Third Quarter 2008

.eu
Your European Identity

EURid
The European Registry of Internet Domain Names   www.eurid.eu

The Cathedral of Pisa, which was finished near the end of the 12th century, is one of Europe's many architectural treasures.

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During November and December 2008, EURid ran an advertising campaign aimed at the transport and logistics sector. The image on this page was used in both print and online advertising.

Update

During the last quarter of 2008, EURid ran advertisements and online banners promoting .eu to the transport sector and to companies and organisations with headquarters in Belgium.

The .eu top-level domain and its registry, EURid, saw a variety of developments over the third quarter of 2008. These developments include the items highlighted below.

Total .eu domain names grew by nearly 90 000 during third quarter

The total number of .eu domain names grew by 87 950 names during the third quarter of 2008. This represents an increase of 3.1% when compared to the second quarter of 2008 and an increase of 13% when compared with the third quarter of 2007. The growth in .eu registrations largely matched the growth in the national ccTLD market. Also during the third quarter, the Czech Republic surpassed Austria in total number of .eu registrations. See pages 8 and 12 for more detailed statistics.

24/7 support service launched for registrars

On 8 September, EURid launched a 24/7 support service for its registrar community. The new service provides round-the-clock support to customers. All calls related to crisis scenarios are escalated to EURid staff on call.

EURid Registrar Advisory Board established

In order to get even more input from registrars, EURid established a new Registrar Advisory Board during the third quarter. The new board is made up of representatives from nine accredited .eu registrars located in nine countries: Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxemburg, Romania, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. The board will advise EURid on strategic and business issues important to the registrar community.

New member added to Board of Directors

During the third quarter, Danny Aerts was appointed to serve on the EURid Board of Directors. Mr Aerts is the Managing Director of the Swedish Internet Infrastructure Foundation (IIS), the registry for the .se top-level domain. Mr Aerts replaced Östen Frånberg, who stepped down from the board in August. Read a biography of Mr Aerts on page 19.

From the General Manager

The environment for Internet domains has shifted dramatically since .eu came into being. Many more top-level domains are expected to come into being due to ICANN opening up the top-level domain area to new applications.

As a result, .eu will face greater competition. Those of us at EURid welcome that competition. The new Internet domains should mean higher visibility for all domains, which is a good development. More top-level domains will probably mean that people will pay more attention to which domain name suffix they choose. It should also mean that more people will recognise the value of using an established and quality top-level domain such as .eu.

By the end of the third quarter of 2008, there were nearly 3 million registered .eu domain names. Soon .eu registrations will pass the 3 million mark, which is a tribute to the benefits of the .eu domain to users. Since its public launch in April 2006, .eu has grown rapidly. Today, the .eu domain is among the ten largest globally.

The open borders within the European Union and the growth in Internet commerce have created enormous opportunities. More and more companies and organisations are realising these opportunities through the use of .eu domain names. The Spanish city of Lugo, for example, is giving away free .eu email addresses to residents because .eu reinforces the local identity of residents as well as their European identity.

A .eu domain name was the right choice for the city of Lugo, and it was the right choice for the MAN Group, Pioneer, Century 21 and many other companies. .eu is the only Internet domain that offers a European identity to 500 million people in 27 countries. Today, more than ever, .eu means business.

"Today, more than ever, .eu means business."

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. That means that, technically speaking, .eu has been in existence since then.

Between December 7, 2005, and April 6, 2006, the .eu registry began accepting applications for domain names on a limited basis. Only those individuals and organisations holding some type of legal protection for a name within a Member State of the European Union were eligible to apply during that time. This period of phased registration is referred to as the Sunrise period. On April 7, 2006, EURid opened the .eu TLD for general registration on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

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 for 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 headquarters, which is also the regional office for Western Europe, is located just outside of 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 to registrars and the general public in languages local to its region.

"Culturally, socially and for tourism, .eu is very convenient. I just came back from a trip to China. They know where Europe is but it is difficult to explain where Spain is and even harder to explain where Lugo is. With the .eu ending, people are instantly shown that we belong in the European Union."

