

EURID'S QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Fourth Quarter 2009



EURid

The European Registry of Internet Domain Names

www.eurid.eu



Grand-Place at night-time



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Highlights 2009

2009 has been a busy year at EURid, where a flourish of activity has kept us busy and reflects positively in our numbers. Our most important indicator, the number of registrations, grew by 149 590, closing past the 3 million mark, at 3 144 612.

Technological innovation

A Business Continuity Plan (BCP) test was conducted in spring 2009, and showed EURid was well prepared for a crisis. It also found that a more integrated approach was needed to reduce the time to switch from the main site to the mirror site. EURid took this opportunity to make its mirror site a little “greener”. EURid entered into a contract with the TelecityGroup in Amsterdam to host its mirror site, at a data centre committed to energy efficiency. The provider was selected because of the security it affords, but also for its endorsement of the EU Stand-by Initiative, the European Actions to Improve the Energy Efficiency of Electrical Equipment while either OFF or in Stand-by.

In the second quarter, EURid added several anycast nameservers to make its networks more robust and implemented IPv6 on two of the registry’s nameservers.

EURid also took steps toward increasing safety on the domain name system. In October, all .eu accredited registrars gained access to a .eu Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) testbed. The testbed will help EURid understand the technical demands of running the NSEC3 version of DNSSEC in combination with dynamic updates. It will also help the registry evaluate response times and measure the performance of zone file generation in the specific .eu environment.

On 10 December, EURid began the registration of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs). Characters from the whole Latin, Cyrillic or Greek alphabets; for example the Polish ł, the Spanish ñ, the Danish ø, the French é, the Bulgarian ъ and the Greek Θ can now be used in .eu domain names. During the first hour alone, 38 172 IDNs under .eu were successfully registered. The first three domain names registered were: **ärzte.eu**, **börse.eu** and **flüge.eu**.

Marketing and Communication efforts

In January, the Flexible Promo-Credit Programme began automatically. Registrars could earn one credit for each .eu domain name registered during the credit-earning period. Each credit could then be used to register one .eu domain name free

of charge during a follow-up cash-in period. 137 662 free .eu names were registered this year, that is 17% of new registrations. It was announced in December that the Co-funded Marketing and Flexible Promo-Credit Programmes have each been extended by one year as a result of the positive response they generated.

EURid conducted a survey on multiyear registration with accredited registrars. The survey indicated, among other things, that a high percentage of registrars (79%) would be in favour of a multiyear registration.

To support the launch of IDNs, a media campaign in 21 languages was created. EURid, the European Commission and at least four registrars (Arsys, Strato, Domain Monster and United Domains) distributed press releases which resulted in hundreds of on- and off line articles and notices. In addition to the press releases, we proactively pitched the story to Greek, Spanish and German journalists which resulted in interviews.

International activities

In 2009, liaison managers attended 105 registrar meetings and 17 registrar lunches. EURid also had the opportunity to meet with registrars at conferences, such as ICANN meetings. In March, EURid hosted a dinner at the ICANN Mexico City meeting for the overseas registrar community. In September, the Annual Registrar meeting was held in Brussels and online through a streaming video webinar. The Registrar Advisory Board met 3 times this year.

In October, EURid was accepted into ICANN’s country code Names Support Organisation (ccNSO). This organisation is a policy development body within ICANN. It is responsible for a range of global issues related to country code top-level domains such as .eu. EURid announced in the third quarter, it will be hosting the 38th ICANN conference in Brussels in June 2010.

EURid chaired the CENTR-IGF working group in 2009.

Human resources

In 2009, EURid’s staff grew by 3 employees, that is 2.54 full-time equivalents. We welcomed a new member of the Board of Directors, Mr Domenico Laforenza, and a new member of the Management Team, Ms Maria Göth.

From the General Manager

The year ended on a positive note, as EURid introduced the registration of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) on 10 December at 11:00. In the first hour alone, 38 172 IDNs under .eu were successfully registered. The three countries that registered the most IDNs during that time period were Germany, the Czech Republic and France.

