
Implementation Status: Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN68 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Implementation Review Team (IRT) will not meet at ICANN68.

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.

Since commencing implementation work in July 2016, the IRT and GDD have produced a **preliminary policy document**. Due to complexities emerging from the IRT's discussions and work in other areas related to registration data directory services (RDDS)—in particular the **Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Expedited Policy Development Process** (EPDP)—the implementation's projected announcement and effective dates are to be determined.

Given the implementation's relationship to the evolution of registration data policies and procedures, the PDP working group's Recommendations are being assessed per Recommendation 27 of the EPDP Phase 1 Team's **Final Report** to ensure policy and implementation consistency across the many work streams in this area.

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 gnso-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)