Implementation Status: Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN60 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Implementation Review Team (IRT) will not meet during ICANN60. However, it will continue holding its teleconferences via Adobe Connect.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The continued internationalization of the domain name system (DNS) means registrations from registrants unfamiliar with Latin script are increasing. In October 2012 the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council requested an Issue Report to address whether it is desirable to translate or transliterate[1] contact information[2] into one common language or script. In December 2013, the GNSO Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information (T/T) Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG) was formed to provide an answer to this question. The WG was also tasked to determine who would carry the burden if mandatory translation or transliteration of contact information were recommended.

In its Final Report, the PDP WG does not recommend to mandate the translation or transliteration of contact information data. Instead, the WG recommends that registrants are able to submit contact data in any language and script supported by their registrar, ideally the registrant's native one. The WG expressed in its Final Report that data submitted in a script and language native to the registrant is most likely to be accurate and that the costs of translating and/or transliterating all contact information data would be disproportionate to any potential benefits.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT AND EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The ICANN Board **adopted** the recommendations of the PDP Working Group in September 2015. In late September 2017, the ICANN organization prepared a **draft policy document** for the IRT's review. This document is based on the entirety of the IRT's input received during the course of the implementation. The IRT is currently reviewing the document and will discuss it during their next teleconferences.

The implementation's projected effective date is to be determined. There are a number of technical, logistical, and coordination issues that need to be considered before deciding on a policy effective date. Issues include the roll-out of the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) and work within the Next-Generation Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Registration Directory Services (RDS) to replace WHOIS PDP.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The IRT is composed of members of the PDP Working Group. Newcomers and interested parties are welcome to join as observers. Send an email indicating your interest to the GNSO Secretariat at **gnso-secs@ICANN.org**.

MORE INFORMATION

- PDP WG Final Report: **goo.gl/MgZ42S**

- ICANN Board adopting the recommendations contained in the PDP WG Final Report: **icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2015-09-28**

- IRT Workspace: **community.icann.org/x/0SeOAw**

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[1] 'Translation' is defined as the translation of a text into another language whereas 'transliteration' is the writing of a word using the closest corresponding letters of a different alphabet.

[2] Contact information' is a subset of Domain Name Registration Data and thus the information that enables someone using a Domain Name Registration Data Directory Service (such as WHOIS) to contact the domain name registration holder.