The significant number of names registered during the first hour shows how important it is for people across Europe to be able to access and use the internet in their own languages. IDNs make the internet truly global, international yet local. The web is gradually becoming multilingual and inclusive: more people are able to participate in the online community in their own languages, and this leads to new content and opportunities for businesses. We believe that being able to use your own language on the internet makes it easier, and perhaps also more attractive to users. Therefore, we have made it possible for .eu domain names to be registered in the characters of the 23 official languages of the European Union.

I see us entering a new phase in the development of the internet with the inclusion of more languages and alphabets. Europe consists of many different countries and cultures; and for many people, the possibility of accessing and using the internet is a question of democracy. The time was right to introduce IDNs under .eu: registrants were requesting them and more client software (browsers, for example) can now recognize them. It is great to end the year on a positive note, by making our small contribution to the accessibility of the internet.

“In the first hour alone,
38 172 IDNs under
.eu were successfully
registered.”



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 2009, registrations grew by 149 590, closing past the 3 million mark, at 3 144 612.

International

During the fourth quarter, EURid participated in the following meetings:

- 40th CENTR General Assembly, Vilnius, Lithuania, 1-2 October 2009
- 21st CENTR Technical Workshop, Lisbon, Portugal, 4 October 2009
- RIPE 59 meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, 5-9 October 2009
- ICANN meeting, Seoul, Korea, 25-30 October 2009
- 2nd CENTR Marketing Workshop, Stockholm, Sweden, 4 November 2009
- IGF meeting, Sharm El Sheik, Egypt, 15-18 November 2009
- CENTR 10th Anniversary, Brussels, Belgium, 2 December 2009

EURid also hosted ten lunch meetings for registrars that were held in Helsinki, Sofia, Berlin, Copenhagen, London, Bucharest, Antwerp, Warsaw, Brno and Barcelona. Additional one-on-one meetings with representatives of the registrar community also took place. The Registrar Advisory Board met on 6 November 2009 in Brussels.

In Q4 2009, Lithuania, Malta, Bulgaria, Estonia and Greece all saw growth of more than 15% in the number of .eu registrations.

The .eu domain

During Q4 2009, the number of .eu registrations increased by 153 407 domain names, or 5.1%, to 3.14 million. The total number of registrations at the end of Q4 represented an increase of 5.0%, or 149 590 registrations, when compared to the total number at the end of Q4 2008. At the end of the fourth quarter, about 56 000 internationalized domain names, close to two percent of all names, had been registered.

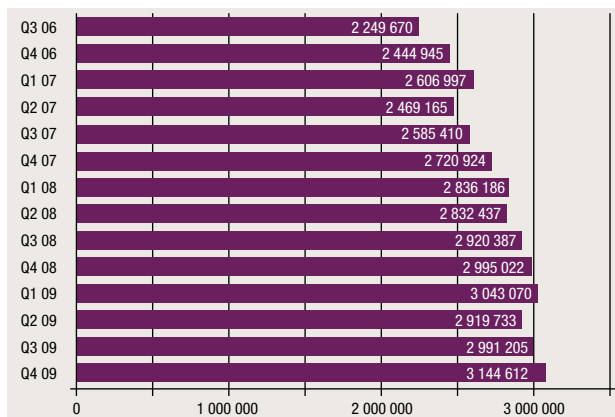
During Q4 2009, 16 154 domains out of 3.14 million were traded. This means that about one domain out of 195 was traded; a decrease from Q4 2008 when one in 180 was traded. In addition, there were a total of 907 accredited .eu registrars by the end of the quarter. Finally, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 84% of all .eu registrations.

During the fourth quarter, the total number of .eu registrations increased in 26 of the 27 EU Member States, with the exception of Luxembourg. Lithuania, Malta, Bulgaria, Estonia and Greece all saw growth of more than 15%. A significant fraction of the growth in Greece and Estonia was due to the popularity of internationalized domain names.

