

EURID'S QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Third Quarter 2009



EURid

The European Registry of Internet Domain Names

www.eurid.eu



View over the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The tower was performed in three stages over a period of about 177 years and began to sink after construction had progressed to the third floor in 1178.



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Update

There were a variety of developments involving EURid and the .eu top-level domain during the third quarter of 2009. They include the items highlighted below.

New .eu registrations hit record high

A total of 66 129 new .eu domain names were added to the .eu registry during the month of July. This was a 12-month high in new registrations and a rise of 15% when compared to July 2008.



Maria Göth

EURid hosting proposal approved

In August, the board of ICANN approved EURid's proposal to host the ICANN's 38th international public meeting in Brussels from 20 to 25 June 2010. EURid will also hold its 2010 annual registrar meeting during the ICANN event.

"We've had an office in the city for a number of years," commented Nick Tomasso, General Manager of Meetings for ICANN, "so we're delighted to be able to build on the relationships we have established in Brussels to ensure a successful and productive meeting."

Annual registrar meeting held in Brussels

On 10 September, EURid held its annual registrar meeting. Registrars who were unable to attend the meeting in Brussels were able to participate via a streaming-video webinar. As part of the meeting, EURid managers announced that .eu would support internationalised domain names (IDNs) as of 10 December. Registrars also learned that a .eu testbed for DNSSEC would become available the following month.

Maria Göth joins management team

In August, Maria Göth joined the EURid management team as Communications Manager. Ms Göth has many years of experience as a PR consultant both internationally and in Sweden. She has also worked as a journalist and editor. Most recently, Ms Göth held the position of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs Manager for Google in Scandinavia.

From the General Manager

EURid's primary responsibility is protecting .eu registry data and, with it, the ability for people to use .eu domain names. But we also feel a responsibility to the larger Internet community as a whole. That is why EURid announced in September, during the annual .eu registrar meeting, that our registrars would soon have access to a DNSSEC testbed.

DNSSEC stands for Domain Name System Security Extensions. It is a protocol intended to make the domain name system more secure. EURid has already put safeguards in place to help prevent certain types of computer attack. DNSSEC will create an additional safeguard by making it possible for computers to verify that the IP addresses they receive are correct and come from valid nameservers.

There are many technical challenges involved in implementing DNSSEC. The DNSSEC testbed will help us and our registrars understand the technical challenges created by DNSSEC. Together we will find the best way to launch DNSSEC to benefit .eu users and the Internet community.

Not all top-level domains support DNSSEC yet. But in order to be effective, DNSSEC must be implemented by all parties responsible for administering the different parts of the domain name system. EURid is proud to join the push for a more secure Internet. We encourage others in the community to do the same.

“EURid is proud to join the push for a more secure Internet.”



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.

There were 190 164 new .eu registrations
in Q3 2009.

International

During the third quarter of 2009, EURid participated in the following events:

- Summer School on Internet Governance – Euro-SSIG in Meissen, Germany, 31 July 2009
- 30th CENTR legal workshop, Oxford, United Kingdom, 17 September 2009
- 17th CENTR administrative workshop, Vilnius, Lithuania, 30 September 2009.

During this quarter, EURid also hosted lunch meetings for registrars in Stockholm on 29 July and in Athens on 24 September. Additional one-on-one meetings with representatives of the registrar community took place as well.

In terms of its collaborative work, EURid continued to chair the Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries – Internet Governance (CENTR-IGF) working group. The CENTR-IGF proposal “Lost in non-ASCII translation”, which aims to tackle the introduction of IDNs from a social and cultural perspective, was completed on 15 August. Moreover, EURid prepared the first draft of the CENTR inputs for the continuation of the IGF after 2011.

The total number of .eu registrations during the period increased in 25 out of 27 Member States.

The .eu domain

In Q3 2009, the number of .eu registrations increased by 71 472 domain names, or 2.4% to 2.99 million. The total number of registrations at the end of Q3 represented an increase of 2.4% or 70 818 registrations, when compared to the total number at the end of Q3 2008.

