



THE .EU DOMAIN | 2006

EUR*id*



.eu

YOUR EUROPEAN IDENTITY

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2006 IN BRIEF – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2006 saw the successful general launch of .eu. The growth of .eu has exceeded all expectations and reached almost 2.5 million names in its first year making it Europe's third largest ccTLD.
- The actual use of .eu also increased tremendously during 2006. The number of DNS queries for .eu was five times higher in December than in June and almost 80 percent of all .eu domain names lead to a functioning website and/or an email server.
- Sunrise related activities took up a large part of the year as more than 340 000 applications from 25 countries were received. This put heavy strain on the validation agent, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and the Government Validation Points who did a impressive job in validating more than 200 000 applications.
- The dispute resolution process handled by the Czech Arbitration Court was put to the test and proved to function well with 729 initiated and 445 settled disputes during 2006 while the remaining ones extend into 2007.
- EURid has well over 1000 accredited registrars from 45 countries. They provide the market place with an appropriate service in all the EU languages (and others).
- In September 2006 EURid opened its first regional office in Stockholm. The Prague office will open during first quarter 2007 and the Italian office later in the year.
- During the year the number of staff increased, with about 70 percent counted as full time equivalents (FTE). By the end of the year EURid had 32.5 FTE corresponding to 37 persons on the payroll.
- Technically the systems have coped remarkably well with the rush of registrations. At its peak, in April, 76 domain names were being successfully registered per second.



COMMENTS FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

To be part of the .eu launch in early 2006 was a truly exciting time in my professional life. Little did we know that less than one year after .eu was let loose on the public it would be Europe's third largest ccTLD.

We always believed that .eu would prove popular, but did not foresee such a rapid growth. Even more satisfying is that recent statistics have revealed that .eu domain names are also used on a large scale. When we analysed the database in January 2007 more than 78 percent of all .eu domain names lead to a functioning website or email server. Out of the functioning websites only one fifth had a click through setup meaning that they automatically redirected the visitor to a different site or URL. Given that companies and individuals have only had their .eu domain names for a relatively short period of time, these figures are quite impressive.

Sunrise and all that it involved took up much of our time in the past year, but once the validations were completed we could concentrate on the regionalisation of our organisation. The Stockholm office has already been up and running for some months and the Prague office will be in place during the early part of 2007. To complete our structure, we will open our Italian office later in the year.

2006 was all about getting .eu up and running; establishing and optimizing the organisation, our systems and our routines. Now that we are entering a more conventional business mode our focus will further include developing our registrar relations and informing

Europeans of .eu and its advantages.

2006 has been a successful year for .eu and definitely a year to remember for all those involved.



MARC VAN WESEMAEL
Managing Director of EURid

BACKGROUND ON EURID AND .EU

EURid is the not-for-profit organisation appointed by the European Commission to be the operator of the Internet top level domain .eu.

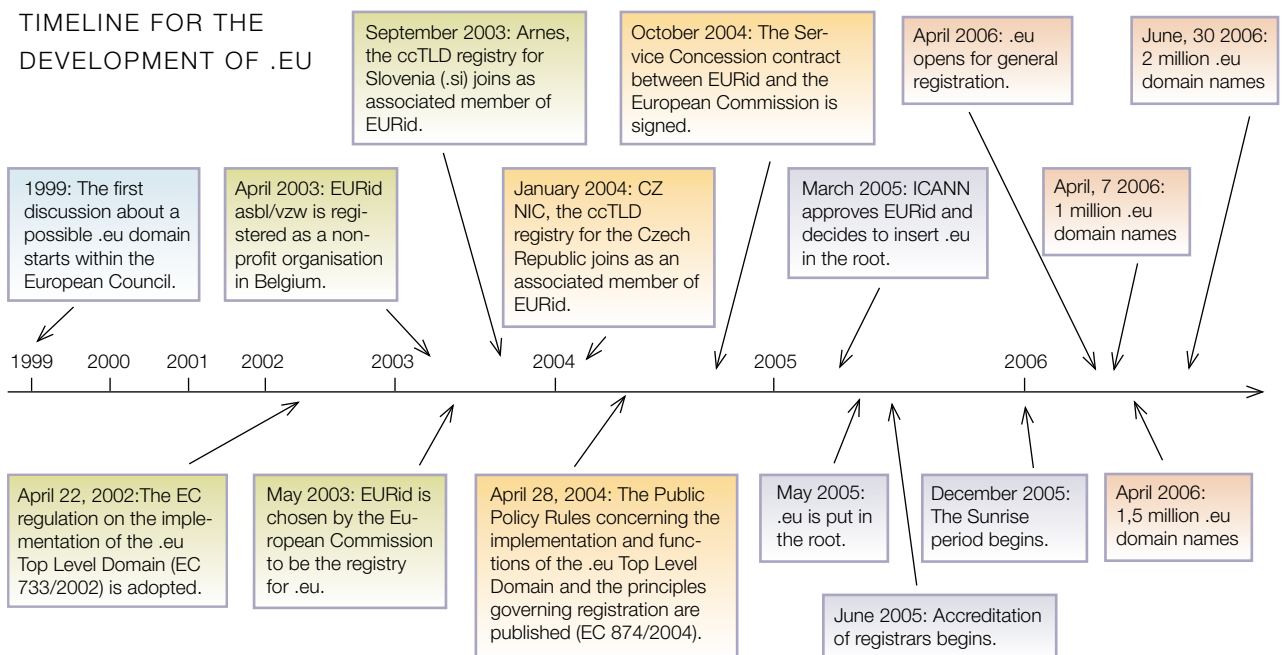
The first initiative to establish .eu as a European top level domain was taken in 1999 by the European Council. Subsequently, various preparations were made, mainly by the European Commission, until EURid was appointed in May 2003 as the operator of .eu, with the service contract being signed in October 2004.

EURid was founded in April 2003 by the organisations operating the national top level domains for Belgium, Italy and Sweden. Later, the organisations operating the top level domains for the Czech Republic and Slovenia also joined as members. In 2006 another member was added: the European Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC).

.eu was put in the root zone of the Internet Domain Name System (DNS) in March 2005 which means that, technically speaking; it has been in existence since then.

.eu began accepting applications for domain names from end users on December 7, 2005. At that time, only holders of prior rights to names enjoying some legal protection in a member state could apply for those names as domain names before .eu opened for general registration on a strictly first-come-first-served basis on April 7, 2006. This period of phased registration (Dec 7, 2005 – Apr 6, 2006) is referred to as the Sunrise period.

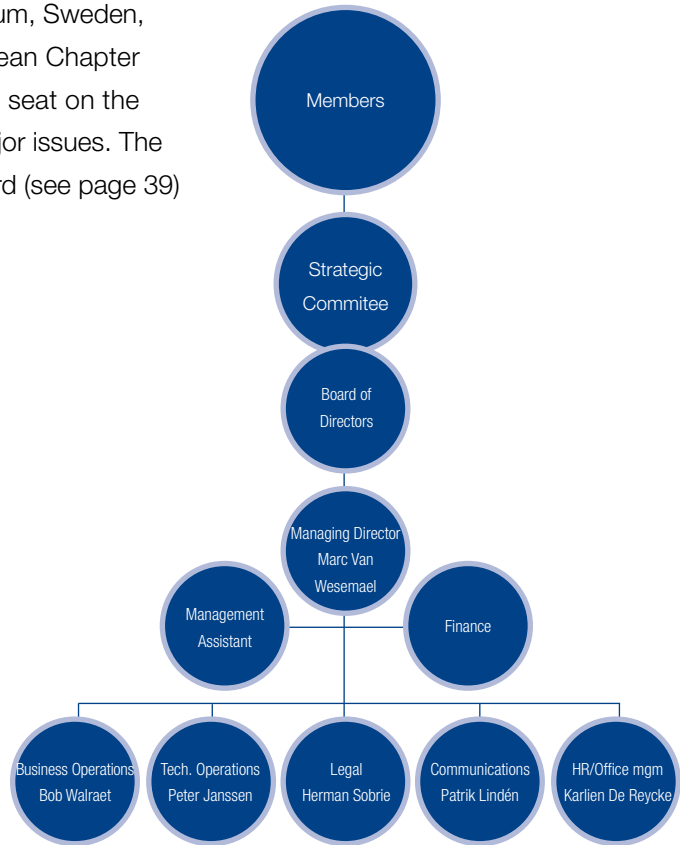
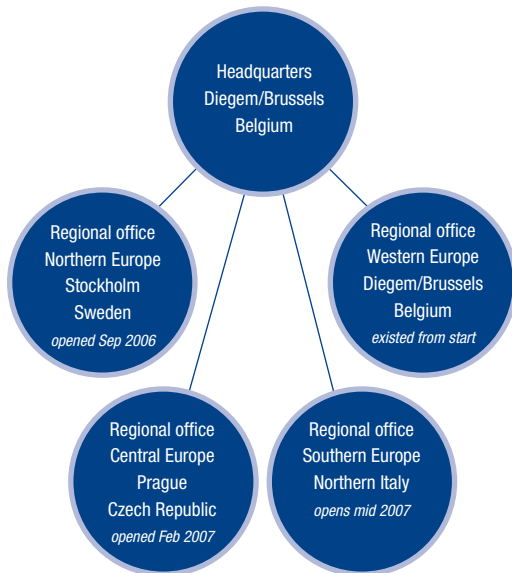
TIMELINE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF .EU



ORGANISATION

As a not-for-profit organisation EURid does not have owners, rather it has stakeholders that are members of the organisation. By the end of 2006 EURid had six members:

The five organisations operating the ccTLDs for Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Czech Republic and Slovenia and also the European Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC). The members all have a seat on the Strategic Committee which discusses all of EURid's major issues. The members, via the General Assembly, also elect the board (see page 39) which the managing director is reporting to.