Mr Jose Lopez Orozco, Mayor of Lugo

International

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

- The European Summer School on Internet Governance 2008 in Meissen, Germany, 25 July-1 August

- The 9th Meeting of the ICANN Studienkreis in Helsinki, Finland, 4-5 September

- The International Conference for ccTLD Registries and Registrars from CIS, Central and Western Europe in Sofia, Bulgaria, 8-10 September

- EISCO 2008 in Naples, Italy, 25-27 September

At each of these meetings EURid representatives updated participants on .eu and the services that EURid provides to the registrar and registrant communities. Two meetings are highlighted in more detail below.

The European Summer School on Internet Governance, EURO-SSIG 2008, offered a unique, multidisciplinary, high-level, 50-hour academic programme for graduate students, young academics and junior professionals from the private sector, government and civil society. The programme this year was a well-balanced mix of theoretical lectures from leading academ-

ics as well as practical presentations from well-known experts working directly in the technical community, the market or in the policy arena. EURO-SSIG presented a good opportunity for EURid to educate participants about .eu.

EISCO conferences have become a major event for politicians and experts working at local and regional levels to discuss e-Government and Information Society strategies, evaluate achievements in reducing the digital divide, exchange experiences and learn from each other. Since June 2005, the guiding theme of EISCO conferences has been the implementation of the Digital Local Agenda, a strategic plan for good governance and the development of the Information Society in Europe's municipalities, cities and regions, striving for e-Inclusion and working to end the digital divide. EURid participated as a speaker in one of the sessions and in the booth to inform local managers about .eu and the added values of promoting local initiatives, programmes and institutions through a .eu domain. A quick review of the TLDs used by local and regional entities still shows a predominance of national TLDs and/or gTLDs.

Finally, it is worth noting that EURid completed its contribution to the review of the WHOIS best practice guidelines of CENTR at the end of July 2008.

.eu "is the best choice to make"

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

Natale Curatolo (left) and Oliver Cacciato, managers of Arkkos, a web solution company with offices in Italy and Belgium
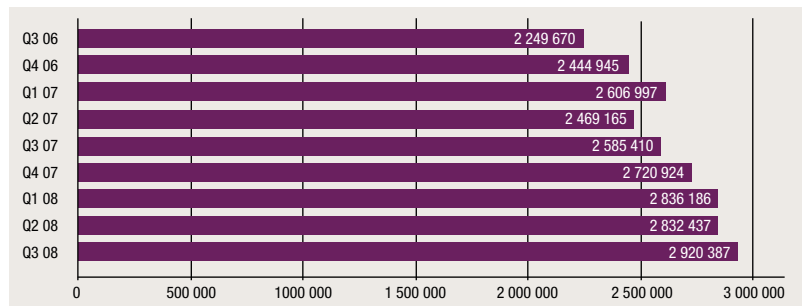
The .eu domain

Over the third quarter of 2008, the number of .eu registrations grew by 87 950 domain names, or 3.1%, to a total of about 2.9 million. The total number of registrations at the end of the third quarter represented an increase of 13%, or 334 976 registrations, when compared to the total number at the end of the third quarter of 2007.

The growth in .eu registrations largely matches the growth in the national ccTLD market in the EU countries for which data is available (all except Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and Malta) from national registry websites. That market also increased by 3.1%
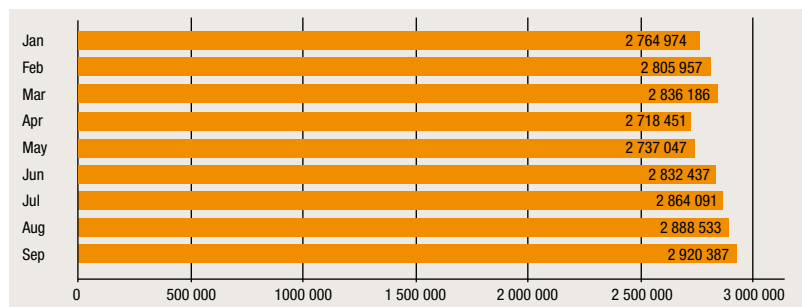
over the third quarter of 2008 when compared to the second quarter. It grew by 16.5% year over year when the third quarter is compared to the third quarter of 2007.