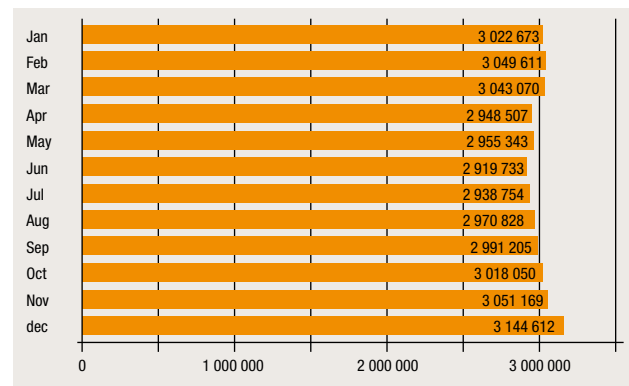
Market for other TLDs

The national ccTLD market in EU countries[1] increased by 3.2% during Q4 2009, and grew by 11.4% from Q4 2008. Within the European Union, the market for gTLD domain names such as .com, .net, .org, .info and .biz grew by 3.0% during Q4 2009 and by 11.1% from Q4 2008 according to statistics from Zooknic.

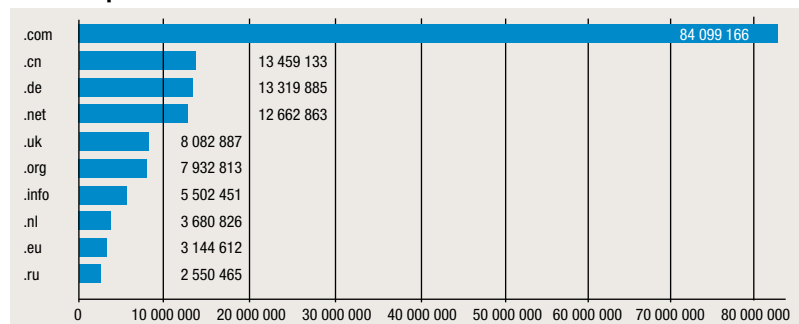
Total .eu domain name registrations by quarter



Total .eu registrations by month, 2009



World top ten TLDs



During Q4, .eu maintained its position as the ninth-largest TLD in the world. The successful IDN launch during the fourth quarter led to .eu being the second fastest growing TLD in the top ten list, with only .ru growing faster.

New registrations, deletions and renewals

There were 268 307 new .eu registrations in Q4 2009. The number of new registrations per day during all three months of the quarter was higher than during the same months of 2008. The number of new registrations per day during December was high due to the launch of internationalised domain names.

Registrants can delete domain names they no longer find useful from the .eu registry through their registrars. During Q4 2009, there were 115 487 deletions. A domain name slated 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.

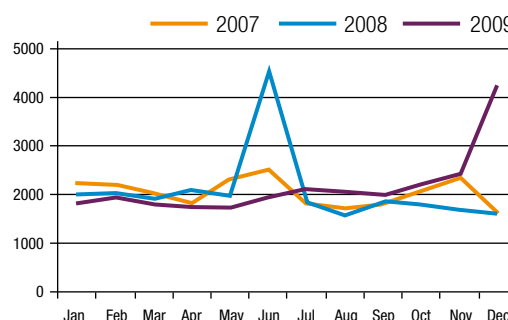
When combined, the new registrations and deletions for Q4 showed a net increase of about 1 700 names per day. Renewal rates stayed strong during Q4 at an average of 79%, somewhat higher than the industry norm.

Renewal rates by percentage

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

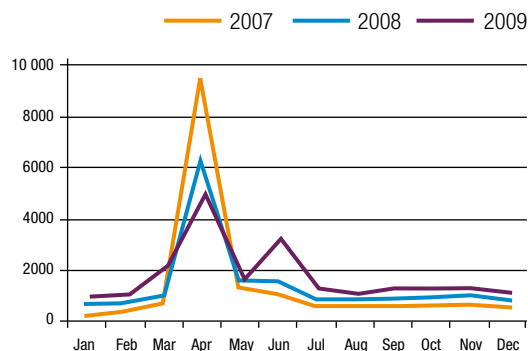
Renewal rates remained strong in Q4, at an average of 79%, somewhat higher than the industry average.

