

Internationalized Domain Names in Europe

A contribution to the exchange of
information and know how in multiple
languages

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CENTR

- **Council of European National Top-level domain Registries**
- Established in 1998
- 41 full members (ccTLDs) Europe + +
- 8 associate members 3 cc and 5 gTLDs
- Observers: RIPE, RIPE NCC, LACTLD, APTLD, ICANN, EC, AFTLD



Membership

- 41 full members
 - Europe & beyond
 - 23/25 ccTLDs of the EU
 - More than 25m domain names registered
- 8 associate members
 - 3 cc & 5 gTLDs (.com, .org, .net, .info..)
- 7 observers:
 - RIPE, RIPE NCC, ICANN, European Commission, LACTLD, APTLD & AFTLD



CENTR Mission

- To support activities in areas of technology and naming policies that may benefit the Local Internet Communities of member registries
- To promote the advancement of knowledge and information for its members.
- To liaise with the global ccTLD community and encourage information exchange
- To promote common positions of member registries *where there is consensus*



CENTR Activities

- Facilitate WGs & projects amongst member registries
- WGs: Legal, Technical & Administrative
- Attend and report on meetings and conferences relevant to members
- Alert members to relevant developments and news
- Draft high quality information papers on registry issues
- Conduct surveys and gather information on registry practices



Why supporting local languages?

- **Great desire to communicate in mother tongue**
- Supports regional (local) communities who are enabled to talk in own languages
- Helps to bridge the digital divide
- Enables and supports emerging economies
- Contribution to capacity building



- information society =
knowledgeable society



Information Culture

- An “information culture” is a society where people are empowered through access to information to take control of their own lives, e.g. for education, health and social participation
- Promoting **information literacy**, through capacity building



WSIS commitments (1)

- From: **WSIS : Action Plan (Document WSIS-03/GENEVA/DOC/5-E), C9: Media, para. 24**

Cultural and linguistic diversity, while stimulating respect for cultural identity, traditions and religions, is essential to the development of an Information Society based on the dialogue among cultures and regional and international cooperation. It is an important factor for sustainable development.



WSIS commitments (2)

- **UNESCO: Information For All Programme (IFAP);** since 2000, 26 member states
- **Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace**
- Promoting information literacy for all people
- Empowering people for access to knowledge and information



Achievements

- Cultural and linguistic diversity – access to information (and the ability to create information in one's own language) helps societies retain and strengthen their cultures, including languages
- Information empowers people to take greater responsibility for their own education, health and social participation



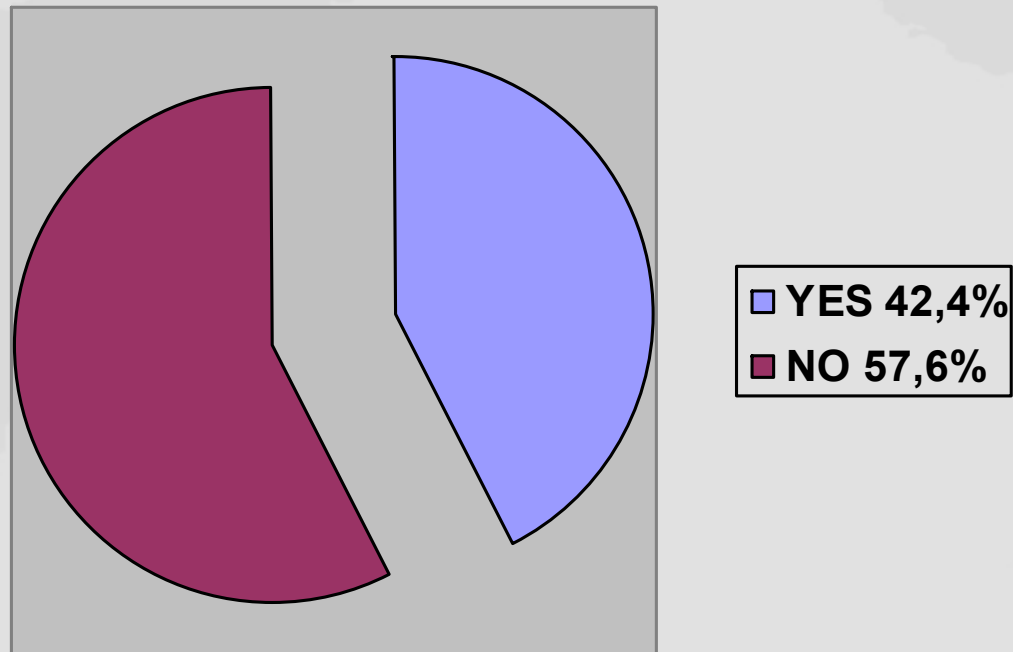
CENTR IDN Statistics

- **22% of CENTR FMs do not use Latin script (.af, .am, .bu, .cy, .gr, .ir, .il, .ps, .ru)**
- **42% of CENTR ccTLD member register iDNs**
 - **most to permit 'extended Latin' (eg: ũ, , ø, å)**
 - **3 registries provide non-Latin character sets**
 - **Averaging 3% of all registrations in European registries**
 - **Average 4% including figures for non-European members**



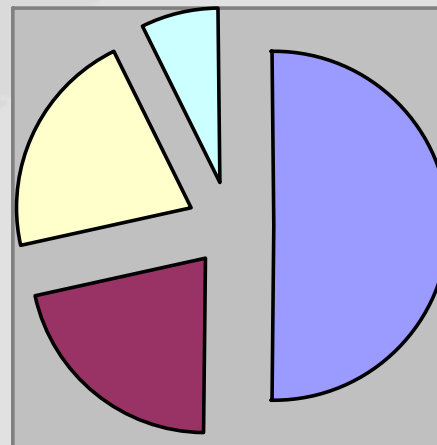
CENTR IDN statistics

Member ccTLD registries already offering IDN registrations



CENTR IDN statistics

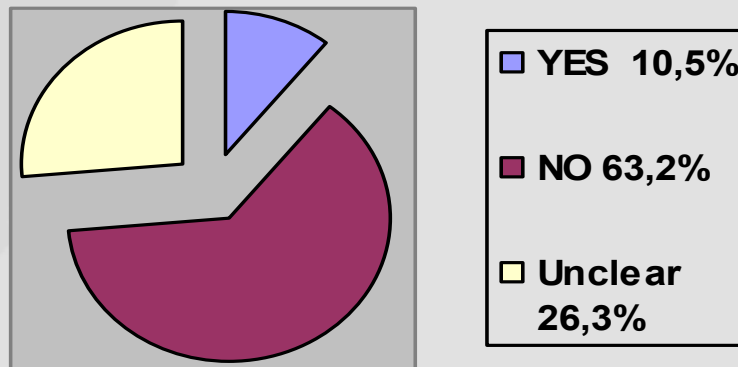
Methods of introducing iDN registrations



- Landrush
50%
- Sunrise
21,5%
- Both 21,5%
- Other 7%

CENTR IDN statistics

Of those that have not implemented iDNs,
likelihood of introducing iDN registrations within the
next 12 months



CENTR registry concerns

- **Existing registrations in ASCII equivalent**
 - (cafe -vs- café)
- **IP issues – ‘sunrise’ or ‘landrush’**
- **Which characters to introduce**
 - large populations speaking non-European languages
 - Office support for new languages
 - ADR for new languages
- **Browser & email client support**



Thank you

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