Within the European Union, the markets for new .eu and national domain names are much stronger than the market for new gTLD domain names such as .com, .net, .org, .info and.biz. Statistics from Zooknic show that the number of domain registrations for these gTLDs increased by only 0.1% over the third quarter when compared to the previous quarter and by only 5.1% when compared to the third quarter of 2007.
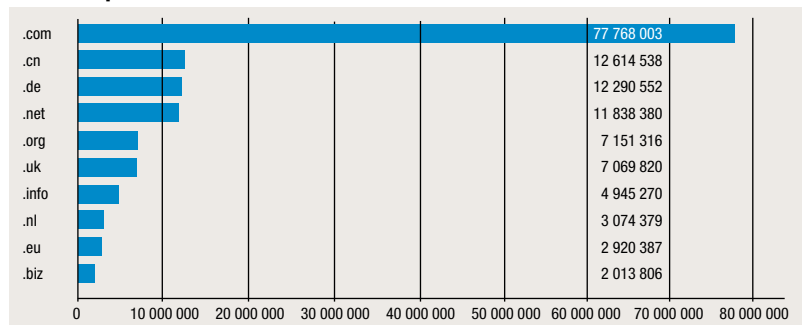
Total .eu domain name registrations by quarter

Quarter	Registrations
Q3 06	2 249 670
Q4 06	2 444 945
Q1 07	2 606 997
Q2 07	2 469 165
Q3 07	2 585 410
Q4 07	2 720 924
Q1 08	2 836 186
Q2 08	2 832 437
Q3 08	2 920 387

Total .eu registrations by month, 2008

Month	Registrations
Jan	2 764 974
Feb	2 805 957
Mar	2 836 186
Apr	2 718 451
May	2 737 047
Jun	2 832 437
Jul	2 864 091
Aug	2 888 533
Sep	2 920 387

World top ten TLDs

TLD	Registrations
.com	77 768 003
.cn	12 614 538
.de	12 290 552
.net	11 838 380
.org	7 151 316
.uk	7 069 820
.info	4 945 270
.nl	3 074 379
.eu	2 920 387
.biz	2 013 806

.eu is the ninth-largest TLD in the world. During the third quarter, China's .cn replaced .de as the second-largest TLD.

New registrations, deletions and renewals

There were 162 061 new .eu registrations during the third quarter of 2008. The number of new registrations per day held stable during the third quarter of this year at roughly the same level of new registrations seen during the third quarter of 2007.

Registrants can, via their registrars, delete domain names they no longer find useful from the .eu registry. A domain name slated for deletion is quarantined for 40 days after the date specified by a 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 becoming deleted by mistake. After that period the deleted name becomes available for general registration. During the third quarter of 2008, there were 76 676 deletions. Compared to 2007, deletions were spread more evenly over the year. Significantly fewer registrations were deleted in April while slightly more registrations were deleted during the other months.
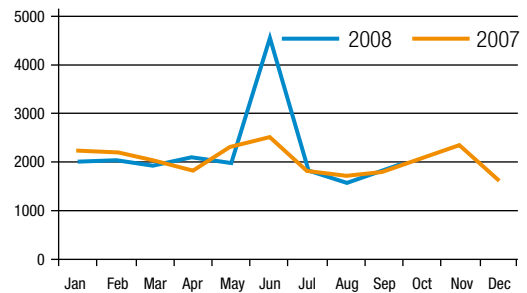
The combination of new registrations and deletions show a net growth of between 900 and 1000 names per day for the third quarter of 2008. The first-year renewal rates for .eu domain name registrations were extremely high in 2007. During the second quarter of 2008, first-year renewal rates dropped below the rates seen last year as they moved closer to the industry norm and then rose again during the third quarter of this year.

