

PRSP Pre- ICANN78 Briefing

**Includes Status Update for
Next Round of New gTLDs**

Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs (PRSP)

Global Domains and Strategy (GDS)
9 October 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION	3
2 NEW GTLD PROGRAM NEXT ROUND IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE	4
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2.1 Overview of the Four Work Streams	5
2.1.1 Work Stream 1: Policy Implementation	5
2.1.2 Work Stream 2: Program Design	6
2.1.3 Work Stream 3: Infrastructure Development	6
2.1.4 Work Stream 4: Operationalization	7
3 WHAT TO EXPECT DURING ICANN78 FOR THE NEXT ROUND?	8
4 APPLICANT SUPPORT PROGRAM	10
5 REGISTRATION DATA POLICY (EPDP PHASE 1) IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW TEAM	13
6 RPM PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION	15
7 OTHER ONGOING WORK	17
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7.1 TLD Operating Models Study	17
7.2 Operational Design Phase (ODP) Community Consultation	17
7.3 Competition, Consumer Choice and Consumer Trust (CCT) Review Team Recommendation Implementation (Contracted Parties Survey)	18
7.4 Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI)	18
7.5 Guidelines for GDS Liaisons to PDPs	19

1 Introduction

The Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs (PRSP) is part of ICANN's Global Domains and Strategy (GDS) function. Its scope includes enabling informed participation in the ICANN multistakeholder model and helping to foster secure, stable, and universal operation of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and email addresses for Internet users around the world. PRSP also supports the implementation of consensus policy recommendations for generic top-level domains (gTLDs). Our remit includes the implementation of the Next Round of new gTLDs, including drafting the Applicant Guidebook with the assistance of the Implementation Review Team (IRT), and including working towards ICANN org's operational readiness for the Next Round.

This PRSP briefing¹ provides status updates and progress reporting on the various community-facing projects that the PRSP team supports, all in preparation for discussions during the upcoming ICANN78 meeting. The pre-ICANN meeting briefings are a valuable resource for the community and help to increase visibility and accountability for the multiple projects the PRSP team supports and leads.

This briefing also includes our status report on the New gTLD Program: Next Round. In its 16 March 2023 [resolution](#) adopting recommendations from the [Final Report](#), the Board directed ICANN org to "publish a report on the progress and status of implementation until the opening of the next application round of the New gTLD Program, at least two weeks prior to the start of each ICANN Public Meeting, starting with the ICANN77 Public Meeting."² Since ICANN77, we've published the [Implementation Plan](#) for the next round of the New gTLD Program, and Regular updates on the plan will be included as part of this PRSP Briefing prior to every ICANN Public Meeting. Links to previous PRSP Pre-ICANN meeting briefings can be found [here](#).

Feedback on this document is encouraged so that the PRSP team can improve briefings for future meetings. PRSP team members will be present in Hamburg to help support several sessions as listed in Section 3 below. Do not hesitate to reach out to any of the PRSP team members either in person in Hamburg or via email at prsp-team@icann.org. We look forward to engaging with the community and hope to see you at ICANN78.

Karen Lentz
VP, Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs

¹ **Note on GNSO Policy Briefing:** This briefing was inspired by a similar briefing published regularly by the GNSO before every ICANN Meeting. The GNSO Policy Support Team has developed this publicly available GNSO Policy Briefing to help community members prepare for ICANN78. It provides an overview of the status of the GNSO PDP working groups and teams, as well as information about other GNSO policy-related activities, including PDP Implementation Review Teams (IRTs). The document includes links for additional background reading to help readers prepare for ICANN78. You can read the GNSO Policy Briefing: ICANN78 Edition [here](#).

² Please note that the 16 March 2023 Resolution is not the latest Resolution of the Board. The latest ICANN Board Resolution of 10 September 2023 can be found [here](#). This Resolution has resulted in an [updated scorecard](#) with fewer pending Recommendations.

