

EURID'S QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Second Quarter 2010



EURid

The European Registry of Internet Domain Names

www.eurid.eu



View from Stockholm
Photo: iStockphoto



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Update

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

.eu turns four

In April, EURid celebrated the fourth anniversary of .eu by hosting a seminar presenting facts and statistics at InfEuropa on Rond-Point Schuman in Brussels. The impact of the economic downturn on the growth of the European web domain was also discussed.

EURid congratulates .eu marketing competition winners

The winners of the 2009 .eu marketing competition were announced by EURid in April. Badr Bakhat, Tristan Goguilot, Benjamin Neu and Benjamin Petremont, students at the Paris-based school of management ESCP Europe, showed the .eu registry original and innovative ways to raise awareness of the .eu top-level domain. For their efforts they received a gift voucher for air travel within Europe.

.eu SMEs share their success stories

The European Parliament hosted a dinner on 2 June in Brussels, where five SMEs explained how the .eu domain has helped them develop their image and create new business opportunities. Dinner host Malcolm Harbour, MEP and Chairman of the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament, discussed the importance of European SMEs being online and using the .eu domain.

Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for the Digital Agenda was also present and highlighted the relevance of the .eu domain in the European business environment.

.eu enables DNSSEC

On 9 June, DNSSEC (Domain Name System Security Extensions) was implemented, while maintaining almost immediate availability of newly registered domain names. The .eu zone was signed on 15 June 2010. As soon as the root zone is fully DNSSEC-compliant, the chain of trust will be complete.

ICANN Meeting No 38 in Brussels

ICANN Meeting No 38, hosted by EURid, took place the week of 21 June. The President of the European Council, CEO of ICANN and other European dignitaries spoke at the Opening Ceremony. The meeting was held at the SQUARE Brussels Meeting Centre, right in the heart of the city, and was well attended. Topics discussed included Internet security and the introduction of new TLDs.

EURid launches .eu Insights

In June, EURid published two new studies under the title '.eu Insights'. These reports take a look at particular aspects of the domain-name environment. The first issues examine:

- How websites have been categorised in certain top-level domains, including .com, .net, .org, .info, .biz, .mobi, .pro and .eu.
- How a top-level domain's brand image and its registry's customer service levels influence the popularity of that top-level domain amongst customers.

EURid produced the reports in cooperation with industry experts and sector leaders. Each report offers a unique perspective on the domain-name industry.

From the General Manager

The second quarter of 2010 has been quite busy for EURid. We continued building on our DNSSEC (Domain Name System Security Extensions) work from the first quarter, and implemented the protocol seamlessly in June.

Although we usually experience negative growth in the second quarter because of the high number of names registered during the landrush that are up for renewal, this year the renewal rate in Q2 was 85.2%, compared with an average rate of 79%, lessening the impact of the landrush renewals. In fact, the year over year growth rate is of 10%.

The quarter closed on a high note, with the 38th ICANN meeting in Brussels. Three times a year, various Internet stakeholders meet to discuss domain name related matters, and it was EURid's pleasure to host this international event which was attended by nearly 2 000 Internet professionals.

In Q2, we launched .eu Insights, a new series of in-depth reports that aim to analyse specific aspects of the domain-name environment. The reports are based on surveys, studies and research conducted by EURid in cooperation with industry experts and sector leaders. For the first time in the domain name industry, an in-depth study covering the major gTLDs was undertaken to investigate the use of domain names in relation to website content. The results are published in the report "What's in a domain-name extension?" The study shows that domain names under gTLDs resolve to: 30% business sites, 30% pay-per-click sites, 20% holding pages, and that 20% are domain names without a (working) website. The report also finds that .eu websites are more likely to point to a business website than the other extensions investigated (36% for .eu, 32% for .biz, 31% for .com and 30% for .net).

The report "How top-level domain customer service and brand influence customer buying behaviour" examines how the interplay of brand strength, customer service and registration policy of major TLDs influences customer buying behaviour, and indicates that .eu is building a solid brand through excellence in customer service.

"The renewal rate in Q2 was 85.2%, compared with an average rate of 79%."



Marc Van Wesemael

About EURid and .eu

EURid is the not-for-profit organisation appointed by the European Commission to operate the .eu top-level Internet domain. The first initiative to establish .eu as a European top-level domain (TLD) was taken in 1999 by the European Council. Subsequently, EURid was appointed in May 2003 as the operator of the .eu registry. The actual service contract was signed in October 2004. The .eu TLD was added to the root zone of the Internet Domain Name System in May 2005. Technically speaking, .eu has been in existence since then.

