarter last year, about one out of 280 was transferred.

.eu in use

One method of determining the actual use of .eu domain names is by measuring DNS queries to the .eu name servers. The graph shows the average number of queries per minute for each month. The number of DNS queries has grown steadily since the launch of .eu.

Completed trades and transfers

Trades				
Month	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	6 541	5 443	4 941	6 553
February	5 669	6 119	8 202	8 656
March	8 512	10 033	17 004	15 935
April	7 624	17 925	55 764	25 869
May	6 600	6 016	20 057	6 481
June	6 026	5 875	9 097	12 957
July	5 795	5 355	5 451	5 034
August	4 874	5 195	3 625	6 010
September	5 070	5 650	4 431	4 177
October	5 593	6 389	6 274	5 344
November	5 900	4 865	4 246	5 746
December	8 546	4 900	6 118	4 419

Transfers				
Month	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	3 951	4 602	4 313	3 564
February	5 097	5 311	4 609	5 278
March	7 518	7 982	10 190	36 458
April	6 345	12 582	10 863	69 060
May	6 288	4 606	4 968	12 895
June	4 483	4 869	4 474	4 230
July	3 876	3 575	3 944	3 448
August	3 772	2 952	3 714	3 667
September	4 229	3 509	4 124	4 428
October	4 326	4 102	4 132	3 729
November	4 860	3 602	4 018	3 382
December	4 967	3 419	5 122	3 578

DNS queries per minute



The number of DNS queries has grown steadily since the launch of .eu.

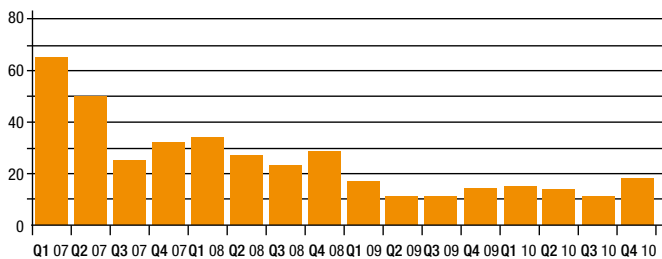
The number of DNS queries has grown steadily since the launch of .eu.

Domain name disputes

To protect intellectual property rights, an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) policy was established 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.

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

Domain name disputes filed by quarter

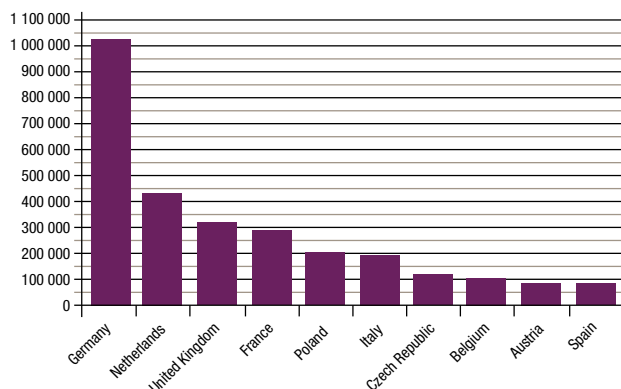


A total of 18 Alternative Dispute Resolution cases were filed during Q4 2010, compared with 11 during Q3 2010 and 14 during Q4 2009. The Czech Arbitration Court published seven ADR decisions during Q4, all of which were in favour of the complainant.

The registrants

The countries in the top ten list account for 86.2% of all .eu registrations. German residents have by far the most .eu domain name registrations, followed by residents of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Top ten countries with most .eu registrations



Total number of .eu domain names by country of registrant, Q4 2010

Country	Total names
Åland Island	245
Austria	89 226
Belgium	103 434
Bulgaria	17 347
Cyprus	53 555
Czech Republic	121 969
Denmark	37 303
Estonia	13 118
Finland	14 822
France	285 097
French Guiana	52
Germany	1 027 838
Gibraltar	3 725
Greece	32 059
Guadeloupe	218
Hungary	38 671
Ireland	51 069
Italy	195 959
Latvia	6 126
Lithuania	13 573
Luxembourg	26 448
Malta	7 248
Martinique	124
Netherlands	436 615
Poland	204 210
Portugal	12 700
Reunion	274
Romania	23 407
Slovakia	25 612
Slovenia	8 243
Spain	85 425
Sweden	79 863
United Kingdom	323 690

The table above is based on country codes. Some EU Member State territories (such as the Åland Islands, Gibraltar and Guadeloupe) have their own country codes which are why they are included in the list.