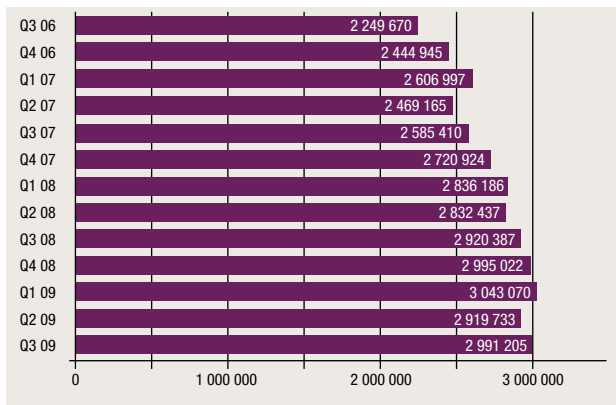
The total number of .eu domain name registrations during this period increased in all EU Member States except Luxembourg and Latvia. Portugal, Slovakia and France all saw growth of 7% or more.

By the end of the quarter there were a total of 912 accredited .eu registrars. The countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 85% of all .eu registrations.

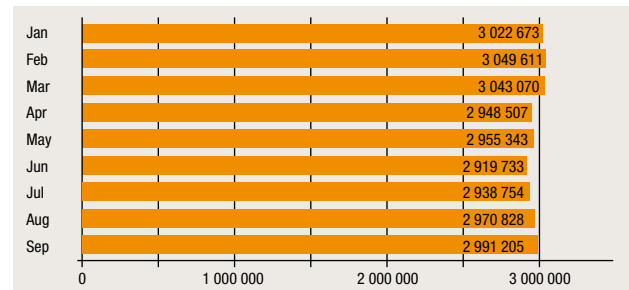
Market for other TLDs

The national ccTLD market in EU countries increased by 2.0% during Q3 2009 and by 11.3% when compared to Q3 2008. Within the European Union, the market for gTLD domain names such as .com, .net, .org, .info and .biz also grew somewhat during the third quarter. Statistics from Zooknic show that the number of domain registrations for these gTLDs increased by 3.7% when compared to the previous quarter and by 9.1% when compared to Q3 2008.

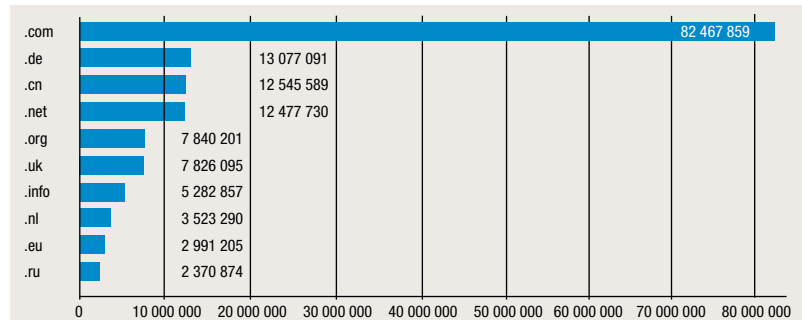
Total .eu domain name registrations by quarter



Total .eu registrations by month, 2009



World top ten TLDs



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

New registrations, deletions and renewals

There were 190 164 new .eu registrations in Q3 2009. The number of new registrations per day during all three months of the quarter was higher than during the same months of 2008.

Registrants can delete domain names they no longer find useful from the .eu registry through their registrars. During Q3 2009, there were 115 817 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.

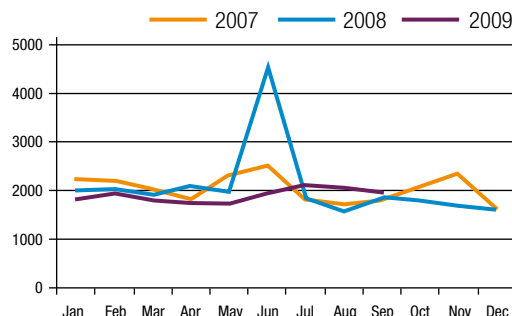
When combined, the new registrations and deletions for Q3 showed a net increase of about 800 names per day. Renewal rates stayed strong during Q3 at an average of 80%, somewhat higher than the industry norm.

Renewal rates, 2009

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%	
November	83%	79%	
December	84%	80%	

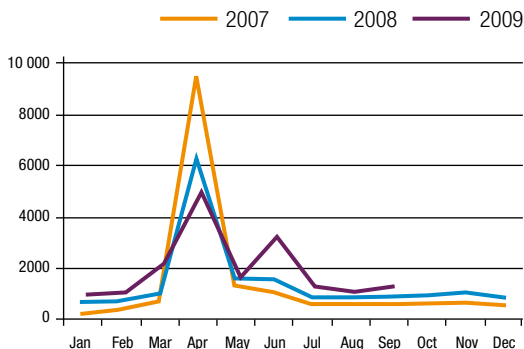
Renewal rates remained strong during Q3 at an average of 80%, somewhat higher than the industry norm.