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

The three organisations operating the national registries for Belgium, Italy and Sweden founded EURid in April 2003. Later, the organisations operating the TLDs for the Czech Republic and Slovenia also became members. The European Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC) joined EURid in 2006, followed by the BusinessEurope organisation in 2007.

EURid's head office, which is also the regional office for Western Europe, is located just outside Brussels in Diegem, Belgium. There are three other regional offices located in Pisa, Italy; Prague, the Czech Republic; and Stockholm, Sweden. Each office provides support for registrars and the general public in languages local to its region.

The total number of registrations at the end of Q2 represented an increase of 10.0%, or 292 215 registrations, when compared with the total number at the end of Q2 2009.

International

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

- 20th CENTR Administrative workshop, Dublin, Ireland, 2 June 2010
- 42nd CENTR General Assembly, Dublin, Ireland, 3 - 4 June 2010
- 38th ICANN meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 20 - 25 June 2010.

During the ICANN meeting, Marc Van Wesemael chaired the DNS Abuse Forum on 24 June, while Peter Janssen gave a presentation on DNSSEC at the DNSSEC workshop on 23 June.

EURid is participating in the Country Codes Names Supporting Organisation Internationalised Domain Names Policy Development Process (ccNSO IDN PDP) working group, which started its work at the ICANN Brussels meeting.

As chair of the CENTR-IGF working group, EURid participated in a breakfast meeting that took place on 24 June to further refine the content of the upcoming workshop which focuses on security issues around the DNS architecture (to be held in Vilnius, in September 2010).

EURid held its annual registrar meeting on 20 June.

German residents have by far the most .eu domain name registrations, followed by residents of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The .eu domain

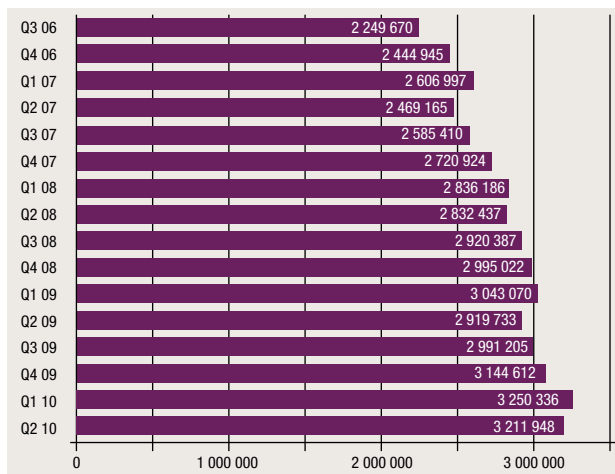
The total number of registrations at the end of Q2 represented an increase of 10.0%, or 292 215 registrations, when compared with the total number at the end of Q2 2009. During Q2 2010, the number of .eu registrations decreased by 38 957 domain names, or -1.2%, to 3.21 million. The decrease in the number of registrations in April each year is due to the large number of registrations up for renewal at each anniversary of the .eu launch.

During Q2 2010, 20 250 domains out of 3.21 million were traded. This means that about one domain out of 160 was traded; a decrease from Q2 2009 when one out of 100 was traded. In addition, there were a total of 874 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 84.6% of all .eu registrations.

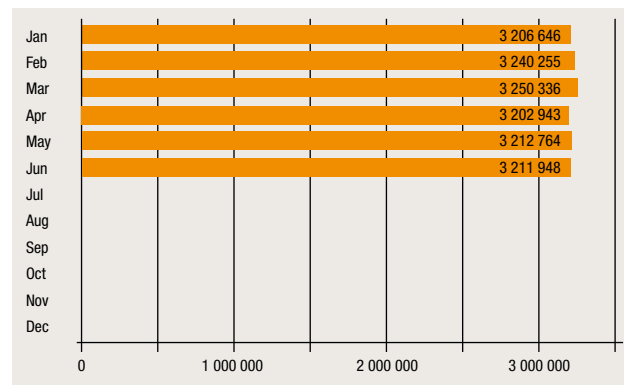
During the second quarter, the total number of .eu registrations increased in nine of the 27 EU Member States. Malta, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bulgaria all saw growth of more than 3%.

The national ccTLD market in EU countries^[1] increased by 1.1% during Q2 2010, and grew by 10.8% from Q2 2009. During Q2, .eu maintained its position as the ninth-largest TLD in the world. .cn is now only the sixth largest TLD due to a price increase. Within the European Union, the market for gTLD domain names such as .com, .net, .org, .info and .biz grew by 3.4% during Q2 2010 and by 16.3% from Q2 2009 according to statistics from Zooknic.

