

EURID'S QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Third Quarter 2010



EURid

The European Registry of Internet Domain Names

www.eurid.eu



View of Pisa
Photo: iStockphoto



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Update

The .eu top-level domain and its registry, EURid, saw a variety of developments during the third quarter of 2010. These include the items highlighted below.

.eu DNSSEC chain of trust complete

EURid announced on 2 September 2010 that .eu has a complete 'chain of trust' for Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC), with the addition of .eu DNSSEC key material to the Internet's root zone. EURid's application to insert .eu DNSSEC key material into the root was concluded early that morning, making .eu one of the safest top-level domains (TLDs).

EURid and Netnod sign anycasting agreement

EURid and Netnod signed an agreement for Domain Name System anycasting of the .eu TLD in August. Anycasting is an Internet routing methodology that enables an online service to be available from many different locations around the world, using the same IP address. This agreement between EURid and Netnod significantly strengthens the robustness and resilience of the .eu name server infrastructure and brings the domain name service closer to the end-user, thereby shortening domain resolution response times.

Germany passes 1 million .eu domain names

EURid announced that it reached the one million .eu domain names registered in Germany milestone on 7 September 2010. This landmark registration was processed by the German .eu accredited registrar STRATO AG.

Distribution of .eu registrations among registrars

EURid took a closer look at the distribution of .eu registrations among its registrars and found that 65% of domain name

registrants chose a registrar from their own country, 18% chose a registrar from a different country in the European Union, and 17% chose a registrar located outside the EU. These findings have been presented on EURid's website and can be found in the news archive.

EURid launches its 2010 ERASMUS pilot action

EURid is running a marketing initiative this autumn to promote European online identity and the .eu TLD to students. The campaign will consist of a tour of three universities: Lessius Hogeschool in Antwerp (Belgium), the University of Pisa (Italy) and the Technical University of Liberec (Czech Republic), on the occasion of events taking place for students participating in the ERASMUS exchange scheme. EURid will give a presentation to the students and a booth will be set up on site. Students will be invited to register a free .eu domain on the spot. Those who register a domain will be provided with a tool to build a website as well as email addresses.

More EURid videos on YouTube, including .eu testimonials

EURid's YouTube channel is growing as more videos were recently added. Now you will find testimonials from the UniCredit Group and the Ford Motor Company, an overview of topics discussed at September's Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting and a report filmed during the ERASMUS kick-off at the Lessius Hogeschool in Antwerp. You can visit EURid's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/europeanregistry.

EURid on Twitter

In September, EURid added a Twitter feed which can be accessed using <http://twitter.com/Euregistry>.

From the General Manager

In the third quarter of 2010, EURid has reached some milestones in terms of registration numbers: Germany passed the one million .eu domain names mark and Belgium registered its one hundred thousandth domain name. We are very proud of our success in those markets, but also of the progress we have attained in the Baltic countries. Indeed, registration numbers in Estonia are up by 47% and in Lithuania by 44%, compared to just one year ago.

These achievements are the fruit of our efforts on many fronts (i.e. marketing and communication, collaboration with registrars, technological improvements, etc.) and we are proud to see our company constantly striving to improve. Our main accomplishment this quarter has been the insertion of .eu DNSSEC key material in the Internet's root zone file, thus completing the chain of trust for .eu.

The completion of the DNSSEC chain of trust means that everyone visiting a website using a signed .eu domain name can be confident of its legitimacy since name server responses can now be validated all the way up to the Internet root zone. .eu is amongst the first top-level domains to have full DNSSEC support, fulfilling our objective to be at the forefront of implementing Internet security measures via proven standards.

While the overall implementation of DNSSEC on the part of .eu registrars has been slow, the Czech registrar Web4U s.r.o had signed more than 2 000 domain names at the end of the third quarter. The more domain names are signed with DNSSEC, the more European businesses and consumers will benefit from the collective online protection brought to the .eu top-level domain.

“.eu is amongst the first top-level domains to have full DNSSEC support, fulfilling our objective to be at the forefront of implementing Internet security measures via proven standards.”



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.

The number of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) in the .eu portfolio was 67 074, or 2.07% of all registrations at the end of Q3 2010.