New .eu registrations per day



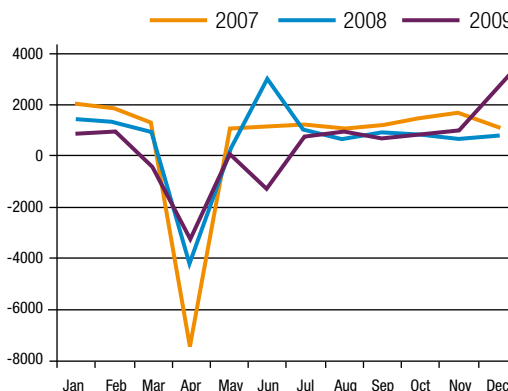
The registration levels for .eu remained competitive.

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. Similarly, a successful .eu promotion campaign in 2008 meant that a large number of .eu registrations came up for renewal in June 2009, and the number of deletions followed.

Net growth per day



As discussed above, Q4 saw a growth of about 1 700 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 2009, 16 154 domains out of 3.14 million were traded. This means that about one domain out of 195 was traded; a decrease from Q4 2008, when one in 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 Q4 2009, about one domain out of 280 was transferred, for a total of 11 123 transfers. During the same quarter last year, about one out 220 was transferred.

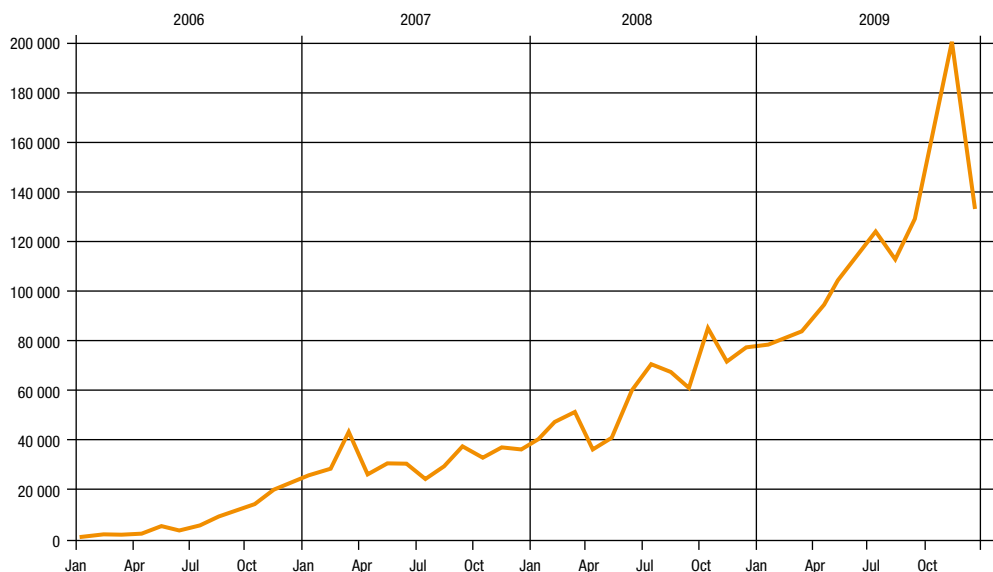
.eu in use

One method of determining the actual use of .eu domain names is by measuring DNS queries to the .eu nameservers. 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

Month	Trades			Transfers		
	2009	2008	2007	2009	2008	2007
January	5 443	4 941	6 553	4 602	4 313	3 564
February	6 119	8 202	8 656	5 311	4 609	5 278
March	10 033	17 004	15 935	7 982	10 190	36 458
April	17 925	55 764	25 869	12 582	10 863	69 060
May	6 016	20 057	6 481	4 606	4 968	12 895
June	5 875	9 097	12 957	4 869	4 474	4 230
July	5 355	5 451	5 034	3 575	3 944	3 448
August	5 195	3 625	6 010	2 952	3 714	3 667
September	5 650	4 431	4 177	3 509	4 124	4 428
October	6 389	6 274	5 344	4 102	4 132	3 729
November	4 865	4 246	5 746	3 602	4 018	3 382
December	4 900	6 118	4 419	3 419	5 122	3 578