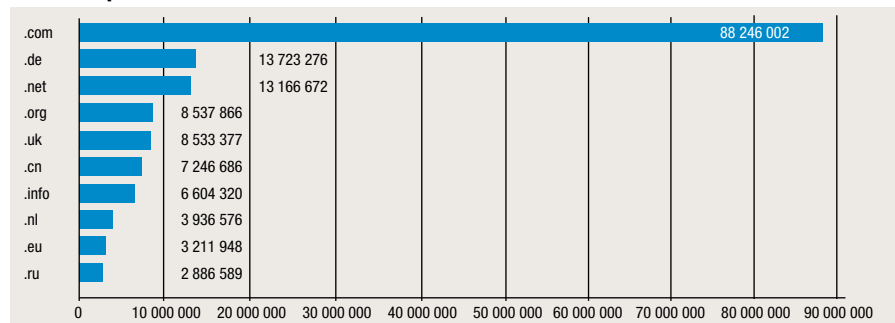
Total .eu domain name registrations by quarter



Total .eu registrations by month, 2010



World top ten TLDs



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

New registrations, deletions and renewals

There were 188 324 new .eu registrations in Q2 2010. The number of new registrations per month was slightly higher than during the same months of 2009.

The number of IDNs in the .eu portfolio was 65 109, representing 2.03% of the total portfolio at the end of June 2010. Registrants can delete domain names they no longer find useful from the .eu registry through their registrars. During Q2 2010, there were 237 284 deletions. A domain name headed for deletion is quarantined for 40 days after the date specified in the deletion request. It can be reactivated during that period only at the request of the former registrant. The quarantine period is a safeguard to prevent domain names from being deleted by mistake. The deleted name becomes available for general registration after the quarantine period.

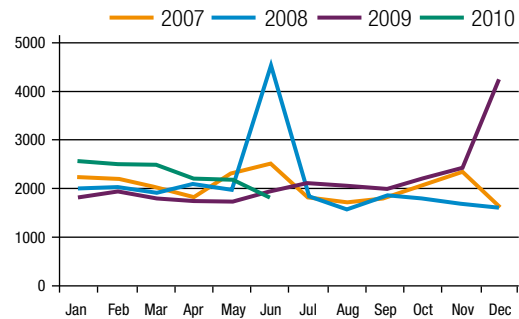
When combined, the new registrations and deletions for Q2 showed a net decrease of about 500 names per day. Renewal rates remained strong in Q2, at an average of 85%, somewhat higher than the industry average.

Renewal rates by percentage

Month	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	77%	78%	79%	100%
February	79%	78%	80%	100%
March	81%	79%	83%	99%
April	87%	84%	84%	81%
May	83%	80%	81%	82%
June	79%	69%	80%	86%
July		80%	82%	84%
August		81%	82%	80%
September		79%	82%	83%
October		78%	82%	82%
November		79%	79%	83%
December		79%	80%	84%

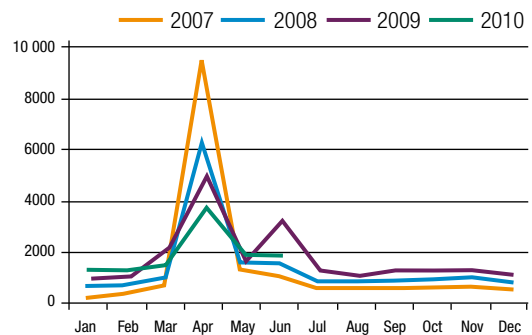
Renewal rates remained strong in Q2, at an average of 85%, somewhat higher than the industry average.

New .eu registrations per day



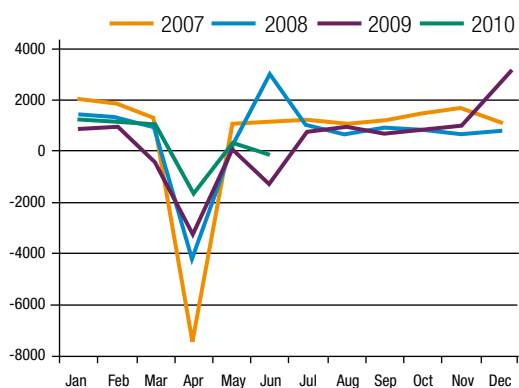
The registration levels for .eu remained competitive.

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



Q2 saw a decrease of about 500 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 Q2 2010, 20 250 domains out of 3.21 million were traded. This means that about one domain out of 160 was traded; a decrease from Q2 2009, when one in 100 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 Q2 2010, about one domain out of 190 was transferred, for a total of 17 116 transfers. During the same quarter last year, about one out of 150 was transferred.

