

Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN74 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The EPDP Team will conduct two working sessions: one on Monday, 13 June 2022 at 16:30-17:30 CEST, and the other one on Wednesday, 15 June 2022 at 10:30-12:00 CEST. Please check the ICANN74 meeting schedule for the confirmed time. During the sessions, 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:

- 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.
- 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. ([Learn More](#))

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The EPDP Team held its first meeting on 11 August 2021 and is in the early stages of its work.

The EPDP Team received [early written input](#) from the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), GNSO’s Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG), and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) on topics contained in its charter. In January 2022, the EPDP Team conducted an engagement session with SSAC members to discuss their input and exchange views on specific charter questions. These inputs and views were memorialized in [SAC120](#), which was published in April 2022.



By the end of May 2022, the EPDP Team completed its first pass of substantive deliberations on Group 1 charter questions related to the definition of all gTLDs using the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR). It also completed the initial deliberation of seven out of nine charter questions in Group 2, which is related to the “same entity” principle at the top-level.

Currently, the team is proceeding with its initial deliberations on Group 3 charter questions regarding the impact of variant implementation on the evaluation, objection, string contention, and other New gTLD program processes. To facilitate its deliberations, the Team is conducting outreach activities to seek critical external input, such as a survey among Arabic and Chinese gTLD registry operators and a consultation with Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Generation Panels. A small group within the EPDP has also been formed to tackle string similarity review related deliberations.

To ensure a consistent solution for variant TLDs is to be developed, the EPDP Team monitors the activities in the ccNSO’s ccPDP4 on the (de-)selection of IDN ccTLD Strings. In April 2022, it received an update on ccPDP4’s preliminary recommendations on variant management of IDN ccTLDs.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The EPDP Team will continue its substantive deliberations, seeking to reach preliminary outcomes for each group of charter questions. The EPDP Team will work toward 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 Stakeholder Group, Constituency, Supporting Organization, or Advisory Committee to stay current and to communicate any input they believe may be useful to the EPDP’s deliberations. The EPDP’s “representative + open” membership model 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 observers.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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