First-year renewal rates by percentage

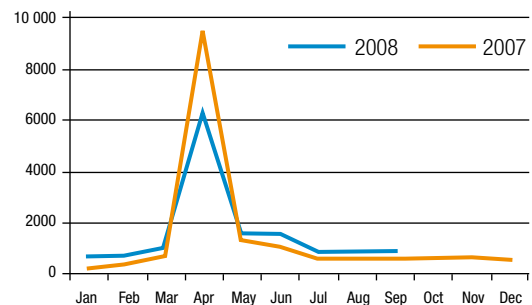| Month	2008	2007
January	79.6	N/A
February	76.9	N/A
March	77.8	N/A
April	75.7	83.1
May	70.1	82.5
June	71.2	87.2
July	75.2	81.8
August	73.7	80.2
September	74.4	81.0

New .eu registrations per day

A successful promotion campaign earlier in the year resulted in an especially large number of registrations in June.
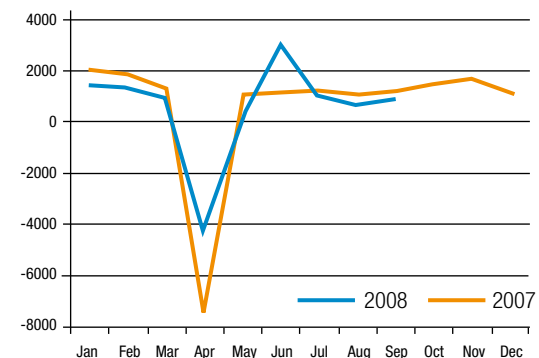

Deletions per day

The high number of deletions in April was due to the large number of domain names that come up for renewal every April, the month the .eu domain was originally launched. During 2008, the April effect was significantly smaller than it was in 2007.

Net growth per day

Now that .eu is an established top-level domain and more mature, deletions have become more common outside of April and are spread throughout the year while the number of new registrations remains strong.

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 the third quarter, 13 507 registrations out of a total of about 2.9 million were traded. This means that about one registration in 210 was traded, somewhat fewer than the total during the same quarter of 2007 when about one in 170 registrations were traded.

When a domain name holder wants to change the registrar he or she uses, this is known as a domain name transfer. Transfers can be carried out at any time. A transfer is initiated by a registrant's new registrar and must be confirmed by the registrant before it is processed. A current registrar cannot stop a registrant from choosing to use another registrar. During the third quarter of 2008, about one registration in 240 was transferred for a total of

11 782 transfers. During the same quarter last year, about one in 220 was transferred.

Completed trades and transfers

Month	Trades		Transfers	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
January	4 941	6 553	4 313	3 564
February	8 202	8 656	4 609	5 278
March	17 004	15 935	10 190	36 458
April	55 764	25 869	10 863	69 060
May	20 057	6 481	4 968	12 895
June	9 097	12 957	4 474	4 230
July	5 451	5 034	3 944	3 448
August	3 625	6 010	3 714	3 667
September	4 431	4 177	4 124	4 428

DNS queries per minute

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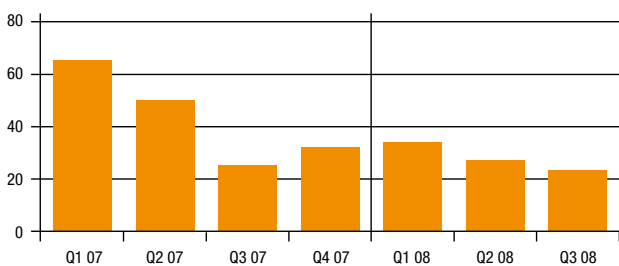
Domain name disputes

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. Additional information about the .eu dispute process is available on the official website of the court at www.adr.eu.

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

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

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

Domain name disputes filed by quarter

A total of 23 alternative dispute resolution cases were filed during the third quarter of 2008, compared to 27 during the second quarter of 2008 and 25 during the third quarter of 2007. The number of ADRs seems to have stabilised at about 25 per quarter. Of the 18 ADR decisions published by the Czech Arbitration Court during the third quarter, the vast majority (16 or 89%) were in favour of the complainant and issued, on average, 119 days after the case was filed.