International

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

- Internet Governance Forum, IGF, Vilnius, Lithuania, 14-17 September 2010.

During the IGF meeting in Vilnius, Giovanni Seppia, EURid's External Relations Manager, chaired the CENTR workshop "Resilience and continuity in DNS" on 14 September and participated as a panelist in the European Parliament's workshop "A multilingual Internet in the light of the sovereign rights of language communities" on 15 September 2010.

The outcome of the CENTR workshop fed into the "Critical Internet Resources" plenary session on 15 September. The session's objective was to show that DNS security is dealt with at various levels to guarantee the continuity of services and features that the Internet relies on.

EURid continued to participate in the ccNSO IDN PDP working group and in the ccNSO ICANN Strategic Plan working group.

Germany passed the one million .eu domain names mark and Belgium registered its one hundred thousandth domain name.

The .eu domain

During Q3 2010, the number of .eu registrations increased by 34 399 domain names, or 1.1%, to 3.25 million. The total number of registrations at the end of Q3 represented an increase of 8.5%, or 255 142 registrations, when compared to the total number at the end of Q3 2009. The number of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) in the .eu portfolio was 67 074, or 2.07% of all registrations at the end of Q3 2010. The number of IDNs as a percentage of new registrations is at the same level as that of other registries.

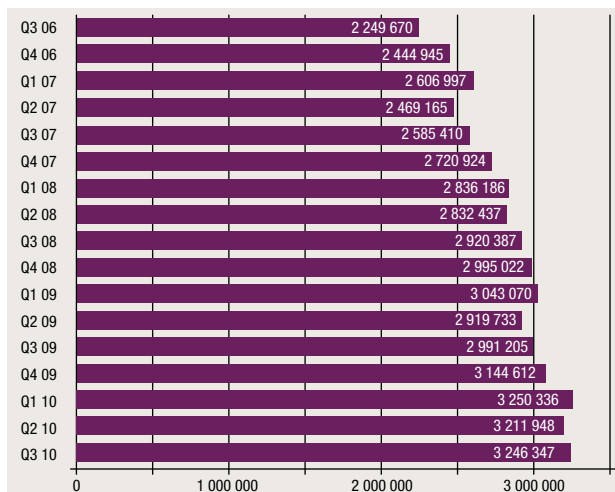
During Q3 2010, 15 739 domains out of 3.25 million were traded. This means that about one domain out of 210 was traded; a decrease from Q3 2009 when one out of 180 was traded. In addition, there were a total of 867 accredited .eu registrars by

the end of the quarter. Finally, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 84.3% of all .eu registrations.

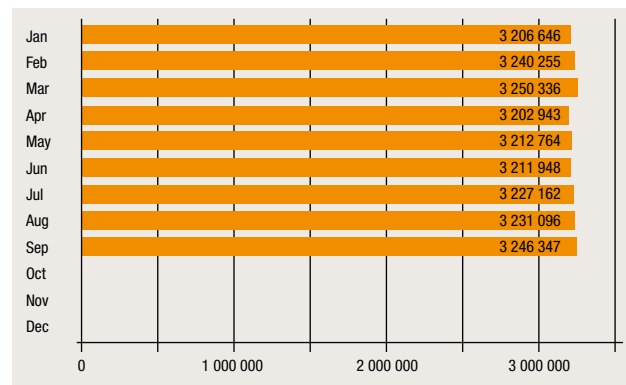
During the third quarter, the total number of .eu registrations increased in 21 of the 27 EU Member States. Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Malta all saw growth of more than 4%.

The national ccTLD market in EU countries^[1] increased by 2.0% during Q3 2010, and grew by 10.7% from Q3 2009. Within the European Union, the market for gTLD domain names such as .com, .net, .org, .info and .biz grew by 3.8% during Q3 2010 and by 16.3% from Q3 2009, according to statistics from Zooknic.