EURid is divided in two ways: regionally, with headquarters and four regional offices, and functionally, into five departments.

The by far largest department is Business Operations which provides support to the .eu registrars and the general public in all EU languages. The Operations department spans EURid's four regional offices which together cover the entire European Union. Each office provides support in the languages local to its region. When the registry was first founded all operations were conducted from its Belgian headquarters, but this has changed since work began on setting up the regional offices in 2006. The Stockholm office was established in late September and provides support to the Scandinavian region, the Baltic States and the UK and Ireland.

The first quarter of 2007 saw the opening of the Prague office, which provides support for the Central European Region in Czech, Slovak, Polish, Hungarian, Romanian and Bulgarian and later this year the Italian office will also be in place to assume support responsibility for the Southern European Region in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek and Slovenian. The regional office for Western Europe is based at EURid headquarters in Diegem, outside of Brussels, Belgium. This office supports Dutch, French and German. English as a language is supported by all the regional offices.

THE .EU DOMAIN

This section of the report provides an overview of all statistics pertaining to the .eu domain itself.

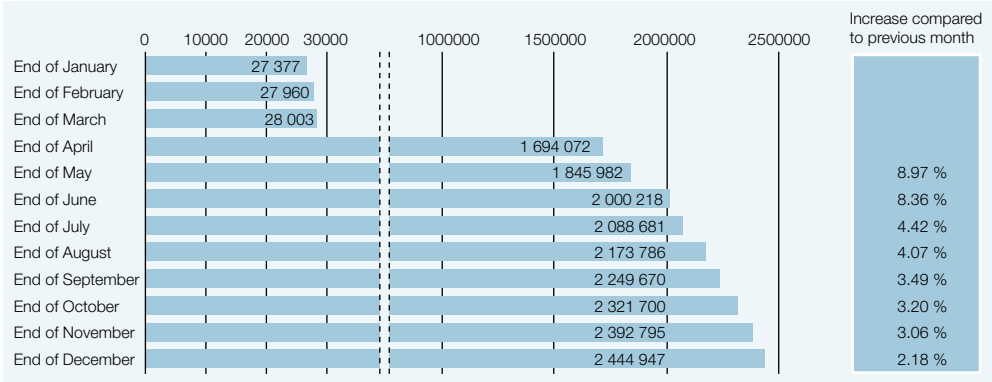
From obscurity to Europe's third largest top level domain during 2006

The .eu top level domain has had a kick start. Within just a few months of the general launch in April 2006 it became the third largest top level domain in Europe, only surpassed by .de (Germany) and .uk (The UK.) and it is still growing.

The growth rate is gradually slowing down as users who were interested in .eu during the early planning phase have now had the chance to register their domain names. 2007 will reveal the sustainable growth rate as well as the renewal rate as in 2006 there were no domain names up for renewal.

.eu is still growing at a faster pace than most other more mature TLDs and will probably continue to grow as more people see .eu domain names in use and realise the potential attached to using the .eu domain.

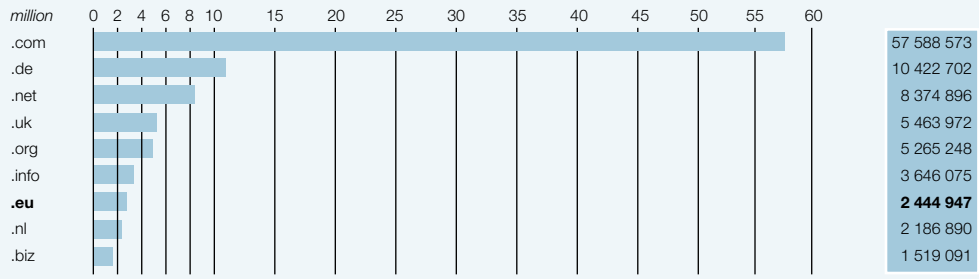
Number of active domain names 2006



Before April 7, the only active domain names were those that had been applied for during Sunrise, had been accepted during the validation and successfully made it past the 40-day deadline for a possible dispute. Consequently, there were fewer active domain names during the first three months. From April 7 and onwards domain names become active directly upon registration. Consequently, it is not meaningful to measure increase per month before April.

For updated .eu statistics per country of registrant and more, see <http://status.eurid.eu>

World top nine list of TLDs



(Statistics from the websites of the TLDs and www.domain-recht.de Jan 07)

About DNS queries

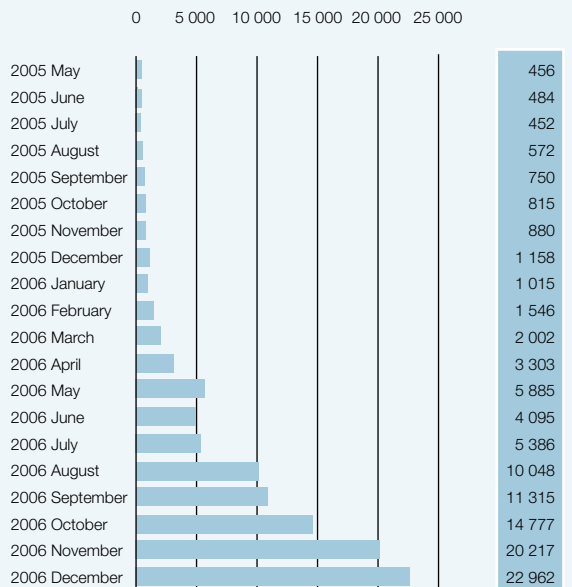
Each time a URL is typed into a web browser or an email is sent, your computer sends a DNS query to your Internet provider to ask to which server the email should be sent or where to find the website requested. In a somewhat simplified explanation, the server at the Internet provider then sends a query to the appropriate registry database to determine the correct name server. When the URL or email address is based on a .eu domain name the query goes to one of .eu's DNS servers. Hence the number of received DNS queries is a reasonably good indicator of actual use. Note that the servers between the .eu database and the users remember the responses they receive from the .eu DNS server for a certain amount of time and hence don't need to ask again if another user on the same network requires the same domain name again within this timeframe. Consequently, the number of DNS queries is not an exact measure of the use of .eu domain names. Similarly, if a server is not correctly configured it can cause an artificially high number of DNS queries.

Growth of actual use

Although the growth in number of registered .eu domain names is impressive it does not reflect the actual .eu domain name usage. As with any new top level domain, there are always a number of, so called, protective registrations where companies simply want to prevent another party from registering their name.

One method of determining how much .eu domain names are actually used is by measuring DNS queries. So far EURid has experienced a rapid growth in the number of DNS queries but is not yet on par with other TLDs of the same size. There is a delay effect at work, however. Users first wish to secure their domain names and once that has been done, some time elapses before the secured names are actively promoted.

DNS queries per minute for .eu



Based on an average of the last seven days of each month

Domain names in use

Apart from measuring the number of DNS queries one can also measure the percentage of .eu domain names that leads to a functioning website and/or mail server. In January (2007) 78.8 percent of all .eu domain names were operational in this sense. Of the 70.8 percent of domain names that lead to a website, 21.7 percent are so called click through sites where you are automatically forwarded to a site of another top level domain.