New .eu registrations per day



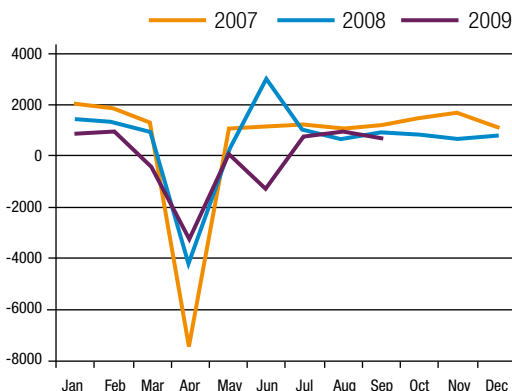
The registration levels for .eu remained competitive during this quarter.

Deletions per day



April is the month the .eu domain was officially launched. As a result, there is a rise in deletions each April due to the many domain names that come up for renewal. Similarly, a successful .eu promotion campaign in 2008 meant that a large number of .eu registrations came up for renewal in June 2009 and deletions also went up at that time.

Net growth per day



Q3 saw an average growth of about 800 registrations 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 2009, 16 200 domains out of 2.99 million were traded. This means that about one domain out of 185 was traded, a rise from Q3 2008 when one in 220 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. A registrar cannot stop a registrant from choosing to use different registrar. During Q3 2009 about one domain out of 300 was transferred for a total of 10 036 transfers. During the same quarter last year about one out 250 was transferred.

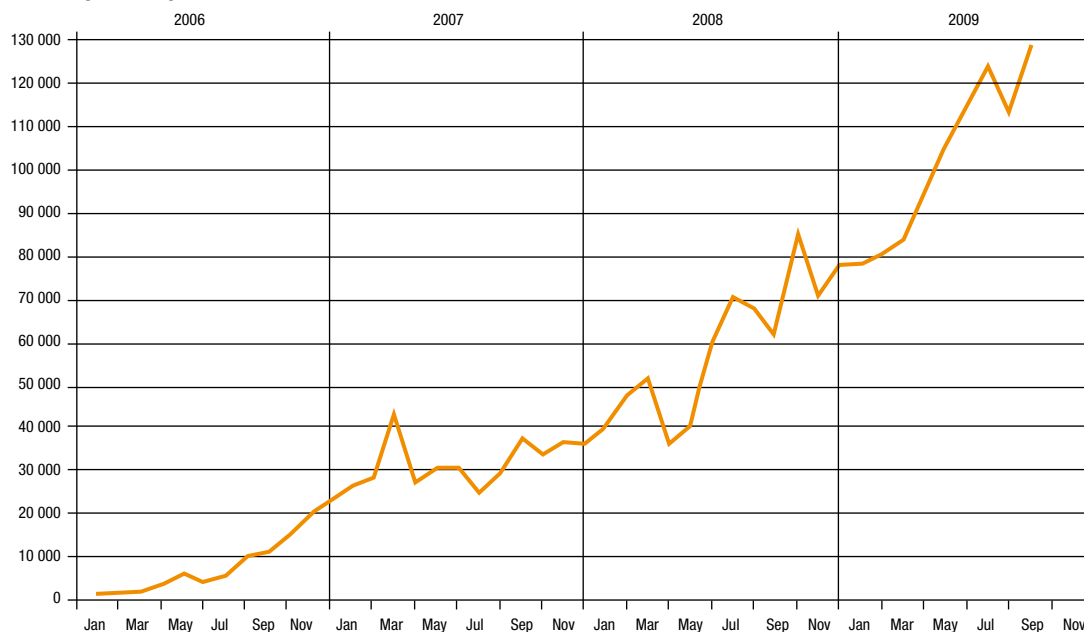
.eu in use

One method of determining the actual use of .eu domain names is by measuring DNS queries to the .eu nameservers. The graph below 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		6 274	5 344		4 132	3 729
November		4 246	5 746		4 018	3 382
December		6 118	4 419		5 122	3 578