Popularity of .eu in comparison to ccTLD registrations

Country	.eu/1000	ccTLD/1000
Cyprus	66.8	N/A
Luxembourg	52.7	113.8
Netherlands	26.3	253.6
Malta	17.4	N/A
Germany	12.6	172.0
Czech Republic	11.6	71.4
Ireland	11.5	34.6
Austria	10.7	119.3
Estonia	9.8	58.2
Belgium	9.6	102.0
Sweden	8.5	113.6
Denmark	6.7	197.5
EU	6.6	82.7
Poland	5.4	52.5
United Kingdom	5.2	145.2
Slovakia	4.7	42.5
France	4.4	29.4
Lithuania	4.1	36.9
Slovenia	4.0	44.2
Hungary	3.9	52.9
Italy	3.2	33.9
Greece	2.8	N/A
Finland	2.8	47.8
Latvia	2.7	40.0
Bulgaria	2.3	N/A
Spain	1.9	27.3
Portugal	1.2	32.7
Romania	1.1	22.7

The figures above show the number of domain names per 1 000 inhabitants at the end of Q4 2010. They are based on population data from Eurostat and ccTLD information from national registries.

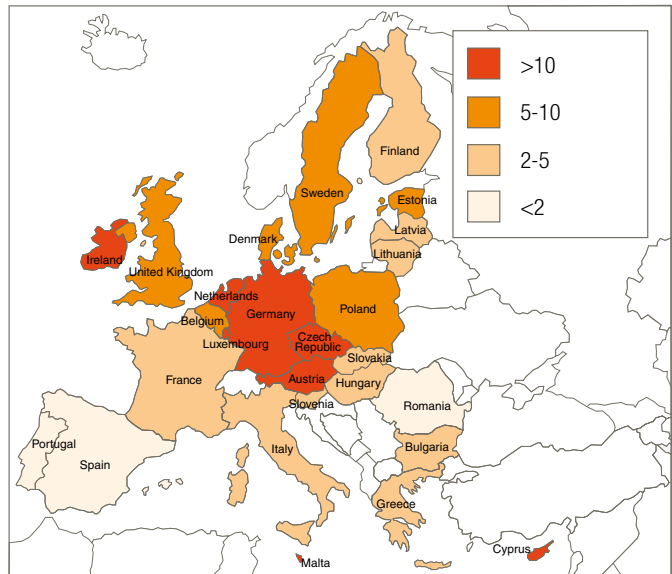
Growth by country, quarter over quarter and year over year

Country	Q4 2010 vs Q3 2010	Q4 2010 vs Q4 2009
Austria	4.8%	10.2%
Belgium	2.4%	7.5%
Bulgaria	25.1%	43.2%
Cyprus	1.7%	0.5%
Czech Republic	2.0%	22.5%
Denmark	1.4%	-3.4%
Estonia	9.6%	38.9%
Finland	0.6%	-6.6%
France	3.4%	2.7%
Germany	2.3%	6.0%
Greece	3.6%	5.5%
Hungary	5.4%	19.9%
Ireland	0.4%	-0.5%
Italy	2.8%	13.7%
Latvia	4.7%	5.5%
Lithuania	-0.7%	16.2%
Luxembourg	0.2%	-1.0%
Malta	6.2%	64.5%
Netherlands	2.2%	1.9%
Poland	3.8%	13.9%
Portugal	1.9%	2.1%
Romania	13.9%	11.6%
Slovakia	3.7%	16.5%
Slovenia	4.2%	16.9%
Spain	5.0%	11.3%
Sweden	7.6%	1.3%
United Kingdom	2.2%	-0.4%

By the end of Q4 2010, .eu domain name registrations had increased in 26 EU countries. As shown above, the .eu domain became especially popular in Bulgaria, Romania and Estonia.

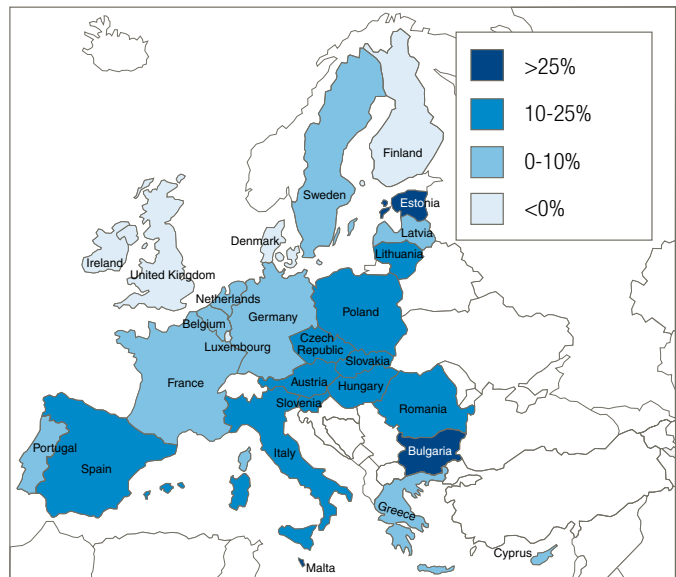
**.eu domain names per
1 000 inhabitants Q4 2010**

The number of .eu registrations per 1 000 inhabitants varies from a high of 53 in Luxembourg to 26 in the Netherlands and around 1 in Portugal and Romania. In general, countries with a large number of ccTLDs per inhabitant also have a large number of .eu registrations per inhabitant.