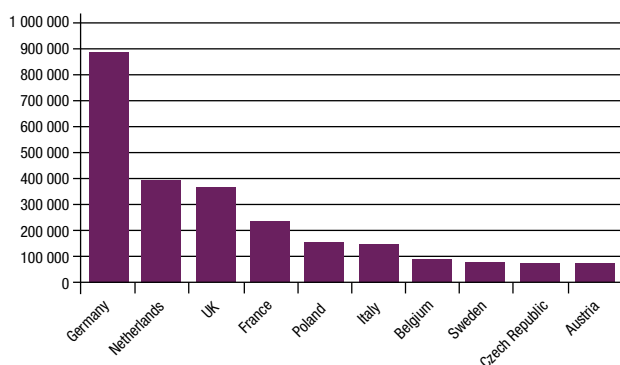"Although we are originally a Japanese company, Ricoh is proud to be part of Europe."

"Although we are originally a Japanese company, Ricoh is proud to be part of Europe. To be a leading company it is extremely important to promote strongly the European domain and build together a successful European story."

Michel De Bosschere, CEO of Ricoh

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

By the end of the third quarter, the Czech Republic had surpassed Austria in total number of .eu domain name registrations.

Total number of .eu domain names by country of registrant, third quarter 2008

Country	Number of names
Aaland Islands	223
Austria	70 841
Belgium	93 407
Bulgaria	8 018
Cyprus	52 746
Czech Republic	72 500
Denmark	43 359
Estonia	7 724
Finland	14 008
France	230 965
French Guiana	18
Germany	893 025
Gibraltar	4 498
Greece	23 569
Guadeloupe	163
Hungary	25 929
Ireland	58 542
Italy	154 034
Latvia	7 082
Lithuania	8 503
Luxembourg	24 776
Malta	4 568
Martinique	79
Netherlands	397 366
Poland	159 671
Portugal	11 173
Reunion Islands	275
Romania	18 672
Slovakia	16 605
Slovenia	5 635
Spain	65 641
Sweden	78 071
United Kingdom	368 702

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

Popularity of .eu in comparison to ccTLD registrations (see maps on the next page)

Country	.eu /1000	ccTLD/1000
Cyprus	66.4	N/A
Luxembourg	51.2	85.2
Netherlands	24.2	187.4
Ireland	13.2	25.1
Malta	11.1	N/A
Germany	10.9	149.5
Belgium	8.8	78.0
Austria	8.5	93.0
Sweden	8.5	83.9
Denmark	7.9	172.9
Czech Republic	7.0	45.4
United Kingdom	6.0	115.4
EU	5.9	66.4
Estonia	5.8	44.7
Poland	4.2	31.4
France	3.7	19.4
Latvia	3.1	27.5
Slovakia	3.1	30.6
Slovenia	2.8	28.8
Finland	2.6	35.7
Italy	2.6	26.5
Hungary	2.6	39.8
Lithuania	2.5	26.2
Greece	2.1	N/A
Spain	1.4	23.3
Portugal	1.1	22.3
Bulgaria	1.0	N/A
Romania	0.9	15.0

The figures above show the number of domain names per 1000 inhabitants at the end of the third quarter of 2008 based on population data from Eurostat and ccTLD information from national registries. Comparing .eu registrations to population size shows that there are about six .eu registrations per 1000 inhabitants within the European Union as a whole. Countries that have a small population, such as Cyprus, Malta and Luxembourg, result in some anomalies in the data. Still, the overall comparison is a useful guide to .eu popularity.
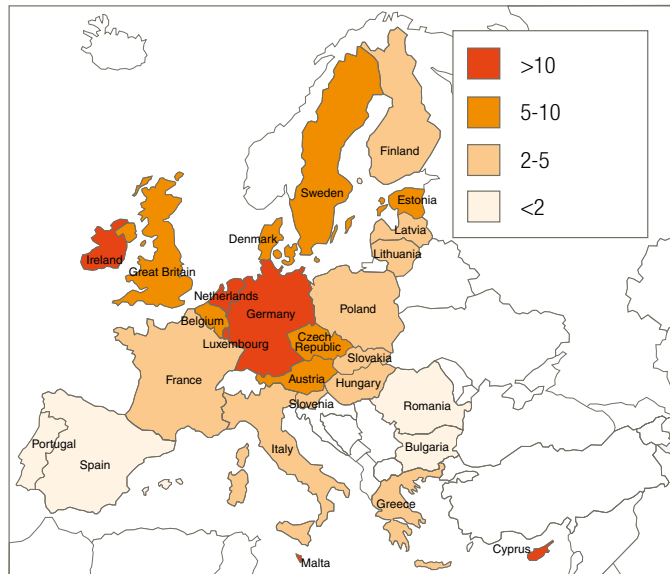
Growth by country, quarter over quarter and year over year