How .eu domain names are used	
Only web	12.3 %
Only email	8.1 %
Both web and email	58.4 %
Total email	66.5 %
Total web	70.8 %
Nothing	21.2 %

Comparison between the percentage of registered .eu domain names per country of registrant as of December 31, 2006 and that country's population as a percentage of the total EU population

Country	% of .eu registrations	% of total EU population
Germany	31,15%	18,04%
Britain	17,49%	13,22%
Netherlands	12,24%	3,59%
France	6,28%	13,27%
Italy	5,78%	12,71%
Cyprus	3,68%	0,17%
Sweden	3,63%	1,97%
Belgium	2,96%	2,27%
Poland	2,81%	8,45%
Austria	2,33%	1,79%
Spain	2,07%	8,83%
Czech Rep.	1,90%	2,24%
Denmark	1,53%	1,19%
Ireland	1,24%	0,88%
Hungary	0,86%	2,19%
Malta	0,70%	0,09%
Greece	0,69%	2,33%
Luxembourg	0,57%	0,10%
Portugal	0,48%	2,31%
Slovakia	0,42%	1,19%
Finland	0,37%	1,14%
Latvia	0,29%	0,50%
Estonia	0,23%	0,29%
Lithuania	0,15%	0,79%
Slovenia	0,14%	0,44%

As one would expect there is a correlation between countries with a high population and a large number of .eu registrations, but one can also see that smaller countries with a high computer penetration and/or many national domain names appear high up in the list. Cyprus is the exception as a handful of Cyprus-based companies have collectively registered a large number of domain names.

Comparison between the interest in the country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) of each EU member state and the interest of those countries in the .eu top level domain.

Country	cc/1000 pax	Country	.eu/1000 pax
Denmark	138,93	Luxembourg	29,51
Netherlands	133,29	Netherlands	18,23
Germany	126,44	Sweden	9,86
Britain	90,40	Germany	9,23
Austria	86,61	Ireland	7,54
Belgium	76,61	Britain	7,07
Sweden	63,00	Belgium	6,99
Luxembourg	53,35	Austria	6,96
Estonia	32,26	Denmark	6,89
Czech Rep.	27,54	Czech Rep.	4,53
Finland	25,98	Estonia	4,16
Hungary	24,98	Latvia	3,14
Italy	22,25	France	2,53
Slovenia	21,12	Italy	2,43
Slovakia	20,16	Hungary	2,11
Latvia	20,09	Slovakia	1,87
Ireland	17,63	Poland	1,78
Greece	14,58	Finland	1,75
Poland	14,42	Slovenia	1,75
Spain	12,81	Greece	1,58
Lithuania	11,66	Spain	1,25
France	11,65	Portugal	1,10
Portugal	11,23	Lithuania	1,03

In general, a clear correlation exists between the interest in .eu and the interest of the respective countries in their own national top level domain. For instance, Germany and Denmark have a large interest in their national top level domains, and these two countries also both have a disproportionately large interest in .eu.

Malta, Luxembourg and Cyprus are not included in the table because countries having a small population and a high number of international registered companies, make the comparison less relevant.

Trade and transfers

When a registrant (holder of a domain name) wants to change the registrar he/she is using this is known as a transfer of domain name. Transfers can be carried out at any time, and are initiated by the registrant's new registrar and have to be confirmed by the registrant before being processed. The current registrar cannot stop a registrant from choosing another registrar. Transfers between registrars have been possible since April 2006. Less than 0.1 per cent of .eu domain names are transferred during any given month.

Number of transfers between registrars during:	
January	0
February	0
March	0
April	101
May	1396
June	1423
July	1295
August	2489
September	1326
October	2325
November	3379
December	1308

When a domain name changes owner the process is called a trade. It is the registrar of the new holder of the domain name that initiates the trade which has then to be confirmed by both the current holder and the new holder of the domain name. As .eu has become a more mature top level domain the number of trades has increased.

Number of trades of domain names during:	
January	0
February	0
March	0
April	184
May	2115
June	3243
July	3638
August	4391
September	2707
October	3275
November	4100
December	4132

A four month Sunrise period when .eu opened

When .eu first opened for business in December 2005, there was a four month period of phased registration, known as Sunrise, during which only holders of prior rights for a name could apply for that name as a .eu domain. Trademarks or company names are two examples of prior rights that could be claimed. For the first half of Sunrise, only holders of trademarks and public bodies could apply for domain names, while during the latter half, phased registration was also opened to holders of other prior rights, such as company names and trade names.

In total EURid received over 345 000 applications for about 245 000 unique names during this period. Most names had one or two applicants while a few had quite a number of applications. Among the most applied for names were sex.eu, hotel.eu, travel.eu and jobs.eu.

The applications were logged down to the millisecond to be handled on a first-come-first-served basis. After applying, the applicants had 40 days to send in documentary evidence to prove that they had a prior right to the name they had applied for. An independent validation agent (PricewaterhouseCoopers) validated all first in line applications for each domain name and if the documentary evidence was appropriate the domain name was attributed to that applicant. If not, the second applicant in the line for that domain name was considered and so on. The applications from applicants claiming public body status were validated by Governmental Validation Points (GVPs) appointed by the government in each member state. Since the interest in participating in the Sunrise was so high the actual validation took several months and finished in October 2006.

In the .eu WHOIS database anyone still can see if a particular domain name was part of the Sunrise process or not. It is also possible to see who applied during Sunrise and in what order the applications were made.

Received Sunrise applications

	Sunrise 1	Sunrise 2	Total
Total number of applications	181306	164912	346218
Number of unique names applied for	131662	114246	245908

**Number of validations of
Sunrise applications per month**

December (05)	402
January	12973
February	20776
March	30548
April	30567
May	36017
June	17798
July	13827
August	17430
September	21653
October	16538
November	232
December	97
Total	218858

**Number of activated (accepted)
Sunrise applications per month**

Month	Number
January	1
February	3193
March	19059
April	21737
May	18259
June	23273
July	18013
August	6793
September	13746
October	4608
November	61
December	23
Total	128766

After a Sunrise application was validated and accepted and before the domain name applied for was activated, it was held for a 40-day period during which anyone could challenge the decision made by the validation agent in a dispute. Hence the delay in activation with respect to accepted validations.

More than 100 000 Sunrise names have been made available again

Where no one was able to sufficiently prove a prior right to a domain name applied for during the Sunrise period, that name was released again for general registration. Names were only released, however, after the appeal period for the validation decision had passed and if no domain name disputes (ADR) had been filed against the decision during that time. The releases of these names took place on a weekly basis and became known as "Mini Landrushes". In total more than 100 000 names were made available again in this way.

Number of Sunrise names released per month

Month	Number
June	56086
July	8407
August	9396
September	3250
October	4864
November	14563
December	9096
January (07)	42
Total	105704

General launch

On April 7 when EURid opened up .eu for general registration on a strict first-come-first-served basis there was a massive interest. During the first four hours 76 .eu domain names per second were registered. The very first ones to be registered that day were dekoporation.eu, buchung.eu and tankstellen.eu.

Towards the evening at the first day of general registration (April 7, 2006) .eu passed 1 million domain names. On the very last day of June the 2 million mark was passed.

The eligibility criteria in the EC regulation (EC 733/2002) state that as long you are a private person or organisation/company residing/established within the EU you are free to register .eu domain names. See page 19 to see the interest from different countries.

Domain name disputes/ADR

To protect intellectual property rights there is an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) policy in place for .eu. This policy is also described in the EC Regulation 874/2004. The dispute resolution procedure is administered by the Czech Arbitration Court, an independent body who offers its services in all EU languages.

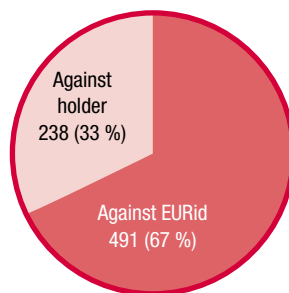
In short, an ADR is an appropriate procedure for anybody who feels that “their” domain name, for which they enjoy legal protection in a member state, has been registered by another party who has no right to or interest in the name or who has registered it in bad faith.

The ADR process for .eu is similar to the processes offered by most major top level domains, although .eu does differ in one aspect: While interested parties may initiate disputes against the holders of .eu domain names, they could also initiate a dispute against EURid in which they contested the validation decision made during the Sunrise period. Disputes of this nature had to be filed within the 40 day appeal period following the validation.

As we move further away from the Sunrise period, .eu disputes will only be filed against the holders of domain names, but during 2006 most ADRs were against EURid and in 78 percent of the decided cases, the validation decision made during the Sunrise period was confirmed.

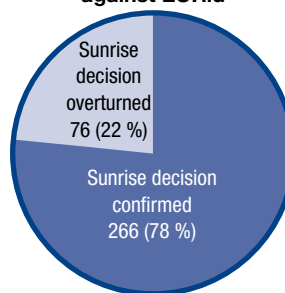
See more about the .eu dispute process on the official website of the court, www.adr.eu.