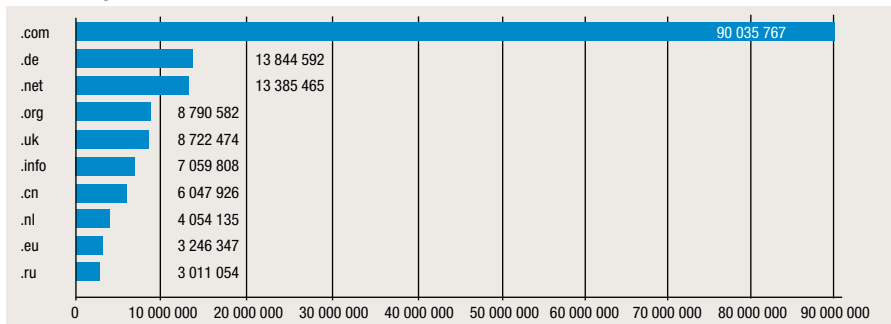
Total .eu domain name registrations by quarter



Total .eu registrations by month, 2010



World top ten TLDs



During Q3, .eu maintained its position as the ninth-largest TLD in the world.

IDNs under .eu, Q3 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%

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

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

New registrations, deletions and renewals

There were 163 608 new .eu registrations in Q3 2010. The number of new registrations per day was slightly lower than during the same months in 2009.

Registrants can delete domain names they no longer find useful from the .eu registry through their registrars. During Q3 2010, there were 135 918 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.

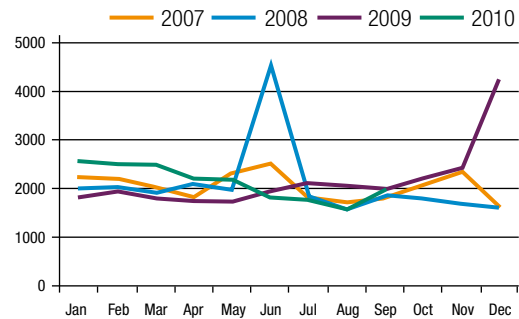
When combined, the new registrations and deletions for Q3 showed a net increase of about 400 names per day. Renewal rates stayed strong during Q3 at an average of 79%, somewhat higher than the industry average.

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%	82%	82%
November		79%	79%	83%
December		79%	80%	84%

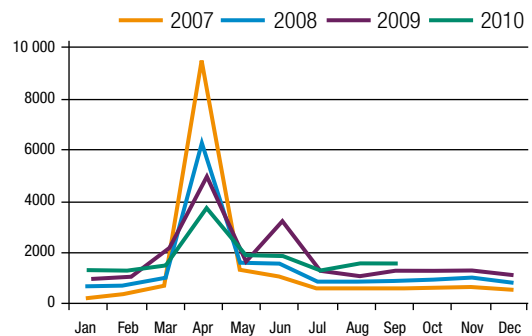
Renewal rates remained strong in Q3, at an average of 79%, somewhat higher than the industry average.

New .eu registrations per day



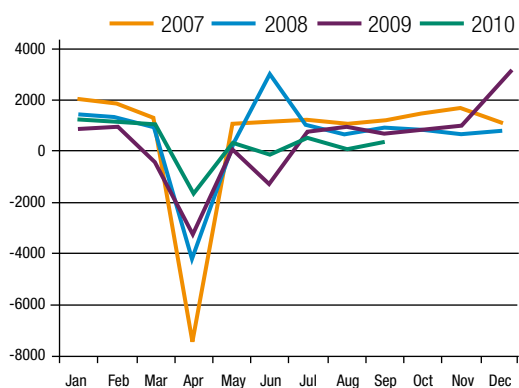
The number of new registrations per day was slightly lower than during the same months in 2009.

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. A 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



Q3 saw an increase of about 400 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 Q3 2010, 15 739 domains out of 3.25 million were traded. This means that about one domain out of 210 was traded; a decrease from Q3 2009 when one out of 180 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 Q3 2010, about one domain out of 270 was transferred, for a total of 11 877 transfers. During the same quarter last year, about one out of 300 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		6 389	6 274	5 344
November		4 865	4 246	5 746
December		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		4 102	4 132	3 729
November		3 602	4 018	3 382
December		3 419	5 122	3 578

DNS queries per minute



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

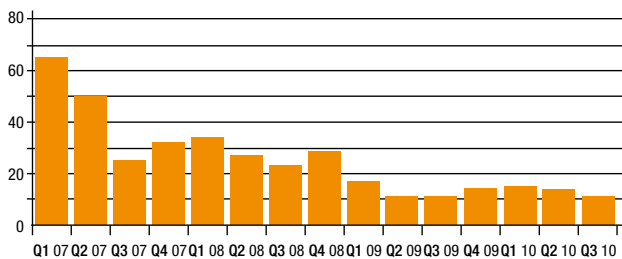
The number of DNS queries has grown steadily since the launch of .eu.

