

Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN79 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The scoping team's activities are currently paused.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The GNSO Council adopted the [formation of and instructions](#) to the Accuracy Scoping Team during its meeting on 22 July 2021. The scoping team was tasked to consider the current enforcement, and reporting of registration data accuracy. In addition, the scoping team was asked to consider how to measure accuracy. These considerations are expected to help inform its deliberations and the development of recommendations to the GNSO Council on whether changes are recommended to improve accuracy levels, and if so, how and by whom these changes would need to be developed.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The scoping team started deliberations in October 2021. Following a review of proposals that may assist in the measurement of accuracy, the team submitted a [write-up](#) for assignments Number 1 (Enforcement & Reporting) and Number 2 (Measurement of Accuracy) to the GNSO Council in September 2022. During its November 2022 meeting, the GNSO Council decided to adopt recommendation Number 3 of the write-up. This means that:

- Work regarding proposals that require access to generic top-level domain (gTLD) registration data is paused (as recommended by the scoping team).
- The GNSO Council [encouraged](#) ICANN org to proceed with its outreach to the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and proceed with the Data Protection Impact Assessment in connection with the scenario(s) in which the request and processing of gTLD registration data takes place as a matter of urgency.
- The GNSO Council requested that ICANN org and contracted parties finish negotiations on the Data Processing Agreement (DPA) as soon as practicable because the absence of a completed DPA may act as a roadblock for additional policy work.
- Consideration of recommendations Number 1 (registrar survey) and Number 2 (registrar audit) has been deferred until such time as the DPA negotiations between ICANN org and contracted parties have completed and there is feedback from



ICANN org on whether and how it anticipates the requesting and processing of gTLD registration data will be undertaken in the context of measuring accuracy, or for six months, whichever is shorter.

In an attempt to advance the community’s efforts, the Board requested ICANN org to prepare specific scenarios for which it would consult with the EDPB concerning the legality of the proposed data processing under GDPR.

ICANN initially proposed four scenarios to determine whether it could produce useful material for the Accuracy Scoping Team, taking into account current contractual requirements and applicable laws. These included:

1. analyzing publicly available registration data;
2. conducting a compliance audit regarding current contractual requirements;
3. analyzing a set of full registration data provided by registrars and performing checks similar to those conducted for the WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System (WHOIS ARS); and 4) a voluntary registrar survey. The scenarios were socialized with the Accuracy Scoping Team in May 2022.

ICANN conducted a comprehensive assessment of the four scenarios, as well as Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) on scenarios two and four, and identified several deficiencies and challenges in pursuing them, which the GNSO Council discussed during its November meeting. In recognition of the current challenges in pursuing the scenarios, councilors noted that: barring (i) completion of the Data Processing Agreement, (ii) implementation of the NIS2 directive, or (iii) publication of the Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains (INFERMAL) Study, it may not be the appropriate time to reconvene the Accuracy Scoping Team and is planning to defer consideration for another six months during its February meeting.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Following further feedback from ICANN org and contracted parties, or after six months (by July 2024), whichever is shorter, the GNSO Council will consider how to proceed. This will include a review of the scoping team’s formation and instructions, based on the feedback gathered from scoping team members by GNSO Council leadership.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Scoping Team instructions](#)
- [Scoping Team workspace](#)

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Caitlin Tubergen, Feodora Hamza