.eu in use

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

Completed trades and transfers

Trades				
Month	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	6 541	5 443	4 941	6 553
February	5 669	6 119	8 202	8 656
March	8 512	10 033	17 004	15 935
April	7 624	17 925	55 764	25 869
May	6 600	6 016	20 057	6 481
June	6 026	5 875	9 097	12 957
July		5 355	5 451	5 034
August		5 195	3 625	6 010
September		5 650	4 431	4 177
October		6 389	6 274	5 344
November		4 865	4 246	5 746
December		4 900	6 118	4 419

Transfers				
Month	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	3 951	4 602	4 313	3 564
February	5 097	5 311	4 609	5 278
March	7 518	7 982	10 190	36 458
April	6 345	12 582	10 863	69 060
May	6 288	4 606	4 968	12 895
June	4 483	4 869	4 474	4 230
July		3 575	3 944	3 448
August		2 952	3 714	3 667
September		3 509	4 124	4 428
October		4 102	4 132	3 729
November		3 602	4 018	3 382
December		3 419	5 122	3 578

DNS queries per minute



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

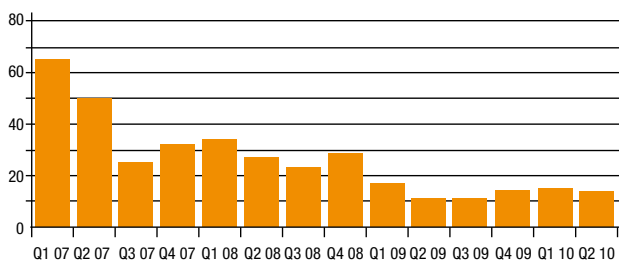
The number of DNS queries has grown steadily since the launch of .eu.

Domain name disputes

To protect intellectual property rights an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) policy was established for .eu domain name disputes. This policy is described in more detail in EC Regulation 874/2004. The dispute resolution procedure is administered by the Czech Arbitration Court, an independent body offering its services in all EU languages.

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

Domain name disputes filed by quarter

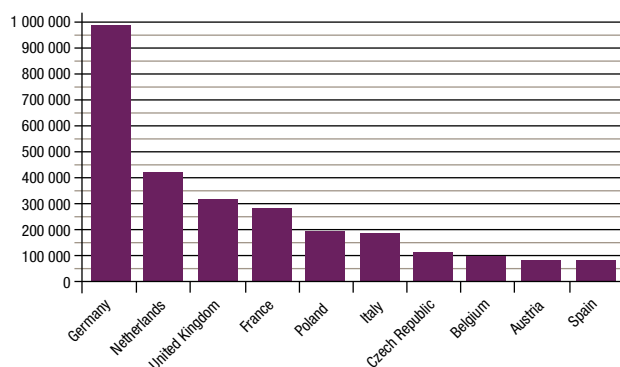


A total of 14 alternative dispute resolution cases were filed during Q2 2010, compared with 15 during Q1 2010 and 11 during Q2 2009. The Czech Arbitration Court published 15 ADR decisions during Q2, nine of which were in favour of the complainant.

The registrants

The countries in the top ten list account for 86.2% of all .eu registrations. German residents have by far the most .eu domain name registrations, followed by residents of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Top ten countries with most .eu registrations



Total number of .eu domain names by country of registrant, Q2 2010

Country	Total names
Aaland Islands	216
Austria	83 048
Belgium	99 283
Bulgaria	13 381
Cyprus	52 501
Czech Republic	116 353
Denmark	36 878
Estonia	10 263
Finland	14 671
France	280 850
French Guiana	30
Germany	988 914
Gibraltar	3 802
Greece	30 668
Guadeloupe	229
Hungary	35 126
Ireland	50 728
Italy	187 757
Latvia	6 019
Lithuania	13 105
Luxembourg	26 169
Malta	6 560
Martinique	280
Netherlands	422 336
Poland	194 964
Portugal	12 758
Reunion	296
Romania	20 596
Slovakia	24 577
Slovenia	7 660
Spain	79 329
Sweden	73 594
United Kingdom	316 961