2 New gTLD Program Next Round Implementation Update

This section provides regular reporting from ICANN org to the community on the implementation of the New gTLD Program: Next Round (Next Round), as requested by the ICANN Board in its 16 March 2023 [resolution](#). Information includes updates on the timeline, scope, and budget of the Next Round implementation.

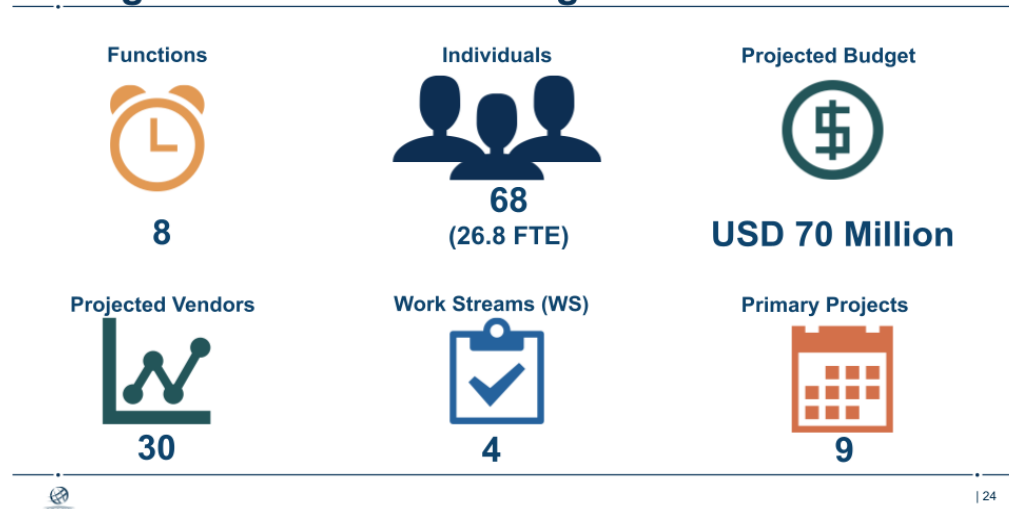
Following a high-level overview of the progress made since the [Pre-ICANN77 PRSP Briefing \(26 May 2023\)](#), the section provides detailed updates on the four implementation streams.³

Overall program progress since ICANN77

- [Board Resolutions](#) on additional pending recommendations passed on 10 September 2023, reducing the number of remaining recommendations from 38 to 13.
- Delivered Program [Development Overview](#).
- Next gTLD Program: [Next Round Implementation Plan](#) (Implementation Plan) delivered to the ICANN Board and published on 31 July 2023.
- Held internal workshops respectively for Applicant Guidebook drafting and process developments.
- Launched targeted, multi-channel, global media outreach and communications campaign in March.
- Created slide presentation for GSE to use in regional outreach efforts.
- Published the New Generic Top-Level Domains Program: Next Round [webpage](#).

A Snapshot of Resource Utilization for the Next Round⁴

Program Resource Tracking



³ For more details about the structure of the Next Round new gTLD Program, please consult the [Implementation Plan](#).

⁴ Information based on the [Implementation Plan](#).

2.1 Overview of the Four Work Streams

2.1.1 Work Stream 1: Policy Implementation

What is it?

Policy implementation is a catch-all term for the drafting of an updated Applicant Guidebook based on the Board-approved outputs from the [Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process](#) (Final Report). ICANN org leads this process in cooperation with the Implementation Review Team (IRT).

Per the [IRT Implementation Plan](#), the deadline for completing the AGB is 31 May 2025; the project is on track. For more information, please refer to the [SubPro IRT workspace](#).

What has occurred since ICANN77?

Since ICANN77, [draft policy language](#) for the following six topics⁵ was discussed with the IRT:

- Topic 2 | Predictability
- Topic 8 | Conflicts of Interest
- Topic 10 | Applicant Freedom of Expression
- Topic 11 | Universal Acceptance
- Topic 21 | Reserved Names
- Topic 24 | String Similarity Evaluations

The IRT will meet face-to-face during Hamburg, please see ‘What To Expect at ICANN78’ below for more details.