DNS queries per minute



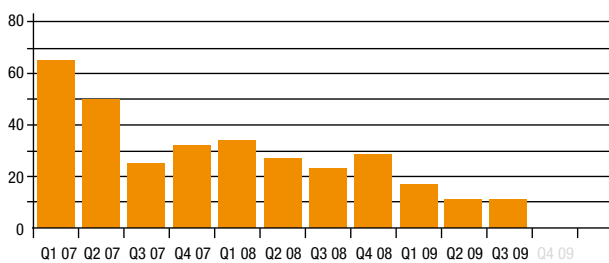
Domain name disputes

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
steadily since the
launch of .eu.

Domain name disputes filed by quarter

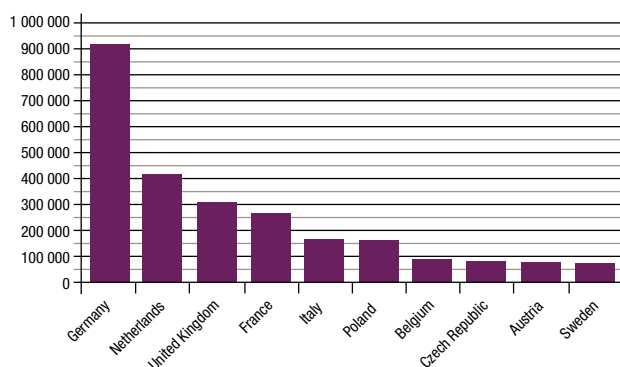


A total of 11 alternative dispute resolution cases were filed during Q3 2009, compared to 11 during Q2 2009 and 23 during Q3 2008. The Czech Arbitration Court published 7 ADR decisions during Q3, all of which were in favour of the complainant.

The registrants

The countries in the top ten list below 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



There were no changes in the top ten countries during the third quarter.

Total number of .eu domain names by country of registrant, Q3 2009

Country	Total names
Åland Islands	161
Austria	76 846
Belgium	91 334
Bulgaria	10 420
Cyprus	52 795
Czech Republic	87 382
Denmark	38 166
Estonia	8 146
Finland	15 389
France	267 678
French Guiana	23
Germany	922 344
Gibraltar	4 569
Greece	26 231
Guadeloupe	206
Hungary	29 822
Ireland	50 311
Italy	164 049
Latvia	5 599
Lithuania	9 499
Luxembourg	26 929
Malta	3 759
Martinique	253
Netherlands	417 892
Poland	163 465
Portugal	11 986
Réunion	285
Romania	20 003
Slovakia	19 849
Slovenia	6 605
Spain	71 529
Sweden	75 452
United Kingdom	309 766

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	65.9	N/A
Luxembourg	54.8	94.5
Netherlands	25.4	213.8
Germany	11.2	159.4
Ireland	11.1	29.2
Austria	9.2	105.9
Malta	9.1	N/A
Belgium	8.5	88.4
Czech Republic	8.3	57.3
Sweden	8.1	97.9
Denmark	6.9	182.1
Estonia	6.1	53.0
EU (average)	6.0	74.4
United Kingdom	5.0	127.0
France	4.3	24.5
Poland	4.3	41.0
Slovakia	3.7	36.0
Slovenia	3.2	34.9
Hungary	3.0	42.9
Finland	2.9	40.6
Lithuania	2.8	32.0
Italy	2.7	28.8
Latvia	2.5	34.9
Greece	2.3	26.6
Spain	1.6	25.1
Bulgaria	1.4	N/A
Portugal	1.1	26.7
Romania	0.9	18.7

The figures above show the number of domain names per 1000 inhabitants at the end of Q3 2009. They are based on population data from Eurostat and ccTLD information from national registries.