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

Popularity of .eu in comparison to ccTLD registrations

Country	.eu/1000	ccTLD/1000
Cyprus	65.5	N/A
Luxembourg	52.1	105.7
Netherlands	25.5	237.5
Malta	15.8	N/A
Germany	12.1	167.9
Ireland	11.4	33.0
Czech Republic	11.1	66.0
Austria	9.9	112.2
Belgium	9.2	96.5
Sweden	7.9	103.6
Estonia	7.7	58.2
Denmark	6.6	192.8
EU	6.4	79.7
United Kingdom	5.1	137.5
Poland	5.1	48.7
Slovakia	4.5	40.6
France	4.3	27.2
Lithuania	3.9	34.7
Slovenia	3.7	39.5
Hungary	3.5	49.5
Italy	3.1	32.0
Finland	2.7	45.3
Greece	2.7	N/A
Latvia	2.7	35.6
Bulgaria	1.8	N/A
Spain	1.7	26.0
Portugal	1.2	30.4
Romania	1.0	21.7

The figures above show the number of domain names per 1 000 inhabitants at the end of Q2 2010. They are based on population data from Eurostat and ccTLD information from national registries.

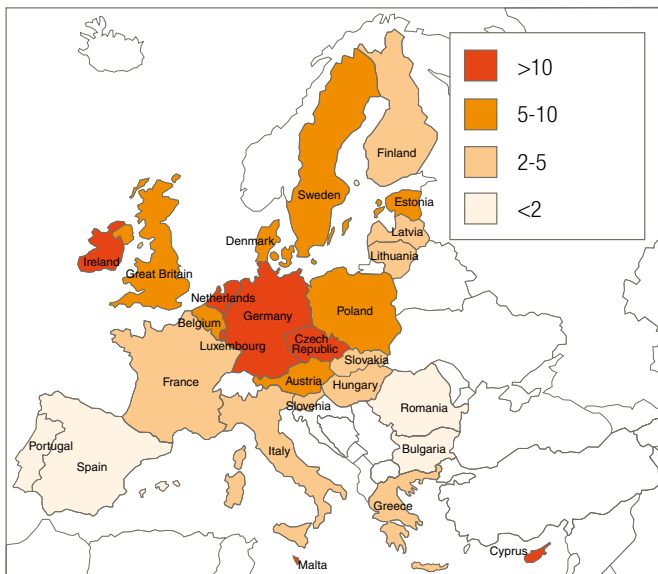
Growth by country, quarter over quarter and year over year

Country	Q2 2010 vs Q1 2010	Q2 2010 vs Q2 2009
Austria	-0.8%	11.1%
Belgium	-0.2%	11.9%
Bulgaria	3.0%	35.3%
Cyprus	-0.4%	-0.5%
Czech Republic	4.7%	40.0%
Denmark	-5.0%	-3.0%
Estonia	1.4%	33.0%
Finland	-2.9%	-2.0%
France	-1.9%	12.3%
Germany	-0.6%	8.5%
Greece	-1.8%	23.3%
Hungary	1.7%	23.3%
Ireland	-1.1%	1.4%
Italy	-0.2%	15.4%
Latvia	-4.0%	3.7%
Lithuania	2.8%	47.1%
Luxembourg	-3.1%	-3.1%
Malta	31.3%	96.8%
Netherlands	-3.4%	3.2%
Poland	2.0%	22.7%
Portugal	0.0%	15.1%
Romania	-0.7%	5.3%
Slovakia	3.7%	33.2%
Slovenia	1.9%	19.1%
Spain	-2.1%	16.7%
Sweden	-9.0%	-0.2%
United Kingdom	-3.2%	6.6%

By the end of Q2 2010, .eu domain name registrations had increased in nine EU countries. As shown above, the .eu domain became especially popular in Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria over the past year.

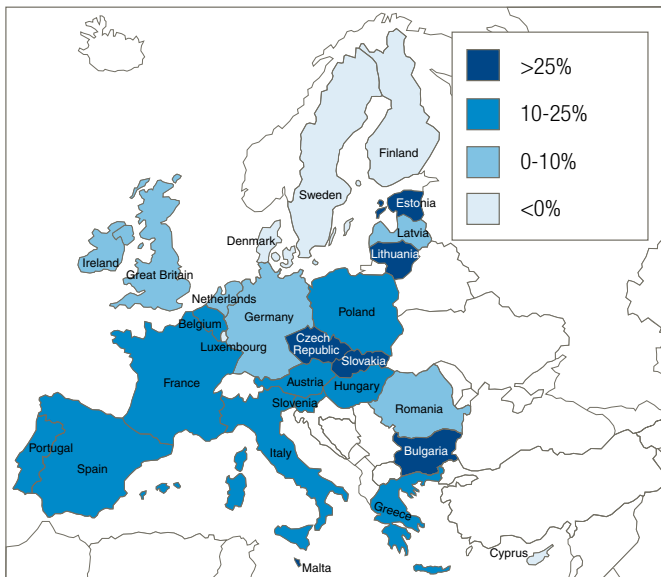
.eu domain names per 1000 inhabitants, Q2 2010

The number of .eu registrations per 1 000 inhabitants varies from a high of 52 in Luxembourg to 25 in the Netherlands and around 1 in Portugal and Romania. In general, countries with a large number of ccTLDs per inhabitant also have a large number of .eu registrations per inhabitant.