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

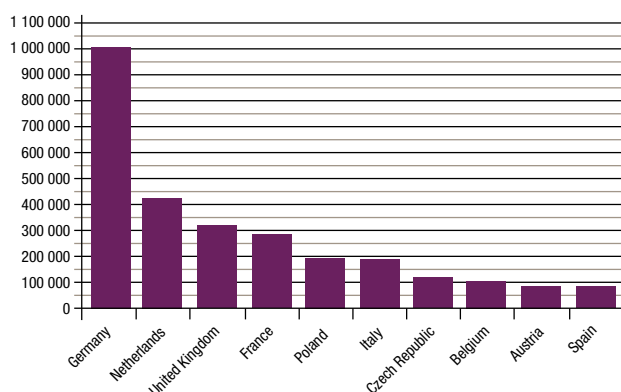


A total of 11 alternative dispute resolution cases were filed during Q3 2010 compared to 14 during Q2 2010 and 11 during Q3 2009. The Czech Arbitration Court published 14 ADR decisions during Q3, 13 of which were in favour of the complainant.

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, Q3 2010

Country	Total names
Aaland Islands	233
Austria	85 141
Belgium	100 974
Bulgaria	13 867
Cyprus	52 679
Czech Republic	119 621
Denmark	36 786
Estonia	11 974
Finland	14 735
France	275 723
French Guiana	48
Germany	1 004 535
Gibraltar	3 719
Greece	30 954
Guadeloupe	220
Hungary	36 682
Ireland	50 880
Italy	190 636
Latvia	5 849
Lithuania	13 671
Luxembourg	26 383
Malta	6 825
Martinique	123
Netherlands	427 100
Poland	196 710
Portugal	12 466
Reunion	251
Romania	20 551
Slovakia	24 698
Slovenia	7 909
Spain	81 340
Sweden	74 192
United Kingdom	316 850

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

Popularity of .eu in comparison to ccTLD registrations

Country	.eu/1000	ccTLD/1000
Cyprus	65.7	N/A
Luxembourg	52.5	109.8
Netherlands	25.8	244.6
Malta	16.4	N/A
Germany	12.3	169.3
Ireland	11.4	33.6
Czech Republic	11.4	68.5
Austria	10.2	115.0
Belgium	9.3	98.9
Estonia	8.9	58.2
Sweden	7.9	105.9
Denmark	6.6	194.7
EU	6.4	81.3
Poland	5.2	49.9
United Kingdom	5.1	140.6
Slovakia	4.6	41.3
France	4.3	28.3
Lithuania	4.1	35.7
Slovenia	3.9	40.8
Hungary	3.7	52.9
Italy	3.2	32.6
Finland	2.8	46.3
Greece	2.7	N/A
Latvia	2.6	40.0
Bulgaria	1.8	N/A
Spain	1.8	26.6
Portugal	1.2	31.4
Romania	1.0	22.0

The figures above show the number of domain names per 1 000 inhabitants at the end of Q3 2010. They are based on population data from Eurostat and ccTLD information from national registries.

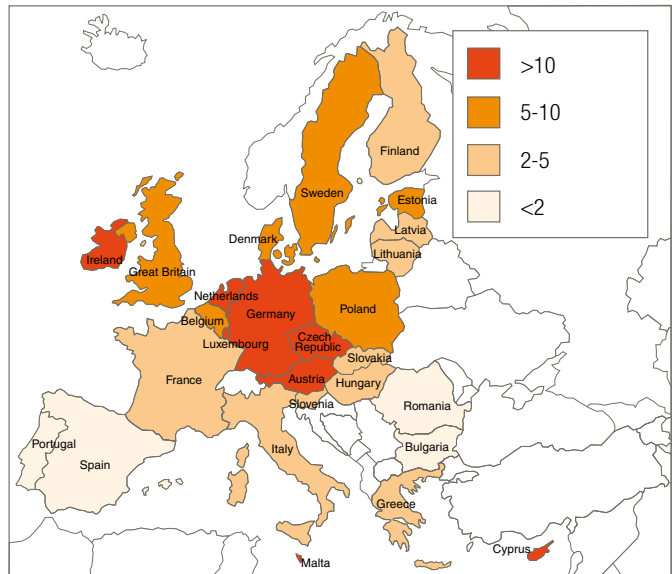
Growth by country, quarter over quarter and year over year