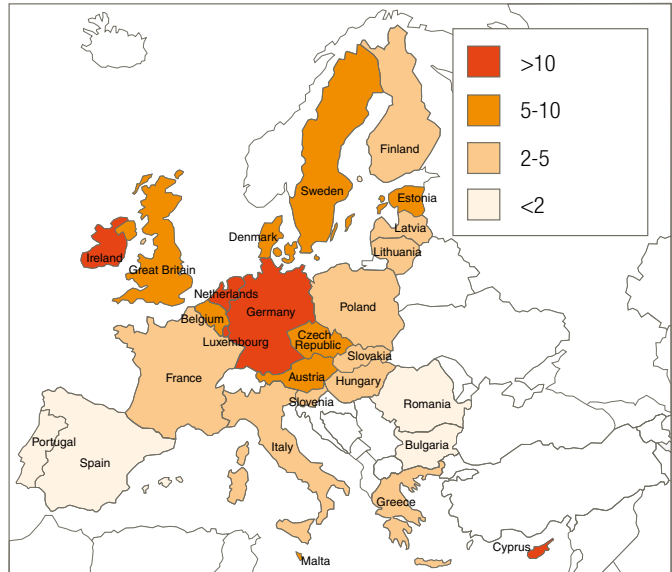
Growth by country, quarter over quarter and year over year

Country	Q3 2009 vs Q2 2009	Q3 2009 vs Q3 2008
Austria	2.8%	8.5%
Belgium	2.9%	-2.2%
Bulgaria	5.3%	30.0%
Cyprus	0.1%	0.1%
Czech Republic	5.1%	20.5%
Denmark	0.4%	-12.0%
Estonia	5.6%	5.5%
Finland	2.8%	9.9%
France	7.0%	15.9%
Germany	1.2%	3.3%
Greece	5.4%	11.3%
Hungary	4.7%	15.0%
Ireland	0.6%	-14.1%
Italy	0.8%	6.5%
Latvia	-3.6%	-20.9%
Lithuania	6.6%	11.7%
Luxembourg	-0.3%	8.7%
Malta	12.8%	-17.7%
Netherlands	2.1%	5.2%
Poland	2.9%	2.4%
Portugal	8.1%	7.3%
Romania	2.3%	7.1%
Slovakia	7.6%	19.5%
Slovenia	2.7%	17.2%
Spain	5.2%	9.0%
Sweden	2.3%	-3.4%
United Kingdom	4.2%	-16.0%

By the end of Q3 2009, .eu domain name registrations had increased in all countries except Luxembourg and Latvia. As shown above, the .eu domain has increased in popularity in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia over the past year.

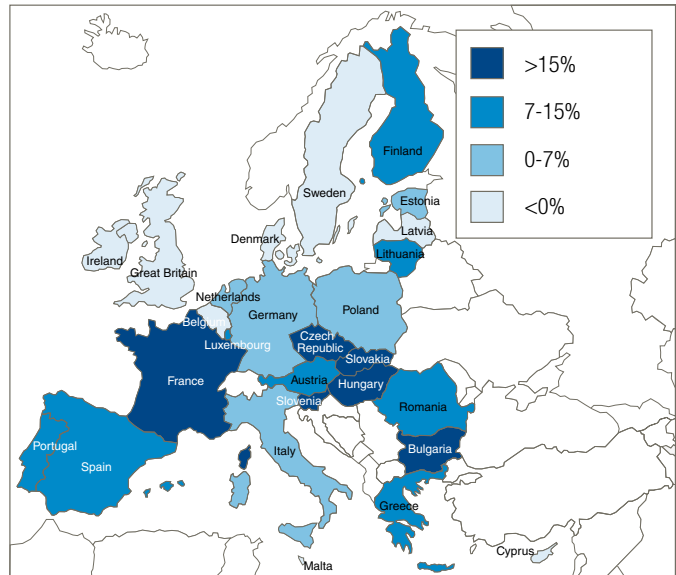
.eu domain names per 1000 inhabitants, Q3 2009

The number of registrations per 1000 inhabitants varies from a high of 25 in the Netherlands to a low of 1 in Bulgaria, 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 2009 compared to Q3 2008

The countries with the fastest relative growth year over year were Bulgaria (30%), the Czech Republic (20.5%) and Slovakia (19.5%).



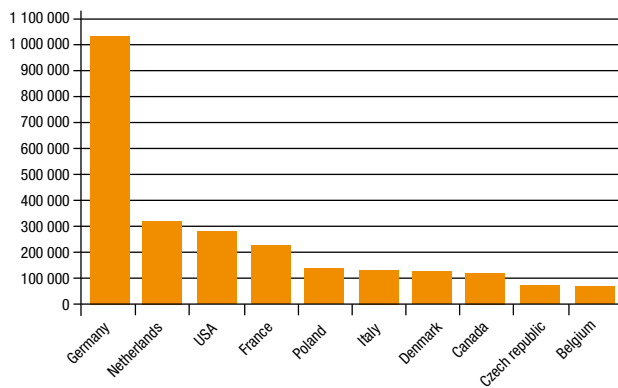
The registrars

In contrast to .eu registrants, .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. 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.