Growth by country, Q2 2010 compared to Q2 2009

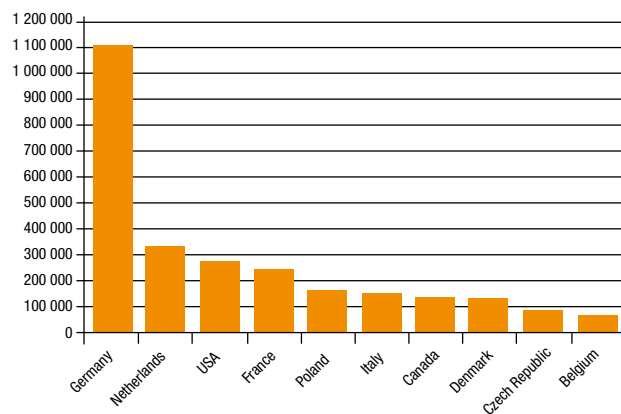
The countries with the fastest relative growth year over year were Lithuania (47.1%), the Czech Republic (40%) and Bulgaria (35.3%).



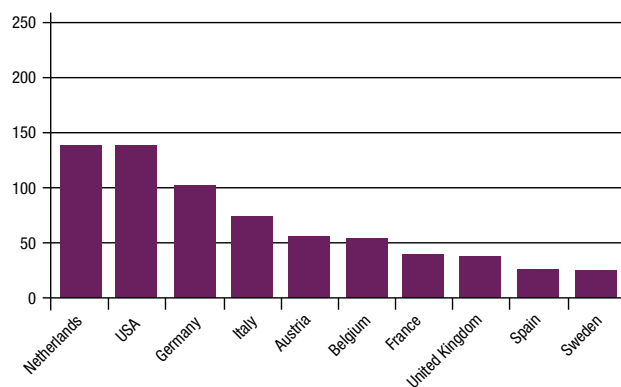
The registrars

.eu registrars can be located outside the European Union. Categorising registrations by country of registrar shows many similarities with the categorisation by country of registrant (see previous table, Top ten countries with most .eu registrations). The only difference is that the USA, Canada and Denmark are on the top ten list based on country of registrar but not on the top ten list based on country of registrant, while the opposite holds true for the UK, Austria and Spain. In Q2 2010, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 84.6% of all .eu registrations.

Top ten countries based on registrations by country of registrar



Top ten countries by number of .eu registrars

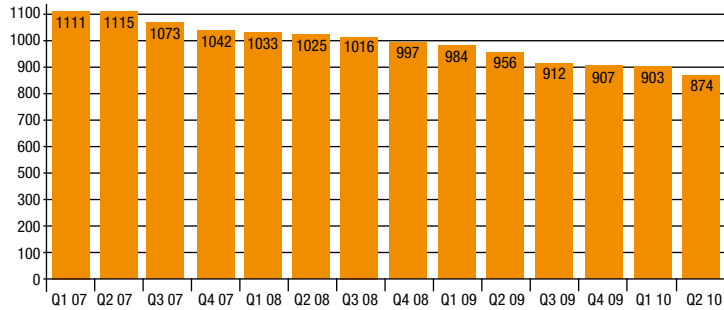


.eu registrations by country of registrar

Country	Names managed	Number of registrars
Anguilla	526	1
Australia	23 783	10
Austria	37 262	55
Bahamas	7 213	1
Barbados	732	1
Belgium	64 625	52
Bulgaria	835	2
Canada	145 370	23
Cayman Islands	305	2
China	2 268	4
Cyprus	4 936	2
Czech Republic	90 729	13
Denmark	127 181	17
Estonia	6 203	1
Finland	4 397	6
France	243 040	39
Germany	1 115 513	101
Greece	27 243	16
Hungary	22 634	18
India	41 930	1
Ireland	8 374	6
Israel	742	3
Italy	155 008	73
Japan	250	2
Korea	972	3
Latvia	2 356	2
Liechtenstein	283	1
Lithuania	10 391	4
Luxembourg	55 787	3
Malaysia	146	1
Malta	84	1
Monaco	10 686	1
Netherlands	326 954	137
Norway	43 450	4
Poland	167 158	14
Portugal	1 240	4
Romania	10 069	9
Russia	0	1
Singapore	946	1
Slovakia	12 992	12
Slovenia	142	2
Spain	39 903	25
Sweden	43 757	24
Switzerland	13 782	3
Taiwan	129	1
United Kingdom	58 636	35
USA	278 271	137