Country	Q3 2010 vs Q2 2010	Q3 2010 vs Q3 2009
Austria	2.5%	10.8%
Belgium	1.7%	10.6%
Bulgaria	3.6%	33.1%
Cyprus	0.3%	-0.2%
Czech Republic	2.8%	36.9%
Denmark	-0.2%	-3.6%
Estonia	16.7%	47.0%
Finland	0.4%	-4.2%
France	-1.8%	3.0%
Germany	1.6%	8.9%
Greece	0.9%	18.0%
Hungary	4.4%	23.0%
Ireland	0.3%	1.1%
Italy	1.5%	16.2%
Latvia	-2.8%	4.5%
Lithuania	4.3%	43.9%
Luxembourg	0.8%	-2.0%
Malta	4.0%	81.6%
Netherlands	1.1%	2.2%
Poland	0.9%	20.3%
Portugal	-2.3%	4.0%
Romania	-0.2%	2.7%
Slovakia	0.5%	24.4%
Slovenia	3.3%	19.7%
Spain	2.5%	13.7%
Sweden	0.8%	-1.7%
United Kingdom	0.0%	2.3%

By the end of Q3 2010, .eu domain name registrations had increased in 21 EU countries. As shown above, the .eu domain became especially popular in Estonia, Hungary and Lithuania.

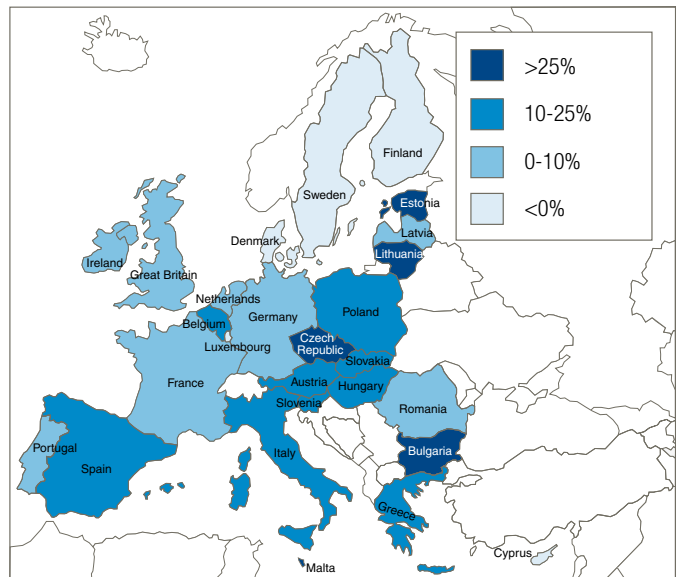
**.eu domain names per
1 000 inhabitants Q3 2010**

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, Q3 2010
compared to Q3 2009**

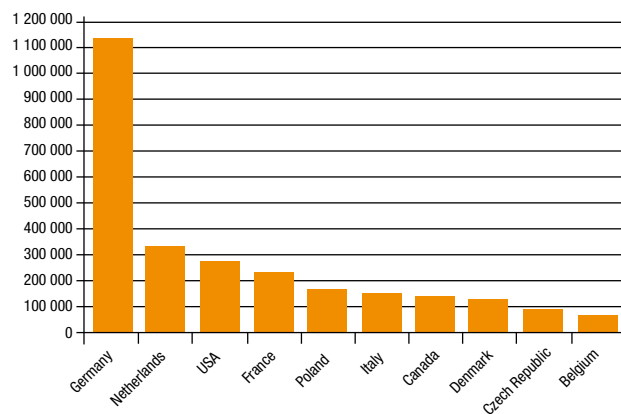
The countries with the fastest relative growth year over year were Malta (82%), Estonia (47%), Lithuania (44%) and the Czech Republic (37%).