DNS queries per minute



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

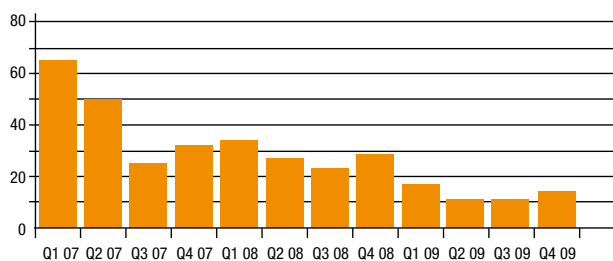
Domain name disputes

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.

The number of
DNS queries has grown
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Domain name disputes filed by quarter

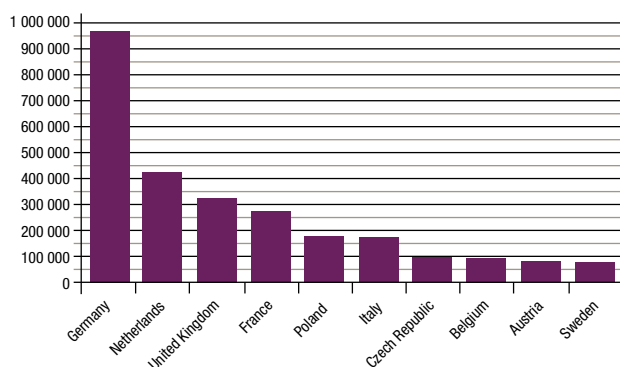


A total of 14 alternative dispute resolution cases were filed during Q4 2009, compared to 11 during Q3 2009 and 29 during Q4 2008. The Czech Arbitration Court published 15 ADR decisions during Q4, 14 of which were in favour of the complainant.

The registrants

The countries in the top ten list account for 86% 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



Residents of Poland now have more registrations than residents of Italy and residents of the Czech Republic more than residents of Belgium.

Total number of .eu domain names by country of registrant, Q4 2009

Country	Total names
Åland Islands	189
Austria	80 961
Belgium	96 258
Bulgaria	12 112
Cyprus	53 275
Czech Republic	99 550
Denmark	38 596
Estonia	9 446
Finland	15 863
France	277 730
French Guiana	29
Germany	969 422
Gibraltar	3 692
Greece	30 384
Guadeloupe	214
Hungary	32 244
Ireland	51 323
Italy	172 377
Latvia	5 809
Lithuania	11 677
Luxembourg	26 723
Malta	4 405
Martinique	264
Netherlands	428 330
Poland	179 255
Portugal	12 438
Réunion	305
Romania	20 965
Slovakia	21 980
Slovenia	7 054
Spain	76 777
Sweden	78 861
United Kingdom	325 020

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

Popularity of .eu in comparison with ccTLD registrations

Country	.eu/1000	ccTLD/1000
Cyprus	66.4	N/A
Luxembourg	53.2	95.2
Netherlands	25.8	222.0
Germany	11.9	162.9
Ireland	11.5	30.5
Malta	10.6	N/A
Austria	9.7	108.5
Czech Republic	9.5	59.9
Belgium	8.9	90.4
Sweden	8.4	100.3
Estonia	7.0	55.2
Denmark	7.0	186.7
EU	6.3	75.3
United Kingdom	5.2	130.3
Poland	4.7	43.3
France	4.5	25.8
Slovakia	4.1	37.2
Lithuania	3.5	33.4
Slovenia	3.4	36.4
Hungary	3.2	47.4
Finland	3.0	42.2
Italy	2.9	29.6
Greece	2.7	26.5
Latvia	2.6	35.6
Spain	1.7	26.0
Bulgaria	1.6	N/A
Portugal	1.2	27.7
Romania	1.0	19.9