Initiated ADRs Jan-Dec



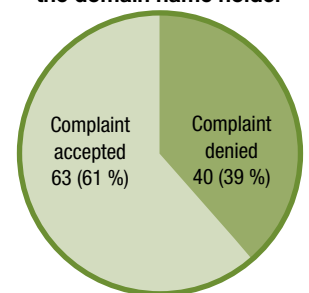
Total 729

Decided ADRs against EURid



Total 342

Decided ADRs against the domain name holder



Total 103

All ADR disputes initiated during 2006

	N° of initiated ADRs	Decision not in favour of the complainant	Decision in favour of the complainant	Defective complaint	Other (withdrawn complaint, settlement etc)	As yet undecided
Jan	1	1	0	0	0	0
Feb	5	3	0	2	2	0
Mar	68	37	19	12	10	0
Apr	70	39	13	13	11	0
May	98	59	20	16	15	1
Jun	110	63	29	12	16	0
Jul	94	54	24	11	11	1
Aug	76	34	22	10	15	2
Sep	45	13	9	9	8	12
Oct	70	3	3	11	10	49
Nov	51	0	0	10	9	39
Dec	41	0	0	1	1	40
Total	729	306	139	107	108	144

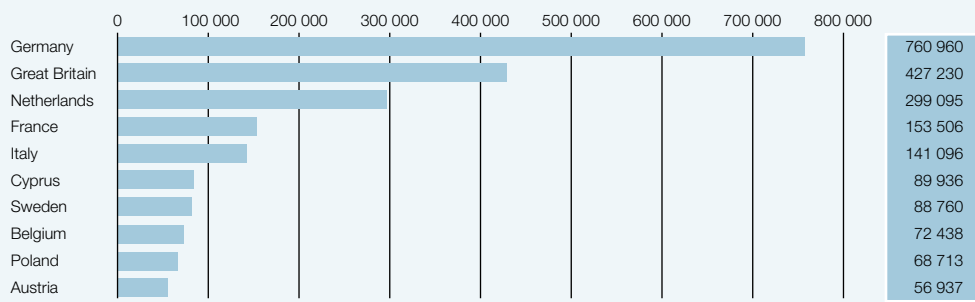
ADRs against EURid's Sunrise decision

	N° of initiated ADRs	Decision not in favour of the complainant	Decision in favour of the complainant	Defective complaint	Other (withdrawn complaint, settlement etc)	As yet undecided
Jan	1	1	0	0	0	0
Feb	5	3	0	2	0	0
Mar	55	29	16	10	0	0
Apr	48	31	8	6	3	0
May	77	50	13	13	1	0
Jun	84	57	15	10	2	0
Jul	74	52	12	7	2	1
Aug	47	30	8	7	2	0
Sep	23	10	3	6	0	4
Oct	37	3	1	6	1	26
Nov	29	0	0	7	0	22
Dec	11	0	0	1	0	10
Total	491	266	76	75	11	63

THE REGISTRANTS

This section of the report provides an overview of all statistics pertaining to the registrants of .eu domain names.

Total number of .eu domain names per country of registrant - top-ten list as of Dec 31, 2006



The registrants residing in the ten countries listed have, together, been responsible for registering 88 percent of all .eu domain names.



Total number of .eu domain names per country of registrant (alphabetical)

Country	country code	End of Q1	End of Q2	End of Q3	End of Q4
Austria	AT	1 251	43 793	50 594	56 937
Aaland Islands	AX	0	196	231	91
Belgium	BE	1 828	58 735	66 481	72 438
Cyprus	CY	61	84 741	88 006	89 936
Czech Republic	CZ	1 025	34 939	41 076	46 408
Germany	DE	9 256	627 112	709 146	760 960
Denmark	DK	1 223	29 795	34 070	37 416
Estonia	EE	179	4 088	5 035	5 547
Spain	ES	2 307	41 256	46 108	50 545
Finland	FI	424	7 083	8 293	9 155
France	FR	4 674	108 713	135 158	153 506
Great Britain	GB	2 980	372 957	400 694	427 230
French Guiana	GF	0	6	10	10
Gibraltar	GI	8	579	1 023	1 249
Guadeloupe	GP	0	35	45	56
Greece	GR	169	13 179	15 251	16 894
Hungary	HU	129	16 493	18 626	21 086
Ireland	IE	442	26 177	28 656	30 379
Italy	IT	890	116 623	130 381	141 096
Lithuania	LT	34	2 898	3 311	3 694
Luxembourg	LU	168	11 416	12 876	13 828
Latvia	LV	3	5 466	6 680	7 185
Martinique	MQ	0	28	34	37
Malta	MT	75	16 695	16 910	17 166
Netherlands	NL	4 315	235 938	267 345	299 095
Poland	PL	684	47 253	58 385	68 713
Portugal	PT	118	8 287	10 458	11 624
Reunion Islands	RE	0	212	232	239
Sweden	SE	1 600	75 074	82 268	88 760
Slovenia	SI	184	2 495	3 130	3 519
Slovakia	SK	161	7 956	9 157	10 148
Total		34 188	2 000 218	2 249 670	2 444 947

Number of domain names per registrant

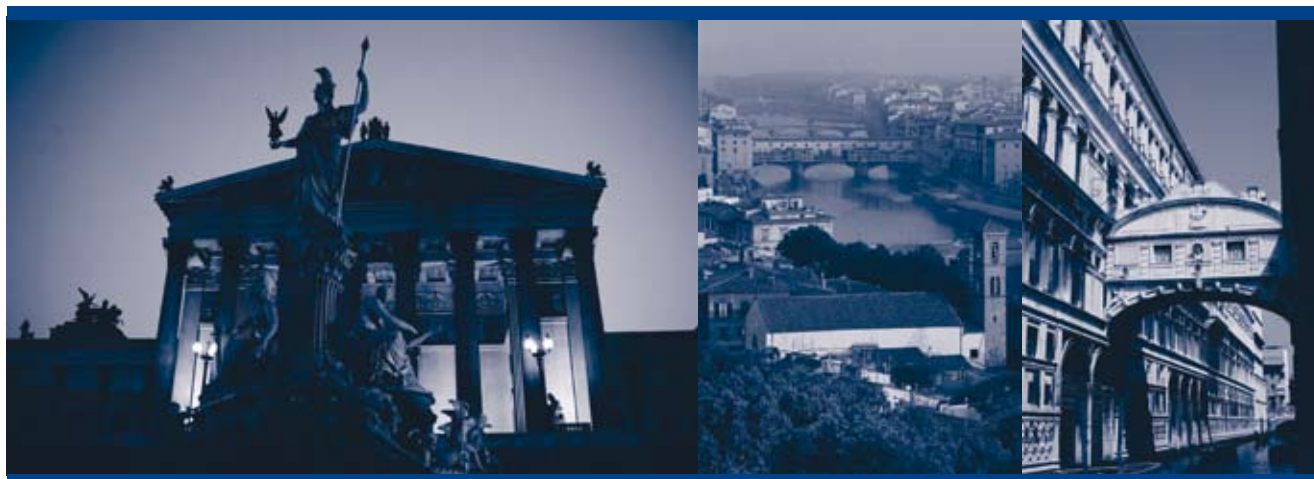
The majority of registrants, more than 70 percent, have only one .eu domain name each. But quite a few have registered several domain names. More than 58 000 registrants, or 6.9 percent of all registrants, each have 5 or more domain names.

Spread of Registrants based on number of domain names (as of Dec 31, 2006)

Number of registrants with more than 10 000 domain names	6
Number of registrants with 5 000 - 9 999 domain names	18
Number of registrants with 1 000 - 4 999 domain names	64
Number of registrants with 100 - 999 domain names	1 257
Number of registrants with 10 - 99 domain names	20 886
Number of registrants with 6 - 9 domain names	22 933
Number of registrants with 5 domain names	13 200
Number of registrants with 4 domain names	23 007
Number of registrants with 3 domain names	42 877
Number of registrants with 2 domain names	115 543
Number of registrants with 1 domain name	610 679

Registrants - private individuals versus organisations

When a private person registers a domain name, privacy policy requires that only the registrant's email address and the preferred language are published in the WHOIS database. To implement this, EURid regards all registrants without data in the "organisation" field as private individuals. A look at the number of companies owning a .eu domain name versus the number of private individuals owning a domain name reveals that 69.9 percent of all registrants are companies or organisations while 30.1 percent are private individuals. These numbers give a good indication of the current state. However there may be private individuals who have filled in their name (again) in the organisation field and hence are looked upon as being companies in this comparison.



THE REGISTRARS

Registrars provide domain name registration services to their customers, the end users or registrants, and administer domain names on their behalf. By the end of 2006, EURid had more than 1500 registrars in 45 countries providing their services in all the EU languages plus a few more.