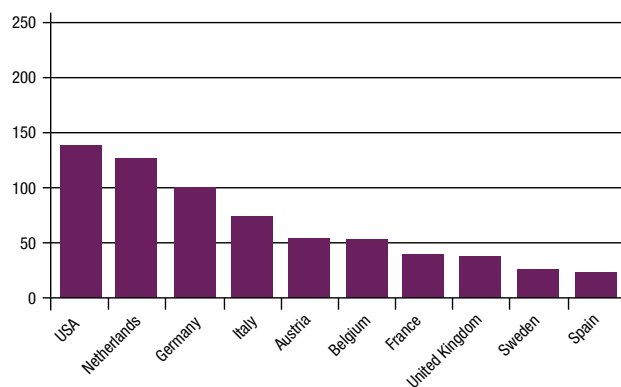
The registrars

.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 graph Top ten countries with most .eu registrations). The only 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 Q3 2010, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 84.3% of all .eu registrations.

Top ten countries based on registrations by country of registrar



Top ten countries by number of .eu registrars

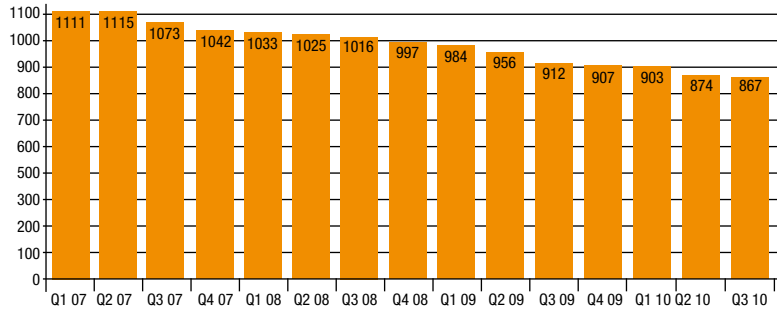


.eu registrations by country of registrar

Country	Names managed	Number of registrars
Anguilla	519	1
Australia	22 968	10
Austria	40 563	55
Bahamas	7 298	1
Barbados	720	1
Belgium	65 356	53
Bulgaria	928	2
Canada	141 471	23
Cayman Islands	305	2
China	1 826	4
Cyprus	5 374	2
Czech Republic	93 239	15
Denmark	126 805	17
Estonia	7 600	1
Finland	4 649	6
France	233 080	39
Germany	1 139 347	100
Greece	27 526	16
Hungary	23 163	18
India	43 779	1
Ireland	8 580	6
Israel	748	3
Italy	158 107	73
Japan	258	2
Korea	976	3
Latvia	2 091	2
Liechtenstein	284	1
Lithuania	10 982	4
Luxembourg	55 182	3
Malaysia	156	1
Malta	84	1
Monaco	11 168	1
Netherlands	330 052	127
Norway	44 832	4
Poland	169 221	14
Portugal	1 221	4
Romania	9 669	9
Singapore	1 024	1
Slovakia	12 513	12
Slovenia	55	2
Spain	41 767	24
Sweden	44 063	25
Switzerland	13 952	3
Taiwan	141	1
United Kingdom	61 211	36
USA	278 982	137

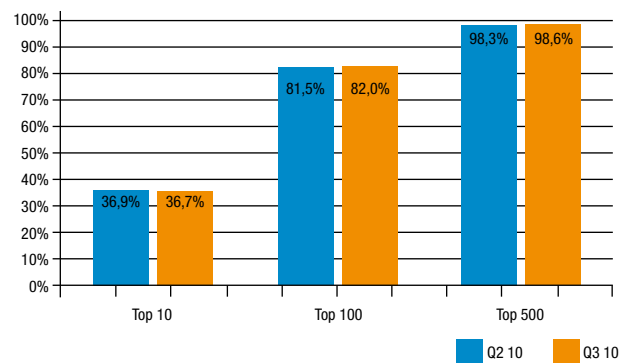
An accredited .eu registrar managed an average of 3 741 .eu domain names during Q3.

Total number of accredited .eu registrars by quarter



At the end of Q3, there were 867 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.