The figures above show the number of domain names per 1000 inhabitants at the end of Q4 2009. 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 2009 vs Q3 2009	Q4 2009 vs Q4 2008
Austria	5.4%	11.0%
Belgium	5.4%	0.9%
Bulgaria	16.2%	36.8%
Cyprus	0.9%	0.5%
Czech Republic	13.9%	28.7%
Denmark	1.1%	-12.5%
Estonia	16.0%	18.4%
Finland	3.1%	10.4%
France	3.8%	15.0%
Germany	5.1%	6.4%
Greece	15.8%	25.2%
Hungary	8.1%	15.5%
Ireland	2.0%	-13.0%
Italy	5.1%	7.1%
Latvia	3.8%	-19.6%
Lithuania	22.9%	28.8%
Luxembourg	-0.8%	-1.1%
Malta	17.2%	67.0%
Netherlands	2.5%	5.2%
Poland	9.7%	4.8%
Portugal	3.8%	8.7%
Romania	4.8%	5.2%
Slovakia	10.7%	25.2%
Slovenia	6.8%	17.6%
Spain	7.3%	13.6%
Sweden	4.5%	-1.6%
United Kingdom	4.9%	-12.2%

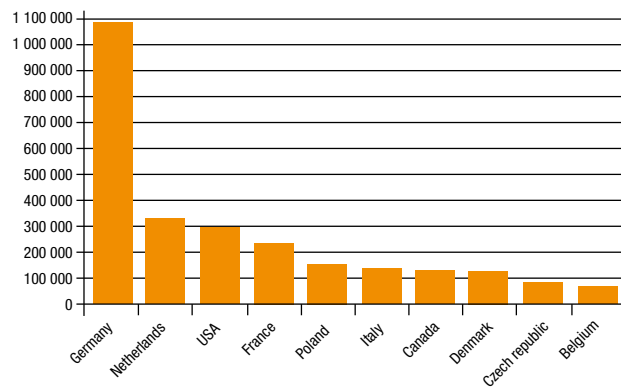
By the end of Q4 2009, .eu domain name registrations had increased in all countries except Luxembourg. As shown above, the .eu domain became especially popular in Malta, Bulgaria and Lithuania over the past year.

The registrars

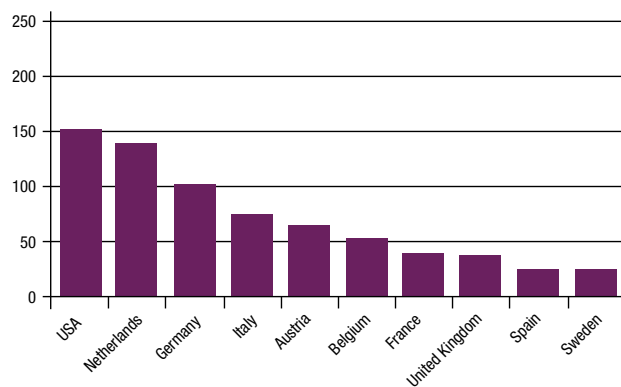
.eu registrars can be located outside the European Union. Categorizing registrations by country of registrar shows many similarities with the categorization by country of registrant (see previous table Top ten countries with most .eu registrations). Germany, the Netherlands, France, Poland, Italy, Belgium and the Czech Republic are among the top ten countries in registrations, both by country of registrar and by country of registrant.

The USA and Canada are among the top ten countries in registrations by country of registrar even though registrations by residents of these countries are not allowed. In Q4 2009, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 84% of all .eu registrations. During Q4, the number of registrations managed by registrars in Canada surpassed the number of names managed by registrars in Denmark.