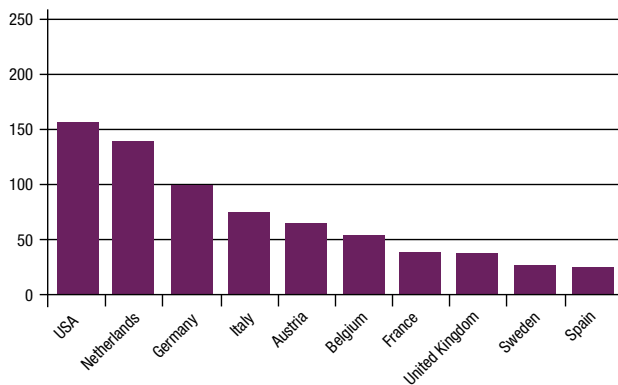
The USA and Canada are among the top ten countries in registrations by country of registrar even though registrations by residents of these countries are not allowed.

In Q3 2009, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 85% of all .eu registrations. During Q3, the number of registrations managed by registrars in Denmark surpassed the number of names managed by registrars in Canada; and registrars in the Czech Republic pushed registrars in the United Kingdom out of the top ten list below.

Top ten countries based on registrations by country of registrar



Top ten countries by number of .eu registrars

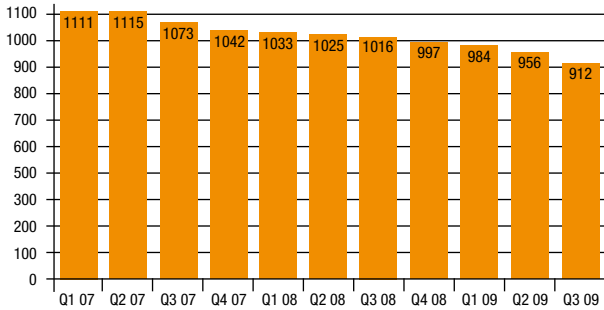


.eu registrations by country of registrar

Country	Names managed	Number of registrars
Anguilla	551	1
Australia	29 954	11
Austria	33 786	65
Bahamas	6 162	1
Barbados	785	1
Belgium	65 223	52
Bulgaria	139	2
Canada	126 556	22
Cayman Islands	1 017	2
China	4 179	4
Cyprus	524	1
Czech Republic	68 570	14
Denmark	129 273	18
Estonia	4 847	1
Finland	3 716	7
France	227 708	39
Germany	1 034 177	100
Greece	22 048	17
Hungary	19 105	17
India	30 759	1
Ireland	7 977	6
Israel	658	3
Italy	131 347	75
Japan	234	2
Korea	1 035	3
Latvia	2 334	3
Liechtenstein	303	1
Lithuania	7 102	4
Luxembourg	56 266	3
Malaysia	146	1
Malta	69	1
Monaco	9 024	1
Netherlands	322 573	140
Norway	41 026	5
Poland	140 660	13
Portugal	1 364	5
Romania	12 856	9
Singapore	897	1
Slovakia	11 282	12
Slovenia	153	1
Spain	35 917	25
Sweden	42 206	26
Switzerland	13 333	3
Taiwan	143	1
United Kingdom	54 442	37
USA	287 119	155

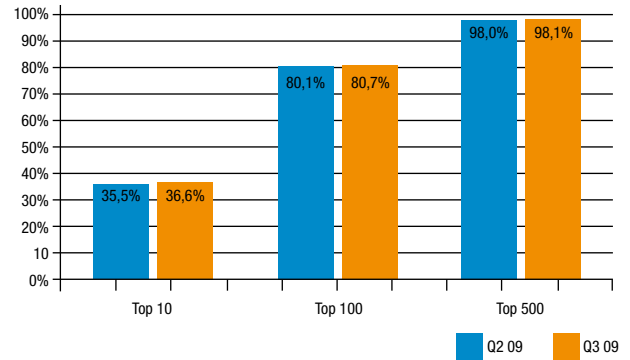
An accredited .eu registrar managed an average of 3 278 .eu domain names during Q3.

