
Implementation Status: Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN65 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Implementation Review Team (IRT) does not plan to meet at ICANN65. It is waiting for the implementation of the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP), which is necessary to implement recommendations from the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Policy Development Process Working Group.

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 registration directory service contact information into one common language or script. In December 2013, the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group was formed to provide an answer to this question. The working group was also tasked with determining who would carry the burden if mandatory translation or transliteration of contact information were recommended.

In its **Final Report**, the PDP working group did not recommend mandating the translation or transliteration of contact information data. Instead, it recommended that registrants submit contact data in any language and script supported by their registrar, ideally the registrant's native one. The working group also expressed that data submitted in a script and language native to the registrant is most likely to be accurate and that the costs of translating or transliterating all contact information data would be disproportionate to any potential benefits.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT? WHAT ARE THE 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 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. The most important issue is the implementation of RDAP, which is a requirement to implement the working group's recommendations.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The IRT is composed of members of the working group. Newcomers and interested parties are welcome to join as observers. To become an observer, send an email indicating your interest to the GNSO Secretariat at gns0-secs@icann.org. As the IRT has already been in operation for a substantial amount of time and has progressed in its deliberations, newcomers are expected to catch up on the discussions to date and to not reopen previously closed topics unless new information is presented.

MORE INFORMATION

- Working Group Final Report: <https://go.icann.org/2GcQCCP>
- ICANN Board resolution adopting the recommendations contained in the PDP Working Group Final Report: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2015-09-28-en#1.b>
- IRT Workspace: <https://community.icann.org/x/0SeOAw>

Staff Responsible: Brian Aitchison (Global Domains Division - GDD)