Top ten countries based on registrations by country of registrar



Top ten countries by number of .eu registrars

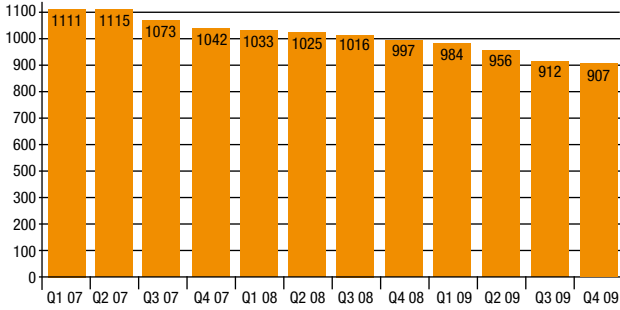


.eu registrations by country of registrar

Country	Names managed	Number of registrars
Anguilla	542	1
Australia	27 220	10
Austria	39 698	65
Bahamas	6 953	1
Barbados	782	1
Belgium	67 461	52
Bulgaria	579	2
Canada	136 154	22
Cayman Islands	1 017	2
China	3 533	4
Cyprus	3 697	2
Czech Republic	80 013	14
Denmark	132 701	18
Estonia	5 685	1
Finland	3 929	7
France	237 341	40
Germany	1 082 735	101
Greece	26 357	16
Hungary	21 388	17
India	36 934	1
Ireland	8 761	6
Israel	719	3
Italy	140 314	75
Japan	236	2
Korea	1 061	3
Latvia	2 410	3
Liechtenstein	350	1
Lithuania	9 142	4
Luxembourg	59 253	3
Malaysia	157	1
Malta	69	1
Monaco	9 769	1
Netherlands	324 214	140
Norway	40 870	5
Poland	153 728	13
Portugal	1 366	5
Romania	12 285	9
Singapore	905	1
Slovakia	12 636	12
Slovenia	139	1
Spain	38 541	25
Sweden	44 198	25
Switzerland	14 058	3
Taiwan	133	1
United Kingdom	57 973	36
USA	297 152	151

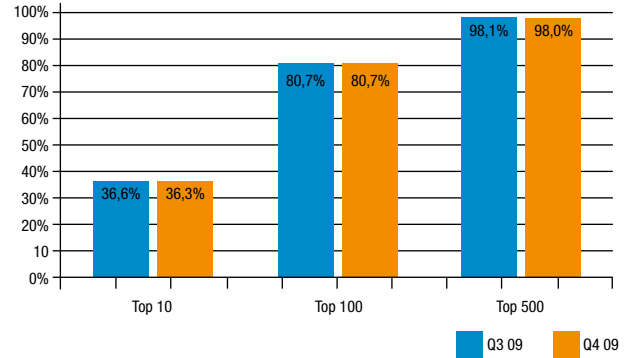
An accredited .eu registrar managed an average of 3 468 .eu domain names during Q4.

Total number of accredited .eu registrars by quarter



At the end of Q4, there were 907 accredited .eu registrars. New .eu registrars are accredited every quarter. Even so, the total number has decreased over the past several quarters. That is the result 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 81% of all registrations, which means that many registrars are small businesses. Compared to the previous quarter, the market share of the top 10, top 100 and top 500 registrars has stayed roughly the same.

Human resources

There were a total of 63 employees working at EURid's four offices at the end of Q4.

Headcount per office, fourth quarter 2009

Office	Headcount	FTE*
Diegem	43	41.1
Pisa	7	4.8
Prague	6	4.1
Stockholm	7	5.8
Total	63	55.8

* 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.



Maria Göth, Communications Manager

Maria Göth has more than 15 years experience in the field of communications, both in Sweden and internationally. Most recently she held the position of Communications Manager for Google in Scandinavia. She holds a PG diploma in electronic publishing from City University in London, United Kingdom, as well as a BA in journalism from the University of Stockholm, Sweden.



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.



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.



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.



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.



Michiel Leenaars, Member of the Strategic Committee

Michiel AGJ Leenaars is Director of Strategy at NLnet foundation, a Netherlands-based charity investor in technology, and Director of the Netherlands chapter of the Internet Society. Mr Leenaars also holds a number of board positions, including Vice Chair of OpenDoc Society and Secretary of the Board of Gridforum.nl. He is a policy advisor for the Netherlands National Computing Facilities foundation, which is a subsidiary of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research. Mr Leenaars has a background in physics at Technische Universiteit Eindhoven and arts at Tilburg University in the Netherlands.



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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