Country	Q3 vs Q2 2008	Q3 2008 vs Q3 2007
Austria	3.0%	12.3%
Belgium	3.1%	18.4%
Bulgaria	11.8%	86.4%
Cyprus	0.8%	-41.5%
Czech Republic	5.7%	34.0%
Denmark	3.5%	7.5%
Estonia	4.0%	39.4%
Finland	2.4%	15.6%
France	4.0%	30.1%
Germany	2.4%	8.1%
Greece	3.5%	24.8%
Hungary	6.2%	27.5%
Ireland	1.2%	117.0%
Italy	4.7%	21.0%
Latvia	-0.9%	-0.7%
Lithuania	7.9%	76.5%
Luxembourg	1.8%	61.6%
Malta	-1.2%	-74.7%
Netherlands	3.1%	14.9%
Poland	8.4%	76.3%
Portugal	2.1%	5.9%
Romania	8.8%	55.4%
Slovakia	7.4%	43.9%
Slovenia	7.7%	37.8%
Spain	3.6%	16.6%
Sweden	3.5%	-15.9%
UK	0.8%	0.4%

By the end of the third quarter of 2008, the number of .eu domain name registrations had increased in 25 countries and decreased in two (Malta and Latvia). The countries with the fastest relative growth over the third quarter were Bulgaria (11.8%), Romania (8.8%) and Poland (8.4%). The year-over-year shifts in Ireland and Sweden came as the result of trades rather than new registrations.
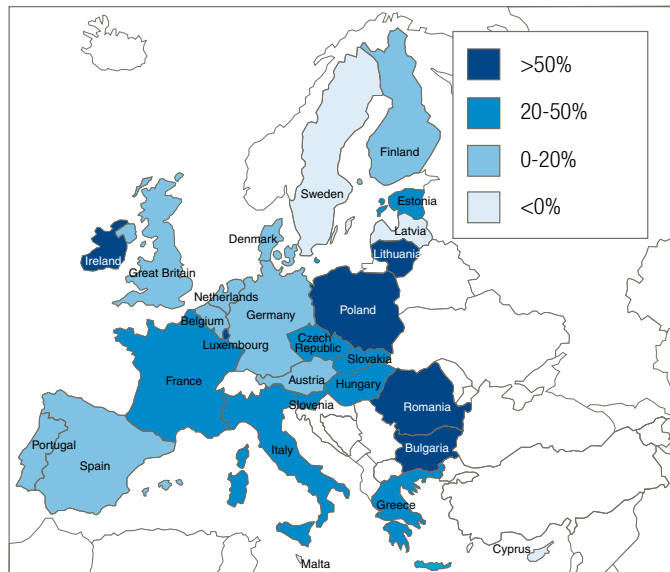
.eu domain names per 1000 inhabitants, third quarter 2008

The number of registrations per 1000 inhabitants varies from a high of 24 in the Netherlands to one 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.
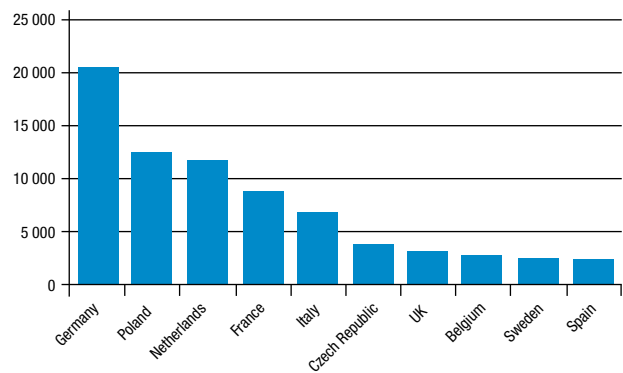

Growth by country, third quarter 2008 compared to third quarter 2007

The countries with the fastest relative growth year over year included Bulgaria (86.4%), Lithuania (76.5%) and Poland (76.3%). The drop in Swedish registrations came as the result of trades.