The majority of all registrars have up to 5 000 .eu names in their portfolio, while a handful of registrars stand out as being considerably bigger. Germany is streaks ahead of any other country, having 4 out of the 5 largest .eu registrars.

Spread of Registrars based on domain name portfolio (as of Dec 31, 2006)

Number of registrars with more than 100 000 domain names	2
Number of registrars with 50 000– 99 999 domain names	2
Number of registrars with 10 000 – 49 999 domain names	44
Number of registrars with 5 000 – 9 999 domain names	47
Number of registrars with 1 000 – 4 999 domain names	251
Number of registrars with 500 – 999 domain names	315
Number of registrars with 1 - 500 domain names	846
Number of registrars with no domain names	63
Total number of Registrars	1570

Total number of .eu domain names per country of registrar top-ten list (as of Dec 31, 2006)

Germany	778 082
USA	352 142
Netherlands	240 812
France	126 105
Italy	124 208
Luxembourg	97 723
Great Britain	95 694
Australia	83 699
Denmark	74 623
Canada	73 313

Total number of .eu domain names per country of registrar – alphabetical

Country	country code	End of Q1	End of Q2	End of Q3	End of Q4
Austria	AT	723	27 957	30 377	33 603
Australia	AU	22	79 340	81 450	83 699
Barbados	BB	0	1 307	1 296	1 320
Belgium	BE	1 871	41 371	52 895	58 281
Bahamas	BS	12	4 899	5 389	5 536
Canada	CA	314	53 533	64 346	73 313
Switzerland	CH	234	11 418	12 466	13 176
China	CN	0	5 047	7 864	11 261
Cyprus	CY	32	1 702	1 791	1 561
Czech Republic	CZ	991	30 512	35 560	39 886
Germany	DE	9 058	621 453	712 729	778 082
Denmark	DK	1 864	56 957	66 153	74 623
Estonia	EE	164	3 168	3 737	4 082
Spain	ES	1 830	23 446	27 468	30 121
Finland	FI	196	3 713	4 224	4 375
France	FR	3 401	96 964	115 990	126 105
Great Britain	GB	2 876	82 523	90 212	95 694
Gibraltar	GI	0	948	976	993
Greece	GR	159	12 242	14 144	15 195
Hungary	HU	114	9 914	11 344	13 227
Ireland	IE	107	12 489	13 084	13 681
Israel	IL	8	1 201	1 966	5 538
India	IN	0	1 120	0	0
Italy	IT	716	104 721	115 597	124 208
Japan	JP	42	138	157	186
Korea	KR	8	1 631	1 741	1 788
Cayman Islands	KY	0	1 054	1 058	1 064
Lichtenstein	LI	28	194	227	234
Lithuania	LT	31	2 175	2 482	2 787
Luxemburg	LU	460	88 718	93 713	97 723
Latvia	LV	0	3 346	4 036	4 250
Monaco	MC	244	3 393	4 950	5 912
Malta	MT	69	69	69	69
Malaysia	MY	0	152	166	179
Netherlands	NL	2 521	197 481	220 758	240 812
Norway	NO	68	9 762	12 693	19 537
New Zealand	NZ	2	1 210	1 224	1 223
Poland	PL	642	40 947	48 750	56 731
Portugal	PT	80	849	1 114	1 209
Romania	RO	0	5 548	6 411	6 704
Sweden	SE	2 016	27 912	31 029	35 334
Singapore	SG	35	749	802	818
Slovenia	SI	109	532	670	702
Slovakia	SK	107	6 552	7 246	7 866
Taiwan	TW	9	86	100	117
USA	US	3 025	319 775	339 216	352 142
Total		34 188	2 000 218	2 249 670	2 444 947

Since .eu has registrars from all over the world there are also a few non-European countries appearing up in the list above. In total .eu has registrars from 45 countries.

Total number of registrars per country – alphabetical

Top-ten list of countries with the highest number of registrars (as of Dec 31, 2006)

USA	630
Netherlands	181
Germany	155
Italy	75
Belgium	73
Austria	67
Great Britain	64
France	45
Sweden	39
Spain	26

Country	Country code	End of Q1	End of Q2	End of Q3	End of Q4
Anguilla	AI	1	0	0	0
Austria	AT	67	66	66	67
Australia	AU	14	13	13	15
Barbados	BB	1	1	1	1
Belgium	BE	74	74	76	73
Bahamas	BS	1	1	1	1
Canada	CA	18	17	17	18
Switzerland	CH	6	7	7	8
China	CN	1	4	4	4
Cyprus	CY	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	CZ	15	15	15	15
Germany	DE	156	158	158	155
Denmark	DK	25	25	25	24
Estonia	EE	1	1	1	1
Spain	ES	25	24	25	26
Finland	FI	5	5	6	6
France	FR	45	43	42	45
Great Britain	GB	63	63	63	64
Gibraltar	GI	0	0	1	1
Greece	GR	17	17	17	18
Hungary	HY	15	15	15	16
Ireland	IE	6	6	6	6
Israel	IL	3	3	3	3
India	IN	1	1	0	0
Italy	IT	76	72	73	75
Japan	JP	2	2	1	2
Korea	KR	3	3	3	3
Cayman Islands	KY	2	2	2	2
Lichtenstein	LI	1	1	1	1
Lithuania	LT	4	4	4	4
Luxembourg	LU	10	10	10	10
Latvia	LV	3	3	2	4
Monaco	MC	1	1	1	1
Malta	MT	1	1	1	1
Malaysia	MY	1	1	1	1
Netherlands	NL	186	182	179	181
Norway	NO	3	3	4	5
New Zealand	NZ	1	1	1	1
Poland	PL	11	13	13	13
Portugal	PT	6	5	5	6
Romania	RO	6	6	6	7
Sweden	SE	42	42	41	39
Singapore	SG	1	0	1	1
Slovenia	SI	2	2	2	2
Slovakia	SK	12	12	12	12
Taiwan	TW	1	1	1	1
USA	US	624	620	623	630
Total		1560	1547	1550	1570

Top 40 registrars based on number of .eu registrations

Rank	Registrar	Country code	Number of registrations
1	Schlund+Partner AG	DE	163 472
2	STRATO AG	DE	132 639
3	Tucows.com Co.	CA	55 278
4	Domain Robot	DE	54 294
5	united-domains AG	DE	40 648
6	Go Daddy Software, Inc.	US	40 450
7	Key-Systems GmbH	DE	39 867
8	Register.it S.p.A.	IT	33 966
9	Ascio Technologies Inc.	DK	32 524
10	EuroDNS S.A.	LU	31 326
11	OVH	FR	29 004
12	Aruba S.p.A.	IT	27 641
13	Cronon AG	DE	27 500
14	GANDI	FR	24 572
15	NetArt Piotr Nowak	PL	21 861
16	Advantage Interactive Ltd	GB	21 053
17	Deutsche Telekom AG	DE	17 553
18	Network Solutions Europe, LLC	US	17 361
19	home.pl sp.j.	PL	16 960
20	1&1 Internet Ltd.	GB	16 550
21	Metaregistrar	NL	16 516
22	1&1 Internet AG	DE	16 402
23	1&1 Internet sarl	FR	16 142
24	1&1 Internet Inc.	US	15 937
25	AMEN	FR	15 444
26	Lycos Europe GmbH	DE	15 253
27	NetNames Ltd	GB	15 192
28	Active 24 ASA	NO	15 129
29	Schlund Technologies GmbH	DE	14 376
30	D'URSEL S.A.	LU	13 968
31	domainfactory GmbH	DE	13 625
32	Openprovider	NL	13 424
33	Fabulous.com Pty Ltd	AU	13 319
34	CV.ONLINE.LU SA	LU	13 221
35	Alicom srl	IT	12 553
36	9 Net srl	IT	12 465
37	INTERNET CZ, a.s.	CZ	12 255
38	CSL GmbH Computer Service Langenbach d/b/a joker.com	DE	12 202
39	EU Internet Domains Ltd	IE	12 105
40	Transip BV	NL	12 024



HUMAN RESOURCES

With a fledgling team to get it started, the early part of 2006 saw the registry set about fulfilling its aim of being able to offer customer support in all the official languages of the European Union.

To hire the right people for the job of support, EURid made use of various recruitment agencies and also used its website as a means of advertising the vacancies on offer. Recruiting began in January, and by March, a mere 2 months later, EURid had a complete support team and consisted of 18 full time and 9 part time employees. It was not long before the EURid ranks expanded again, this time in the IT department, where 5 additional members of staff were hired to assist in the daily technical operations of the registry and to maintain and develop the registration platform.