**Growth by country, Q4 2010
compared with Q4 2009**

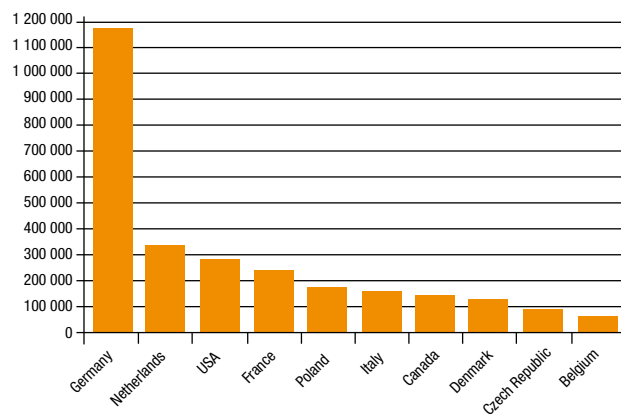
The countries with the fastest relative growth year over year were Malta (65%), Bulgaria (43%), Estonia (39%) and the Czech Republic (23%).



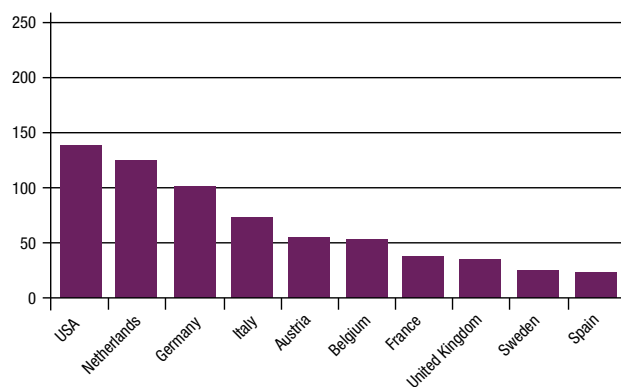
The registrars

.eu registrars can be located outside the European Union. Categorising registrations by country of registrar shows many similarities with the categorisation by country of registrant (see previous table Top ten countries with most .eu registrations). The main difference is that the USA, Canada and Denmark are on the top ten list based on country of registrar but not based on country of registrant, while the opposite holds true for the UK, Austria and Spain. In Q4 2010, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 84.2% of all .eu registrations.

Top ten countries based on registrations by country of registrar



Top ten countries by number of .eu registrars

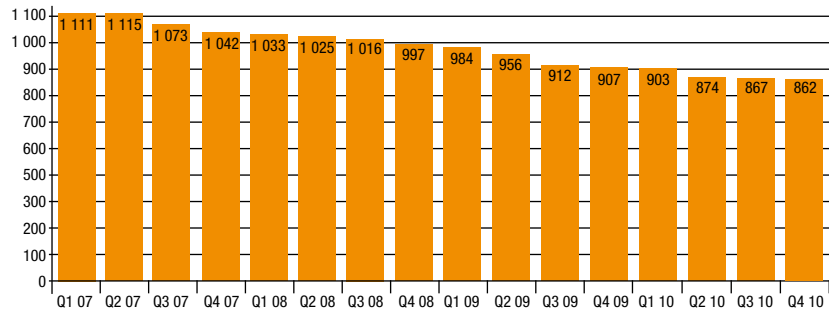


.eu registrations by country of registrar

Country	Names managed	Number of registrars
Anguilla	508	1
Australia	18 433	9
Austria	39 244	55
Bahamas	7 814	1
Barbados	713	1
Belgium	66 062	53
Bulgaria	922	2
Canada	146 710	23
Cayman Islands	301	2
China	1 821	4
Cyprus	5 489	2
Czech Republic	93 751	15
Denmark	127 097	17
Estonia	8 074	1
Finland	4 716	6
France	241 152	38
Germany	1 177 429	101
Greece	27 915	15
Hungary	24 307	18
India	54 344	1
Ireland	8 857	6
Israel	756	3
Italy	161 782	72
Japan	257	2
Korea	957	3
Latvia	2 014	2
Lichtenstein	232	1
Lithuania	10 721	4
Luxembourg	54 479	3
Malaysia	160	1
Malta	84	1
Monaco	11 529	1
Netherlands	337 658	125
Norway	46 057	4
Poland	175 898	14
Portugal	1 232	4
Romania	9 658	10
Singapore	859	1
Slovakia	12 424	12
Slovenia	389	2
Spain	43 311	24
Sweden	49 921	25
Switzerland	14 286	3
Taiwan	145	1
United Kingdom	63 232	35
USA	285 760	137