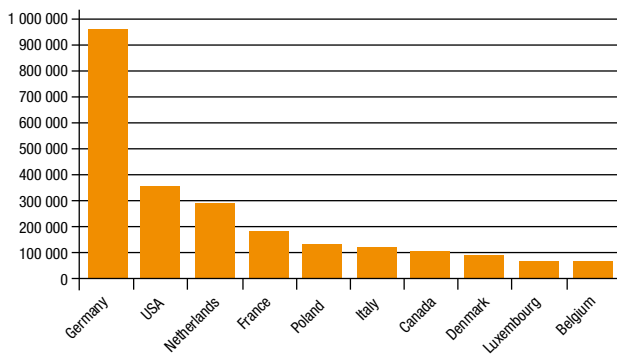## Top ten countries by net growth of .eu registrations, third quarter 2008

In absolute terms, the largest net growth of registrations occurred in Germany, with 20 605 new registrations; Poland, with 12 427; and the Netherlands, with 11 798 when third quarter registrations are compared to those from the second quarter.
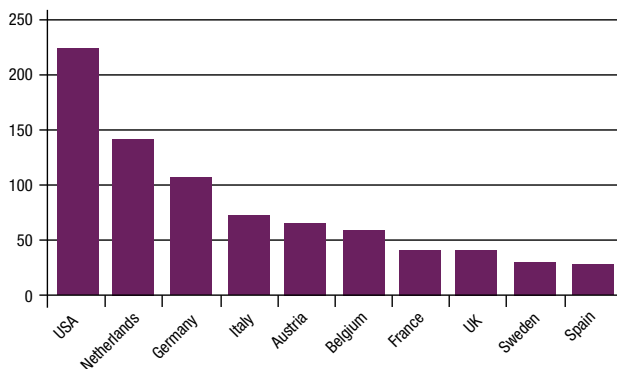
The registrars

In contrast to .eu registrants, .eu registrars can be located anywhere. Categorizing registrations by country of registrar shows many similarities with the categorization by country of registrant. Germany, the Netherlands, France, Poland, Italy and Belgium are all among the top ten countries in registrations both by country of registrar and by country of registrant. A notable difference is that the USA and Canada are among the top ten countries in registrations by country of registrar even though registrations by residents of those countries are not allowed. In the third quarter of 2008, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 84% of all .eu registrations. There was no change in the list compared to the previous quarter.