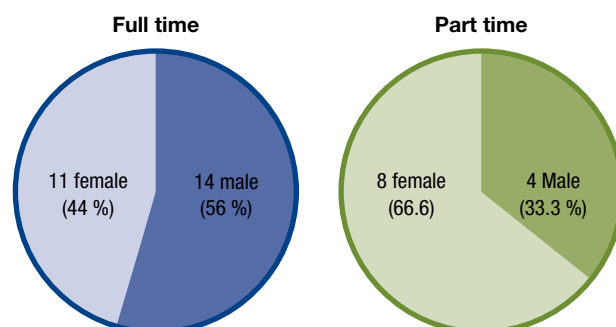
By the time 2006 drew to a close, the EURid staff had tripled and could boast 32.5 full time equivalents, 48.6 percent of which were male and 51.4 percent of which were female, making for a well balanced working environment.

Registry staff is highly educated and while the corporate language is English, most employees are trilingual, with some even speaking up to six languages.

Staff turn over amongst those in the support team is virtually zero. There are still a few vacancies to fill as the registry expands and matures. For example, EURid is (at the time of writing) looking for an International Relations manager to represent the registry at an international level and improve its registrar relations. Now that .eu is an established domain, functions such as this have become necessary.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Full time	16	17	18	19	20	21	18	18	22	27	26	25
Part time	7	9	9	9	9	10	11	11	13	10	11	12
FTE*	19	21.5	23.5	23.5	24	25	24.9	25.5	30.4	33.5	33	32.5

* Full time equivalent



Expansion

With its headquarters firmly established in Belgium, the registry began the task of establishing its satellite offices in early July.

The first of these was to be the Northern regional office, established in Stockholm, Sweden. Once the Swedish branch of the registry had officially been established, EURid set about hiring the appropriate support staff. By making use of local recruitment agencies, several suitable candidates were found and in no time all open vacancies were filled, the new employees enjoying similar extra legal benefits and salaries to their Belgian counterparts. The Northern regional office offers language support for Finnish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Swedish, Danish, English and Irish callers.

Next was the Central regional office in Prague, the Czech Republic. Preparations began in early September and once again, the utilisation of local recruitment agencies ensured that the right people were found for the jobs on offer. Not all vacancies were filled in 2006 but the recruitment process is ongoing. The Central European office will offer language support in Czech, Polish, Slovakian, Romanian, Hungarian and Bulgarian.

September also saw EURid take the first steps towards establishing its third satellite office in Italy. The manager for the Southern regional office was recruited in early October and several potential locations for the offices were scouted although none has been decided upon yet. 2007 will be the year in which the Southern regional office makes its official entrance into annals of .eu and the recruiting process for suitable support staff will begin in the first quarter of the New Year. The languages supported will be: Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Slovenian and Italian.

As each of the regional offices assumed its responsibilities there followed a time in which the new additions to the EURid team had to get to know the ropes. To facilitate this, all new members of staff visited the Belgian headquarters for a number of days to be trained in their various tasks. This activity will continue in 2007.



TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

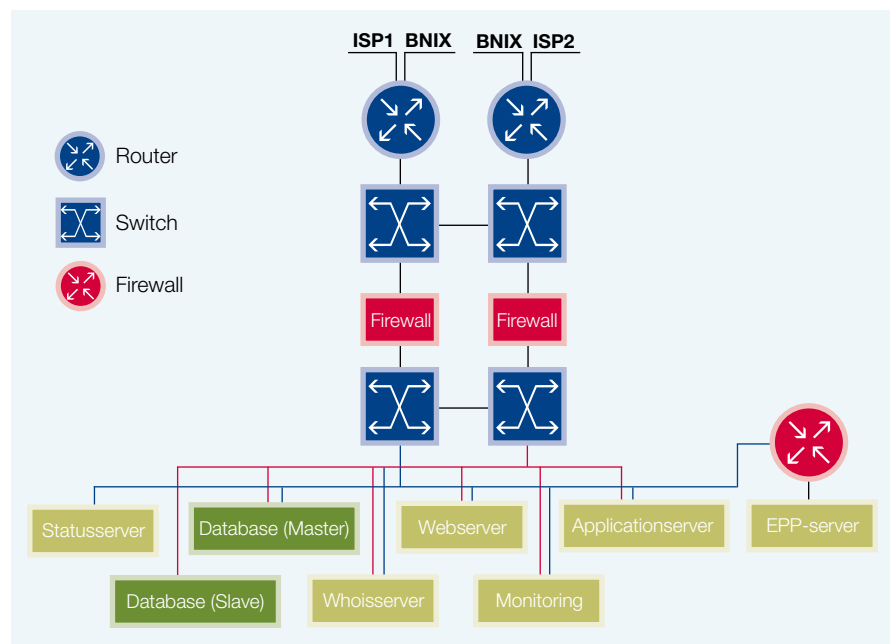
Overview

EURid's systems can be separated in two distinct groups:

The first group of servers comprises the operational DNS infrastructure, i.e. the actual servers that respond to queries from users all over the world. Currently this infrastructure consists of six servers distributed over Europe. When scouting suitable locations for these servers, two main criteria were taken into account: Geographical spread (throughout Europe) to prevent local disasters (such as airplane crashes, earthquakes etc.) from having a global impact and bandwidth in abundance, coupled with very good connectivity to the rest of the Internet. Therefore EURid has chosen to place its nameservers at national internet exchange points, which by their definition have very good connectivity to all the major players (ISPs) in their country.

The current nameservers are based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands (AMS-IX), Brussels, Belgium (BNIX), London, United Kingdom (LINX), Milan, Italy (MIX), Prague, Czech Republic (NIX.CZ) and Ljubljana, Slovenia (SIX).

The second group of EURid servers forms the backbone of the registry's administrative infrastructure or actual registration system. The following figure gives a schematic overview of this structure:



The infrastructure is completely redundant. Routers and firewalls have been setup in a cluster and spare machines are available for all servers. Moreover,

a copy of the core database is kept on a separate machine which is kept in sync with the master database at all times. Also, different ISPs provide for internet connectivity in a transparent manner.

Numbers and statistics

In the last quarter (October, November, December 2006) a total of 1.23 million transactions were conducted on the registration system. More than 98 percent of these were performed via the EPP system, while the rest were executed manually by means of the web-based system. The following table gives an overview of the various subdivisions. All transactions are grouped according to their category: transactions on contacts, domains and other (nameserver-groups, userIDs, activation etc), whether they were successful or not and the interface that was used to perform the transaction (EPP or web-based).

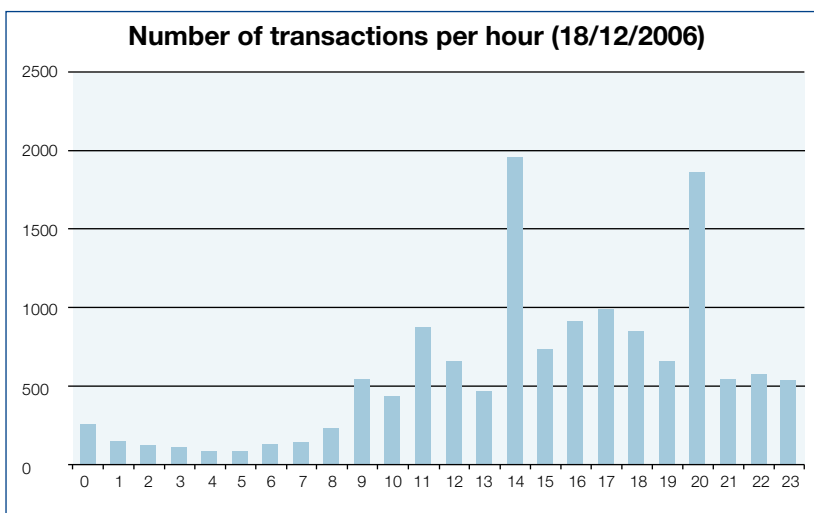
		WEB	EPP	Total
Contact	OK	6 873	509 797	516 670 (41.8%)
	NOT OK	173	21 947	22 120 (1.8%)
Domain	OK	14 717	521 687	536 404 (43.4%)
	NOT OK	758	155 299	156 057 (12.6%)
Other	OK	889	2 791	3 680 (0.4%)
	NOT OK	61	222	283 (0.0%)
Total	OK	22 479	1 034 275	1 056 754 (85.5%)
	NOT OK	992	177 468	178 460 (14.5%)
Total		23 471	1 211 743	1 235 214

Almost 15 percent of all transactions return some sort of error. Examples of errors include: Reference to non existing contacts, insufficient funds in the registrar's account or glue records not allowed.