Total number of accredited .eu registrars by quarter



At the end of Q3, there were 912 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 increased.

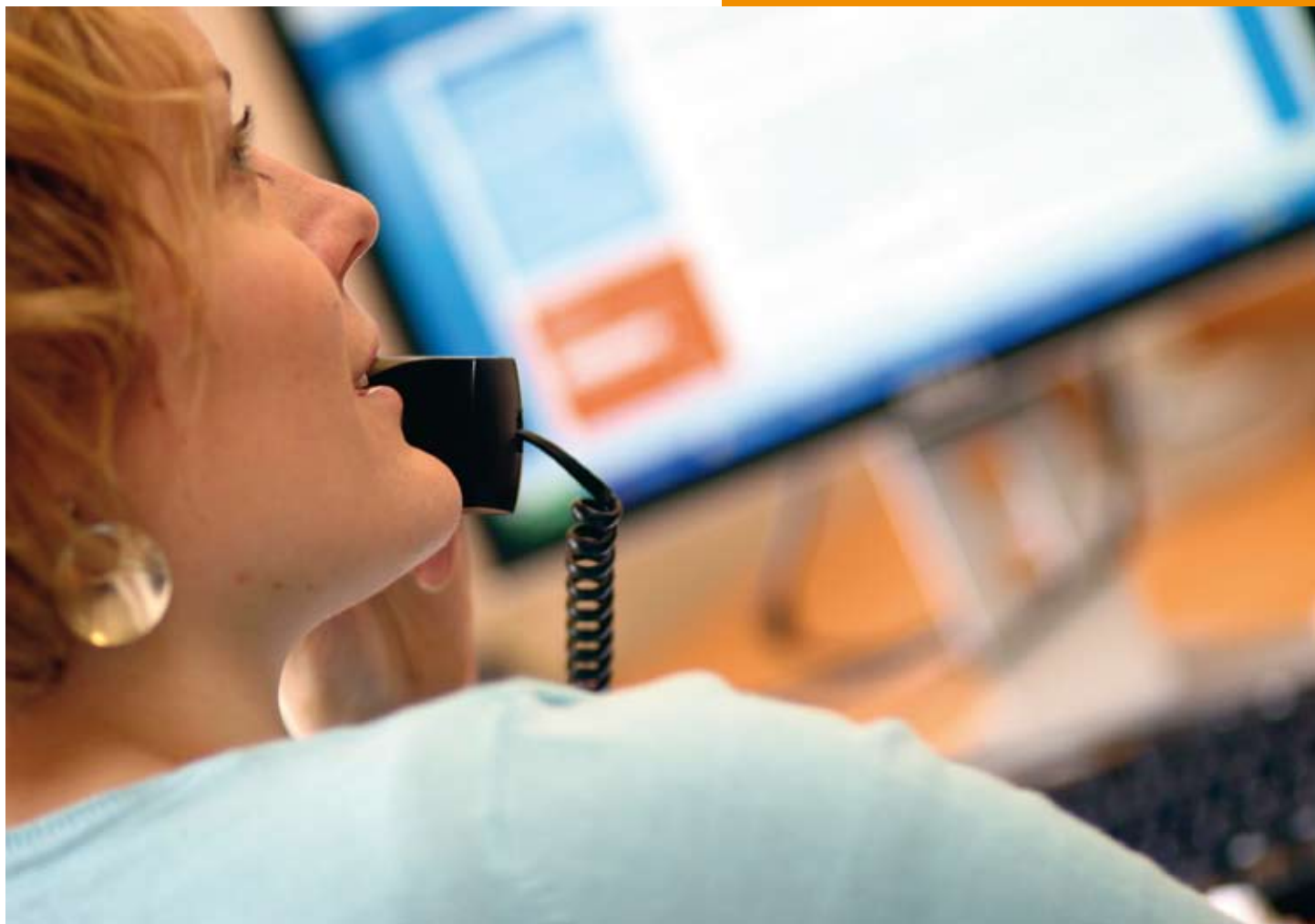
Human resources

There were a total of 64 employees working at the four offices of EURid at the end of Q3.

Headcount per office, second quarter 2009

Office	Headcount	FTE*
Diegem	44	40,9
Pisa	7	4,8
Prague	6	4.1
Stockholm	7	5,8
Total	64	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 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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