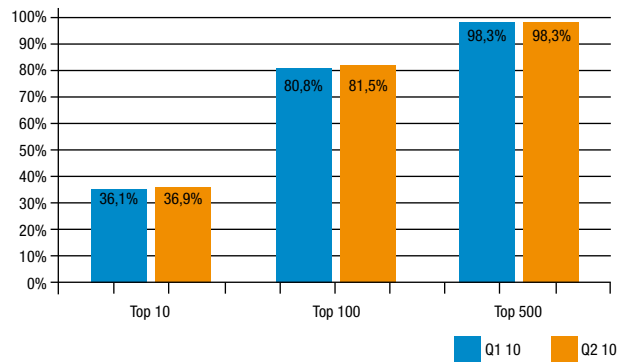
An accredited .eu registrar managed an average of 3 672 .eu domain names during Q2.

Total number of accredited .eu registrars by quarter



At the end of Q2 there were 874 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 with the previous quarter, the market share of the top 10 and top 100 registrars has remained somewhat elevated.

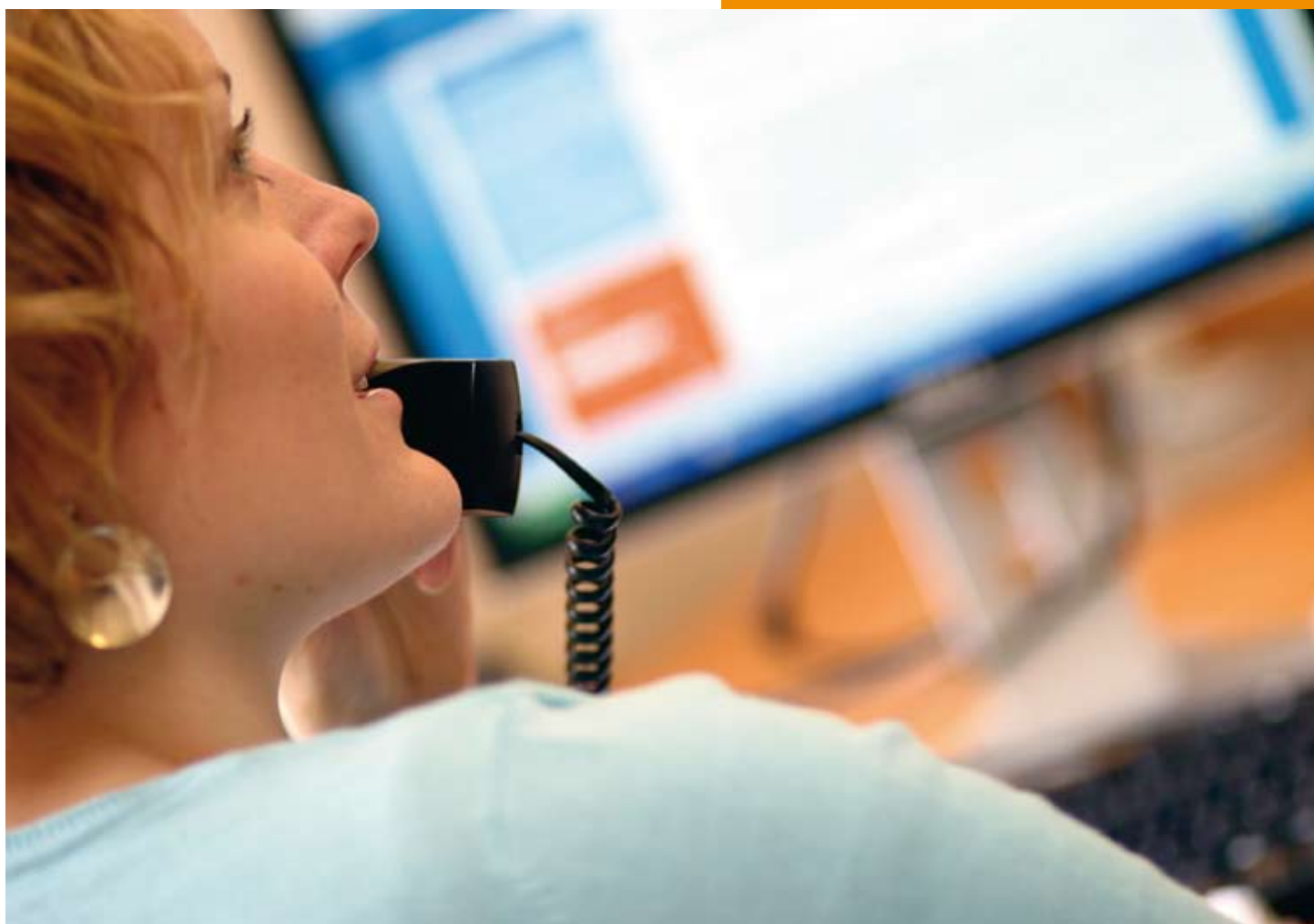
Human resources

There were a total of 65 employees working at EURid's four offices at the end of Q2 2010.

Headcount per office, second quarter 2010

Office	Headcount	FTE*
Diegem	44	40.6
Pisa	8	5.2
Prague	6	4.3
Stockholm	7	5.3
Total	65	55.4

* Full-time equivalents



The management team



Marc Van Wesemael, General Manager

Marc Van Wesemael has an MBA from Lessius Management School (Antwerp) in collaboration with Northwestern University (USA) and a degree in electronic engineering from the University of Ghent. He has worked in the telecom and software industries as a consultant and as a manager in software engineering, general sales and marketing. For ten years he was the Managing Director of not-for-profit DNS Belgium, the registry for .be.



Giovanni Seppia, External Relations Manager

Giovanni Seppia previously worked at ICANN as European Regional Liaison. Prior to that, he was General Manager at CENTR. He has also served as Head of External Relations for the Italian Registry (ITT CNR) and has three years of experience in various roles at the European Commission.



Bart Foutrel, Finance Manager

Bart Foutrel has a masters degree in business sciences from Lessius Hogeschool, where he focused on finance and insurance plus accountancy and tax law. During his studies, he worked as an accountant at MENSURA, an insurance company. After graduation he worked as an adviser on Global Compliance Service at Pricewaterhouse-Coopers before joining EURid in early 2008.



Herman Sobrie, Legal Manager

Herman Sobrie studied law and notary studies at several Belgian universities. He worked as an attorney at the Bar of Gent, Belgium, until 1983. Since then he has held positions as legal counsel with Elsevier, Campbell and Siemens.



Peter Janssen, Technical Manager

Peter Janssen has a masters degree in computer science from the University of Leuven. He joined the Belgian registry for .be in 2000 in the guise of Technical Director and was responsible for the domain's liberalisation in December 2000.



