

Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN72 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The EPDP Team will conduct one working session at ICANN72, on Tuesday, 26 October 2021 at 16:30-17:30 (PDT). Please check the ICANN72 meeting schedule for the confirmed time. During the session, the working group will discuss topics within its charter and seek broader community input.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the [initiation request](#) for the EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and adopted its [charter](#) at the same time. The EPDP is expected to provide the GNSO Council with policy recommendations on:

- i) the definition of all TLDs and the management of variant labels to facilitate the delegation of variant gTLDs in the root zone while achieving the security and usability goal of variant labels in a stable manner; and
- ii) how the IDN Implementation Guidelines, which Contracted Parties are required to comply with, should be updated in the future.

The charter includes a total of 48 questions under seven broader topics, ranging from the “same entity” requirement at the top- and second-levels to adjustments to ICANN policies and procedures as they relate to IDNs.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The EPDP Team held its first meeting on 11 August 2021 and is in its early stages of its work. The EPDP Team has developed a work plan, conducted an initial review of the topics within its charter, and sent a request for early written input from the SG, Constituencies, SOs, and ACs on the topics contained in the EPDP’s charter.

The EPDP Team is focusing on substantive deliberations on the first of its seven main topics, each of which has a number of specific questions for the group to consider. This first main topic, Topic A, focuses on the consistent definition of TLDs and variant TLDs using the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR). As the EPDP Team discusses each topic, it will be sure to take into account any relevant written input received from the SG, Constituencies, SOs, or ACs.



WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The EPDP Team will continue its substantive deliberations, seeking to reach preliminary outcomes for each of the seven main topics. The EPDP Team will work towards draft responses to charter questions and recommendations, which will be compiled into an Initial Report. The Initial Report will be published for public comment.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Parties interested in the EPDP on IDNs should coordinate with the members assigned by the respective SG, Constituency, SO, or AC to stay current and to communicate any input they believe may be useful to the EPDP's deliberations. The "representative + open" membership model for the EPDP also allows interested parties to join as a participant and take part in EPDP deliberations substantively, with the exception of when an official position is needed from the relevant organization or taking part in the consensus call. Interested parties are also able to follow the working group's progress by signing up as an observer.

MORE INFORMATION

- [EPDP webpage](#)
- [EPDP workspace](#)

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