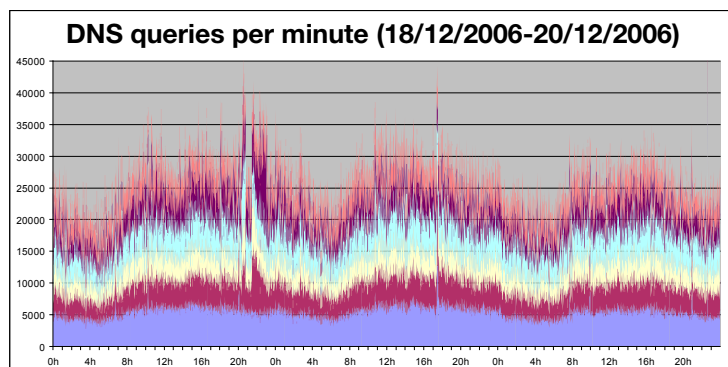
While during Landrush on April 7th, the registration system experienced a sustained transaction throughput of more than 120 transactions per second

for quite some time, we see that during December 2006, the average number of transactions per business day (Monday to Friday) was about 13 000, with a maximum of almost 25 000 transactions on December 19th. As the system can easily cope with more than 150.000 transactions per hour, this leaves quite some room for growth.

As can be seen from the graph to the left, the .eu domain name registration has a strong bias towards European based businesses.



The graph shows the number of transactions received by the registration system per hour on December 18th 2006. Time is depicted as Central European Time. The rise in the number of transactions per hour can clearly be seen at 9 o'clock in the morning. Thereafter the number of transactions



per hour is just inside or over 500 registrations per hour until midnight, when the number decreases again to approximately 100 registrations per hour.

On the operational side, the number of DNS queries handled by the six official .eu nameservers is continuously on the rise as mentioned elsewhere in this report. In the following graph, the number of DNS queries handled per nameserver per minute is shown.

Some observations:

Firstly, nights and days are distinguishable from each other. The overall number of queries handled by the nameservers starts dropping from midnight onwards and reaches a minimum at around 7 o'clock in the morning at which point the totals start to rise again, clearly indicating a local usage of .eu domain names (where local should be understood as the Central European Time zone, give or take a few hours.) Secondly, the graph shows that some nameservers handle a lot more queries than others. The 'least used' nameservers handle only a bit more than half the number of queries in comparison to the 'most used' nameservers. Several factors play a role in this phenomenon, but the most important one is proximity to the nameserver. The distance between the originator of the query and the nameserver responding to the question plays a large role in determining the response time and response time is the deciding factor for a querying nameserver when it decides which nameserver it will ask.

Obviously, the amount of traffic traversing an exchange point is a direct indicator of the proximity of its users and indeed what we see is that the exchange point seeing the most traffic during a day indeed is also the home of the most used nameserver.

Escrow agreement

In 2005 EURid, the European Commission and Escrow Europe signed an escrow agreement. In this contract parties have agreed that EURid will upload the .eu database daily thereby allowing Escrow Europe to: verify completeness of the .eu-TLD data; verify cohesion of the .eu-TLD data; and verify correct format of the .eu-TLD data.

The quarterly reports from the Escrow agent for 2006 state that all checks show that the .eu database is complete and in the correct format.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Operationally speaking, 2006 was a busy year for the .eu registry as it strove to maximise its functionality while facing many of the challenges that go hand in hand with launching a top level domain.

Sunrise

The Sunrise period dominated the first quarter and much of the rest of the year and proved to be the focus of most operational activities.

Within four months of the .eu launch, a staggering 346 000 applications had been received; a number that vastly exceeded anybody's expectations. To process the queries that such a volume of applications inevitably generates, a support organisation was set up to provide telephonic and email support to registrants and registrars alike in the (at that moment) 20 official languages of the EU. Each language was given a dedicated telephone number for ease of use by the public.

Although the Sunrise period officially drew to a close in early April, Sunrise related validations continued until late into the year as the 250 000 sets of documentary evidence received were validated by the validation agents, PricewaterhouseCoopers and GVPs. This occurred at the rate of approximately 1200 applications per day.

All names applied for during the Sunrise period but not granted to any applicants, as the applications had either expired or had been rejected, were subsequently released to the public for general registration. These weekly releases became known as "mini landrushes", the last of which took place in December.

Landrush

With the end of Sunrise in sight, the start of April saw EURid preparing for Landrush, the launch of .eu to the general public, on April 7th. In anticipation of the volume of traffic expected on the big day, EURid invested in a top class routing system, used in combination with dedicated firewalls. This was linked to the Internet via a dedicated fibre link. A penalty system was also put in place in order to prevent abuse of the registration platform.

A mere four hours after .eu's public debut, the registry had already registered some 700 000 domain names. This number continued to rise with the number of .eu registrations hitting the 1 million mark that same day. The latter half of the year saw a steady growth in the number of domain name registrations, with .eu passing 2 million in late June, and gave the registry an opportunity to develop and mature its activities in several areas as it moved to a more conventional business model.

Technically and elsewhere

EURid increased the functionality of its registration platform by enabling the trades and transfers of domain names in late April. Not long after this, the registry also introduced domain name deletion. Trades and transfers have been processed in a steady stream since their introduction and due the fact that the address of the new owner of a traded domain must be verified for eligibility before the trade can be approved, this activity takes up a considerable amount of time in day to day operations.

Within the bounds of the Public Policy Rules, the registry also set up a team dedicated to the investigation of registrants believed to be in violation of the .eu eligibility criteria. About thousand domain names were revoked as a consequence of these investigations and the team continues to monitor new registrations in this regard.

Similarly, reported incidents of .eu registrar misbehaviour were examined and several registrars were targeted for allegedly breaching their agreement with EURid. The litigation ensuing from this action is still ongoing and is elaborated upon in the following section.

The Sunrise audit

As laid out in the Public Policy Rules (EC874/2204), an audit of the .eu Sunrise, was started in September of 2006 and was conducted by Fujitsu Services. The purpose of the audit was to confirm that the registry's operational and technical administration of the phased registration (Sunrise) period was fair, appropriate and sound. The auditor has reported his findings to the European Commission in February 2007.



The Legal Background

Commission Regulation (EC) 874/2004 of 28 April 2004, also known as the Public Policy Rules (PPR), covers the many facets of operating the .eu top level domain. These Rules regulate the preparatory phase of .eu, the public launch and day to day operations.

The following is a basic overview of the PPR:

The right to register a .eu domain is reserved for persons, organisations or undertakings residing, established or having their registered office or central administration within the Community. The filing of applications for domain name registration and communications must be possible in all official languages of the Community.

The Rules further establish that prior to the period of phased registration, from December 2005 to April 2006; Member States were to be given the opportunity to reserve geographical, geopolitical and country names, while the Commission could reserve the names of bodies representing Community institutions.

Thereafter, during the period of phased registration commonly known as Sunrise, holders of prior rights such as trademarks, trade names and company names were to be given the possibility of registering domains insofar as they were first in line and protected under their national law. The documentary evidence demonstrating such prior rights was to be verified by a validation agent (PricewaterhouseCoopers.)

The Rules go on to state that any party disagreeing with the registry's acceptance or rejection of an application filed during the Sunrise period was to be afforded the opportunity of initiating an ADR procedure with the Czech Arbitration Court in Prague. A panel of one or three independent and impartial arbitrators would then decide whether the decision made by the Registry conflicted with the PPR and subsequently confirm or annul that decision. The results of an ADR were and are binding to all participating parties unless court proceedings are initiated within 30 calendar days of their notification.

Similarly, the rules outline the conditions under which interested parties can file complaints regarding improper, speculative or abusive registrations and the revocation of such names.

The principles of first-come-first-served, the laws pertaining to the publication of information contained in the WHOIS database and the accreditation of registrars are also laid out.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Some 491 ADR proceedings were initiated against a EURid decision concerning one or more names. In 266 cases the Court confirmed the registry's decision and in 76 cases the decision was annulled. The remaining complaints were withdrawn or defective.

As these cases were processed some interesting case law developed. Many arbitrators struggled with complaints against the registry's decision on the grounds of speculative or abusive registration, while such a complaint should in fact, according to the PPR, have been filed against the domain name holder and then only after the registration of the name. Arbitrators were unanimous in their decision that bad faith, a constitutive element of speculation or abuse, could not affect a Sunrise application.

Conversely, that the PPR allows the elimination of special characters (such as the ampersand) from names used to claim prior rights resulted in complaints on which the arbitrators were divided. The first decision to accept the name "Barcelona" was annulled on this basis, but eventually a majority of similar decisions were accepted.

The better part of the complaints against EURid concerned the rejection of a Sunrise application due to defective documentary evidence (97,) whether the validation agent should have better investigated the evidence submitted (118) and the appreciation of figurative or composite signs (20). Only 12 court proceedings have been initiated against ADR decisions by way of appeal and are still pending.