Els Verstappen, Human Resources Manager

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

The board and strategic committee



Pierre Verbaeten, Chairman of the Board

Pierre Verbaeten is Chairman of the Computer Science department of the Catholic University of Leuven, where he lectures on networking and distributed systems. He also leads the DistriNet research group, which conducts basic and applied research in computer networks, security, middleware, multi-agent systems and embedded systems. In 1989, Mr Verbaeten became the first manager of the .be registry, which was transferred to the not-for-profit organisation DNS Belgium on January 1, 2000.



Tomáš Maršálek, Director of the Board

Tomáš Maršálek is a chairman of CZ.NIC, the registry for the .cz top-level domain, and the Managing Director of the Czech Neutral Internet eXchange node (NIX.CZ). After graduating from the Czech Technical University in Prague with a masters degree in radio electronic science, he began his professional career at AT&T. Mr Marsalek is a cofounder of GTS, the biggest alternative telecommunications operator in the Czech Republic. He also helped establish the IP network in Central and Eastern Europe on behalf of British Telecom.



Danny Aerts, Director of the Board

Danny Aerts is the Managing Director of the Swedish Internet Infrastructure Foundation (IIS), the registry for the .se top-level domain. A native of the Netherlands, Mr Aerts moved to Sweden in the mid 1990s. In 2006 he left his position as CEO at Swedish web portal Spray to join IIS. Mr Aerts has also been employed at several telecom companies, including Unisource Mobile, Telia and PTT Telecom. He graduated cum laude from Utrecht University, where he studied economic geography.



Philippe de Buck, Member of the Strategic Committee

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



Marko Bonač, Director of the Board

Marko Bonač received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics (1981) and a masters in computer science (1988) from the University of Ljubljana. Between 1981 and 1992 he worked as a researcher and project leader in the field of computer networks. Since 1992 he has been the Director of Arnes, the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia, which is also the registry for the Slovenian top-level domain, .si.



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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