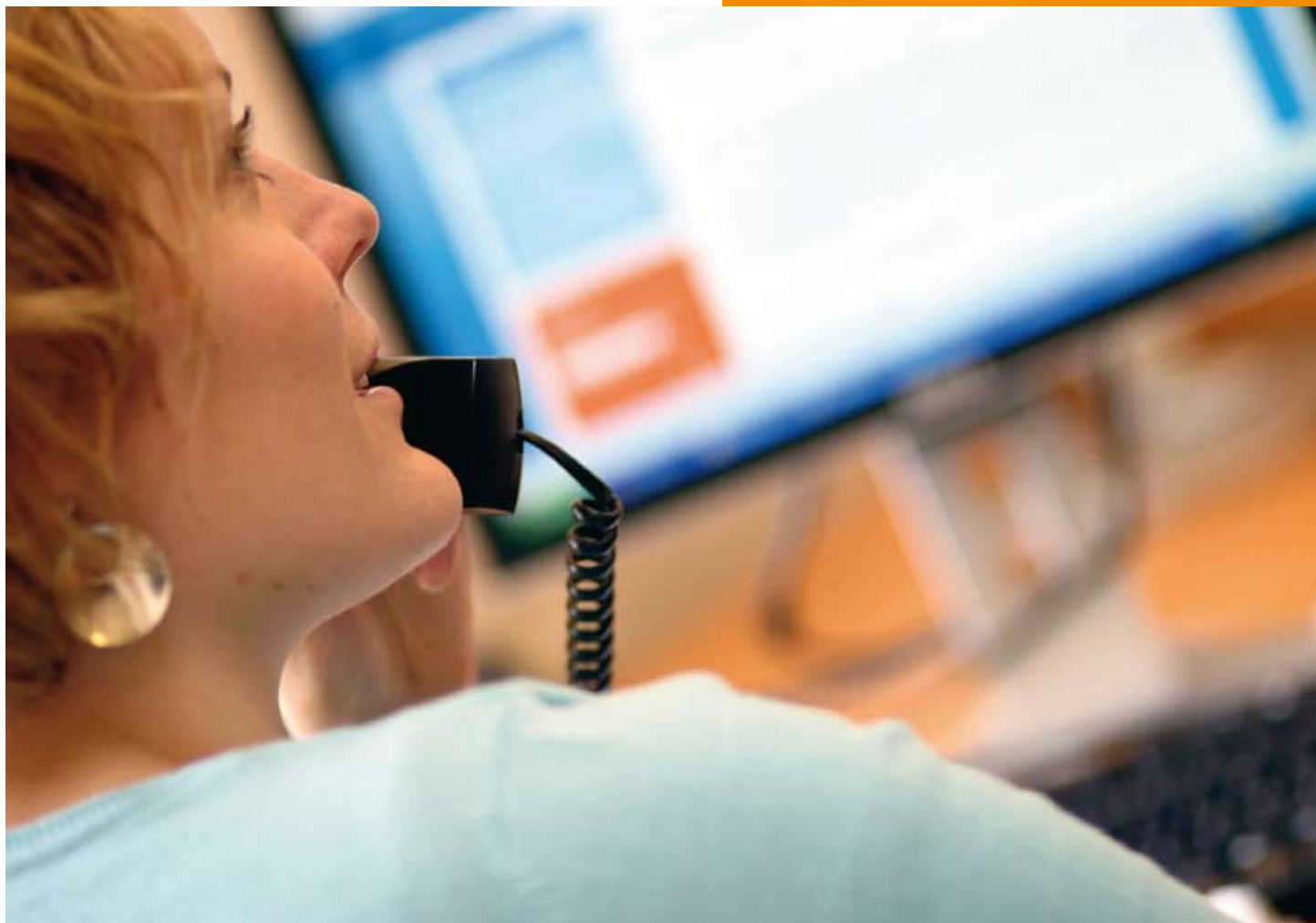
Human resources

There were a total of 65 employees working at EURid's four offices at the end of Q3 2010.

Headcount per office, third quarter 2010

Office	Headcount	FTE*
Diegem	44	41.3
Pisa	8	5.2
Prague	6	4.3
Stockholm	7	4.8
Total	65	55.6

* 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 Pricewaterhouse-Coopers 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.

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

Tomáš Maršálek is a chairman of CZ.NIC, the registry for the .cz top-level domain, 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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