Also, some 238 ADRs were initiated against domain name holders by complainants of alleged abusive or speculative and the majority were accepted.

Domain Grabbing

As the standard registrar agreement requires that registrars refrain from warehousing practices, EURid has summoned 400 US incorporated registrars, who registered 74.000 domain names on behalf of three Cypriot registrants, before the Brussels' Court. This litigation, which is still pending, is seen as being a test case for the legal appreciation of these kinds of activities.

Moreover, while no legal grounds exist for preventing registrants from grabbing domains, some 11 000 names have been suspended with a view to revocation and approximately 1 000 have effectively been revoked due to the deliberate submission of inaccurate information to the WHOIS database.

COMMUNICATIONS

The launch of .eu naturally put demands on the Communications. EURid made extensive use of its websites and other means of communication to keep the public and its registrars apprised of .eu development. On average, the website was updated with new information on a weekly basis.

The public website

In 2006, the public website (www.eurid.eu) was available in five languages (English, German, French, Spanish and Italian,) while all relevant documents such as the Sunrise Rules, Terms and Conditions, the Registrar Agreement etc were made available in all official EU languages. In 2007, EURid plans to further increase the number of languages in which the website is available. During 2006 minor development was done to the content and structure of the website while a major redesign was prepared in parallel. The new look EURid website has been in use since early February 2007.

Registrar communications

To keep its accredited registrars up to date, EURid regularly distributes emails regarding current issues. A registrar newsletter is also distributed via email on a monthly basis which sums up the major issues of the month gone by and it also contains less time critical information. During the first part of 2006, when Sunrise was at its peak, the frequency of the newsletter was higher.

Aside from the above, EURid also maintains a Registrar Extranet for which each registrar has its own login. Using this platform, they can maintain and update their domain name portfolio, see recent invoices and obtain other information aimed specifically at the registrar community.

In addition, December saw the registry host its first so called registrar webinar – a web based seminar – which was attended by approximately one hundred registrars. It is EURid's intention to host one live seminar/registrar meeting per year and to complement this annually by a couple of webinars.

The outside world

Apart from the obvious communications via email and telephone to the general public, .eu has frequently been in the media, especially during the launch period. Over the year more than 1000 articles about .eu have appeared in the press and the domain has also been featured in numerous radio and TV shows throughout the Community. From its side, EURid has distributed a number of press releases and .eu updates to the media.



Another channel for information is the quarterly progress reports that EURid produces for the European Commission. During 2006 those reports were made publicly available via the website and contain a lot of statistics on .eu.

Updated graphical profile

During 2006 the registry also worked on its graphical profile and introduced an updated look and feel. The updated image is most obvious on the public website, but is also reflected on corporate stationary and other printed matters.



THE MANAGEMENT TEAM



*Standing from the left: Peter Janssen, Bob Walraet and Karlien De Reycke.
Seated from the left: Patrik Lindén, Marc Van Wesemael and Herman Sobrie.*

Marc Van Wesemael, General Manager

Mr. Van Wesemael has an MBA and a degree in Electronic Engineering. He has worked in the telecom and software industries as a consultant and as a manager in software engineering, general sales and marketing. He has been the managing director of DNS.be since 1999 when the .be TLD was transferred from the University of Leuven to its current non-profit organization. He was a key player in the implementation of the .eu domain and is currently CEO of the .eu registry.

Peter Janssen, Technical Manager

Mr. Janssen has a master in Computer Science from the University of Leuven. He joined the Belgian ccTLD, .be, in 2000 in the guise of technical director and was responsible for the domain's liberalisation in December 2002. He now fulfills the same role at the .eu registry.

Bob Walraet, Business Manager

Mr. Walraet has a master in Electronic Engineering from the Liège University. He has experience in IT development (at Philips and Siemens), IT methodology (at PWC), customer service and consultancy (at Cullinet, Ethica and MSB) and ITIL-based service management (at Banksys). He manages client operations and support at EURid as well as the regional offices.

**Patrik Lindén, Communications manager
and Regional manager Northern Europe**

Patrik has a background as communications manager for .se (Sweden) and joined EURid in January 2006. He also has 4 years of experience as a senior PR consultant and has previously worked as a journalist and editor. Patrik heads the regional office in Stockholm.

Herman Sobrie, Legal Manager

Mr. Sobrie studied Law and Notary studies at several Belgian universities. He worked as attorney at the Bar of Gent, Belgium, until 1983 and since then has held positions as legal counsel with Elsevier, Campbell Soup and Siemens consecutively. Currently he manages EURid's legal department.

Karliën De Reycke, Human Resources Manager

Ms. De Reycke is a post graduate in HR-management at EHSAL in Brussels. Until November 2005 she worked as a branch manager and international product manager at Kelly Services Interim. There she was, amongst other things, responsible for a pilot project concerning international recruitment. Her previous work experience in HR includes working for Regus Business Centers where she held the position of HR manager for the Benelux between 1998 and 2002.



THE EURID BOARD AND STRATEGIC COMMITTEE



*Standing from the left: Marko Bonač, Tomáš Maršálek and Michiel Leenaars.
Seated from the left: Östen Frånberg, Pierre Verbaeten and Enrico Gregori.*

Pierre Verbaeten, Chairman of the board

Pierre Verbaeten is chairman of the Computer Science department of the "Katholieke Universiteit Leuven" where he lectures on networking and distributed systems. He also leads the DistriNet research group which does basic and applied research in computer networks, security, middleware, multi-agent systems and embedded systems. Active within the DistriNet group are 7 professors, 10 post-doctoral students and 50 PhD students. In 1989 Pierre Verbaeten became the first manager for the .be registry and in 2000 he transferred this responsibility to the newly created not-for-profit organisation, DNS BE. He is still a member of the strategic committee of DNS BE and has been chairman of the EURid board for several years.

Östen Frånberg, Director of the board

Mr. Frånberg is the chairman of the Swedish branch of Internet Society (ISOC-SE) and has been officer of the international ISOC advisory council. He is the founder of the Swedish Internet Infrastructure Foundation (IIS), operating the .se top level domain for which he was chairman for almost ten years. Mr Frånberg has also been a corporate director within Corporate Technology at the Ericsson Headquarters in Stockholm. Mr Frånberg studied Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence for a PhD at Boston University (PhD degree not completed).

Tomáš Maršálek, Director of the board

Mr Maršálek has a master in Radio Electronic Science from the Czech Technical University (CVUT) in Prague. He founded and manages MARIAS s.r.o., a Prague based IT consultancy specialising in development and integration of network operations centers (NOC). He is on the board for CZ.NIC operating the .cz top level domain and was one of the founders of GTS in the Czech Republic, the third commercial ISP in that country.

Enrico Gregori, Director of the board

Mr. Gregori has, after his laureate degree, contributed to research on computer network technologies and in 1985 he was a member of the team that developed the first Italian Internet node. He joined CNR in 1984 and is now the director of the Institute for Informatics and Telematics and the director of the ccTLD “.it.” He is also a member of the board of directors of the CREATE-NET Association, an international association with the aim of developing research and experimental activities for the development of the Internet. He is both a member of the editorial board of the Computer Networks, Cluster Computing eWireless Network journals and a member of the scientific committee that supervises and coordinates the Master in Internet Technologies of the University of Pisa.

Marko Bonac, Director of the board

Mr. Bonac received B.Sc. in Mathematics (1981) and M.Sc. in Computer Science (1988) from the University of Ljubljana. Between 1981 and 1992 he worked as a researcher and project leader in many projects in the field of computer networks. Since 1992 he has been director of Arnes (Academic and Research Network of Slovenia.) Arnes is also the registry for Slovenian top level domain .si. In addition, Marko Bonac is a member of the Management Board of SISPA (Association of Slovenian Internet Service Providers) and member of the Executive Committee of TERENA (Association of National Research and Education Networks in Europe).

Michiel Leenaars, Member of the strategic Committee

Mr. Leenaars is director of Internet Society Netherlands, the largest ISOC chapter in the world. In the Strategic Committee of EURid he represents ISOC-ECC, the joint European Chapters of Internet Society. Since 2002 Michiel Leenaars has been working for the Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) as an advisor on e-science, e-infrastructure and grid technology. In recent years he has been very much involved with the e-Infrastructures Reflection Group (e-IRG), the European policy body coordinating on a high European level the introduction of a (grid based) infrastructure for e-Science. Since 2005 he has been serving as the lead editor of the e-Infrastructures Roadmap that is published by e-IRG. Michiel Leenaars has an

Internet Society

Internet Society is the global not-for-profit organisation behind the key internet technology. Its goal is to assure the beneficial, open evolution of the internet. For more information, see www.isoc.org