**Top ten countries based on registrations
by country of registrar**
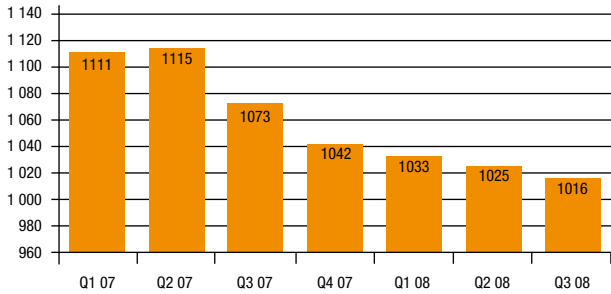

Top ten countries by number of .eu registrars

.eu registrations by country of registrar

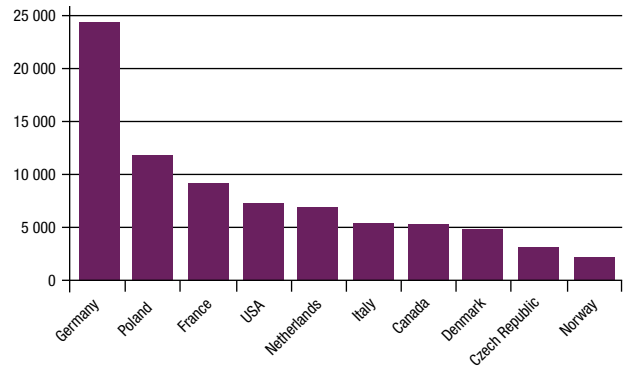| Country	Names managed	Number of registrars
Australia	57 529	15
Austria	33 058	65
Barbados	787	1
Belgium	71 270	59
Bulgaria	39	1
Canada	107 159	23
Cayman Islands	2 188	2
China	7 757	4
Cyprus	462	1
Czech Republic	61 128	13
Denmark	99 468	18
Estonia	5 120	1
Finland	3 689	6
France	192 744	41
Germany	983 883	106
Gibraltar	780	1
Greece	19 047	18
Hungary	17 038	17
Ireland	7 207	6
Israel	1 192	3
Italy	125 800	72
Japan	207	2
Korea	1 107	3
Latvia	3 968	4
Lichtenstein	295	1
Lithuania	6 468	4
Luxembourg	72 080	10
Malaysia	184	1
Malta	69	1
Monaco	8 251	1
Netherlands	301 571	142
New Zealand	0	1
Norway	32 326	5
Poland	144 514	12
Portugal	1 432	6
Romania	14 277	9
Singapore	1 021	1
Slovakia	9 534	12
Slovenia	658	2
Spain	34 692	28
Sweden	44 168	30
Switzerland	12 235	3
Taiwan	232	1
UK	69 913	41
USA	363 841	223

An accredited .eu registrar managed, on average, 2 875 .eu domain names at the end of the third quarter, compared to 2 763 in the second quarter. Registrars in Poland and Germany managed the largest number with an average of 12 043 and 9 282 domain names, respectively, under their management.

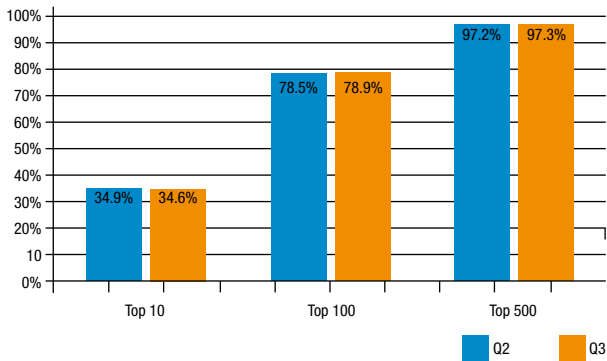## Total number of accredited .eu registrars by quarter

At the end of the third quarter of 2008, there were a total of 1 016 accredited .eu registrars, nine fewer than in the previous quarter. The number of registrars has decreased somewhat over the last five quarters. That is primarily the result of mergers and acquisitions within the domain name industry but also the result of 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 almost 80% of all registrations, which means that many registrars are small. Compared to the previous quarter, the market share of the top ten registrars has decreased somewhat while the market share of the top 100 has increased somewhat.
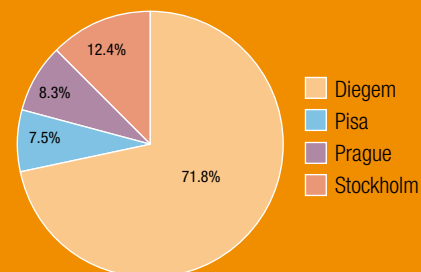
Top ten countries by net growth of registrations based on country of registrar, Q3-2008 vs. Q2-2008

Human resources

Headcount per office, third quarter 2008

Office	Headcount	FTE*
Diegem	41	38.3
Pisa	5	4.0
Prague	6	4.4
Stockholm	7	6.6
Total	59	53.3

* Full-time equivalents

Percentage of FTEs by office

- Diegem
- Pisa
- Prague
- Stockholm

12.4%
8.3%
7.5%
71.8%

The management team

Marc Van Wesemael, General Manager

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

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 2002.

Els Verstappen, Human Resources Manager

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

Patrik Lindén, Communications Manager

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

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.

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.

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.

Enrico Gregori, Director of the Board
Enrico Gregori was a member of the team that developed the first Italian Internet node in 1985. Formerly the Director of the Institute for Informatics and Telematics and the Director of the Italian top-level domain, .it, he is now a professor and member of the steering committee of the master in Internet Technologies programme of the University of Pisa. Mr Gregori is also co-author of the book *Metropolitan Area Networks* (Springer, London 1997) and a member of the editorial boards of the *Computer Networks, Cluster Computing* and *Wireless Network* journals.

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

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

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

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