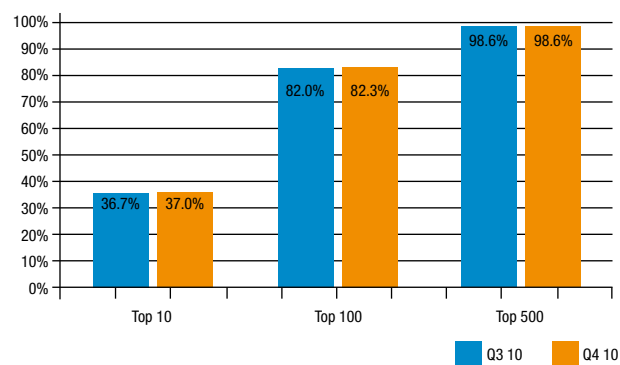
An accredited .eu registrar managed an average of 3 874 .eu domain names during Q4.

Total number of accredited .eu registrars by quarter



At the end of Q4, there were 862 accredited .eu registrars. New .eu registrars are accredited every quarter. The total number has decreased over the past several quarters because of mergers and acquisitions within the domain name industry as well as decisions by large registrars with subsidiaries to consolidate several .eu accounts into one account.

Market share of top 10, top 100 and top 500 registrars



The top 100 accredited .eu registrars manage about 82% of all registrations which means that many registrars are small businesses. Compared with the previous quarter, the market share of the top 100 registrars has increased somewhat.

Human resources

There were a total of 63 employees working at EURid's four offices at the end of Q4 2010. Brigitte Lagrou joined EURid's management team as Communications Manager on 1 December 2010.

Headcount per office, fourth quarter 2010

Office	Headcount	FTE*
Diegem	44	41
Pisa	7	4.2
Prague	6	4.3
Stockholm	6	4.1
Total	63	53.6

* Full-time equivalents



The management team



Marc Van Wesemael, General Manager

Marc Van Wesemael has an MBA from Lessius Management School (Antwerp) in collaboration with Northwestern University (USA) and a degree in electronic engineering from the University of Ghent. He has worked in the telecom and software industries as a consultant and as a manager in software engineering, general sales and marketing. For ten years he was the Managing Director of not-for-profit DNS Belgium, the registry for .be.



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.



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.



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.



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 2000.



Els Verstappen, Human Resources Manager

Els Verstappen held a variety of HR roles at Scarlet, a telecommunications 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.



Brigitte Lagrou, Communications Manager

Brigitte Lagrou previously worked at VASCO Data Security as worldwide product PR manager and EMEA PR manager. Prior to that, she was PR Manager at Telenet. She also worked for several years in PR agencies, on local and pan-European ICT and consumer goods accounts.

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.



Tomáš Maršálek, Director of the Board

Mr Maršálek is an independent IT consultant and member of the CZ.NIC collegium, a body associated with CZ.NIC, the registry for the .cz top-level domain. Previously he was a chairman of CZ.NIC and the Managing Director of the Czech Neutral Internet eXchange node (NIX.CZ). After graduating from the Czech Technical University in Prague with a masters degree in radio electronic science, he began his professional career at AT&T. Mr Marsalek is a cofounder of GTS, the biggest alternative telecommunications operator in the Czech Republic. He also helped establish the IP network in Central and Eastern Europe on behalf of British Telecom.



Danny Aerts, Director of the Board

Danny Aerts is the Managing Director of the Swedish Internet Infrastructure Foundation (IIS), the registry for the .se top-level domain. A native of the Netherlands, Mr Aerts moved to Sweden in the mid 1990s. In 2006 he left his position as CEO at Swedish web portal Spray to join IIS. Mr Aerts has also been employed at several telecom companies, including Unisource Mobile, Telia and PTT Telecom. He graduated cum laude from Utrecht University, where he studied economic geography.



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 Supérieure 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.



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.



Christopher Wilkinson, Member of the Strategic Committee

Christopher Wilkinson is the Chairman of the Internet Society European Chapters (ISOC-ECC.ORG). He has degrees in natural sciences and economics and experience in international affairs. His working life spans several international organisations and the European Union. He was closely associated with the creation of ICANN and the GAC. He initiated the .eu ccTLD domain.



Domenico Laforenza, Director of the Board

Dr. Domenico Laforenza is the head of nic.it, the registry for Italy's .it top-level domain. He is also the Director of the Institute for Informatics and Telematics of the Italian National Research Council in Pisa. Between 2003 and 2007 Dr. Laforenza was a member of the Next Generation Grid Expert Group, which was selected by the European Commission to define the priorities of future research in the grid technologies sector. He has also been a consultant to various EU Member States' research agencies in Austria, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Netherlands. He holds a doctoral degree in computer science from the University of Pisa.

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