What are the remaining dependencies for WS1?

The completion of the Applicant Guidebook is contingent upon several dependencies, as noted in the Implementation Plan:

- Board resolving on 13 recommendations, which remain in pending status.
 - Topic 9 | Registry Voluntary Commitments/ Public Interest Commitments: Recommendations 9.1, 9.4, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 9.12, 9.13
 - Topic 30 | GAC Consensus Advice and GAC Early Warning: Recommendation 30.7.
 - Topic 31 | Objections: Recommendations 31.16, 31.17
 - Topic 32.1 | Limited Challenge / Appeal Mechanism: Recommendations 32.1, 32.2, 32.10.
- GNSO Council issuing supplemental recommendations, if any, with regard to those outputs that the Board did not adopt⁶ and the Board’s subsequent consideration of those recommendations.
- Completion and/or Board consideration of the following dependencies:
 - IDN EPDP

⁵ For more information on these and all other relevant topics, please consult the [SubPro Final Report](#).

⁶ Please see [September 2023 Scorecard](#).

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- NCAP Study 2
 - Board action on all outstanding Advice that pertains to the Next Round.⁷

2.1.2 Work Stream 2: Program Design

What is it?

Program Design focuses on the development of internal program processes based on Final Report recommendations and the outcome of WS1 policy implementation. After developing the business requirements from the finalized Applicant Guidebook language, ICANN org needs to create internal business processes for the application lifecycle and specifications for systems and tool development. For more details please refer to the [Implementation Plan](#).

What has occurred since ICANN77?

- Obtained additional process development resources.
- Established methodology to identify and develop processes.
- Created inventory and development schedule of program processes.
- Worked cross functionally with several key internal functions to establish alignment on overall approach to process development.
- Developed processes for several baseline shared processes as part of project 1 - New gTLD Program Foundations. These shared processes are generally internal ICANN processes used in multiple parts of the program.
- Began work on development of processes for the Applicant Support and RSP Evaluation Programs.

2.1.3 Work Stream 3: Infrastructure Development

What is it?

Infrastructure Development at ICANN org involves crafting essential systems and tools to efficiently deliver the required services for supporting the upcoming Next Round. For more details please refer to the [Implementation Plan](#).

What has occurred since ICANN77?

- Work on Registry Service Provider (RSP) Evaluation system design started and is on track.
- Work on Registry System Testing (RST) system design started and is on track.
- Work on operational dependency projects started and is on track.
- Work on strategic dependency projects started and is on track.

⁷ See Implementation Plan for more details.

2.1.4 Work Stream 4: Operationalization

What is it?

Operationalization involves developing procedures for new processes and services, updating existing services, and hiring and training staff in preparation for moving to the Application Processing and Ongoing Operations Phase of the Next Round. This stage focuses on making the program functional and efficient.

Most of the work in this work stream, such as creating process procedures, hiring resources, training staff and vendors, and conducting operational program tests, will occur later in the implementation once processes and systems are developed. As such, information provided may change as this area of implementation work progresses. Please refer to the [Implementation Plan](#) for more details.

3 What to Expect During ICANN78 for the Next Round?

Next Round Sessions During ICANN78 Prep Week

New gTLD Program: Next Round Implementation Status Update

Monday, 9 October 2023

16:30-17:30 CEST (14:30-15:30 UTC)

<https://sched.co/1Sgpf>

Applicant Support Program: Exploring Research Findings from Other Global Programs

Tuesday, 10 October 2023

16:30-17:30 CEST (14:30-15:30 UTC)

<https://sched.co/1Sgpm>

New gTLD Program Next Round: Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program Status Update

Wednesday, 11 October 2023

16:30-17:30 CEST (14:30-15:30 UTC)

<https://sched.co/1Sgq1>

Next Round-Related Sessions During ICANN78

IDN EPDP Working Session (1 of 3)

Saturday, 21 October 2023

9:00-10:00 CEST (7:00-8:00 UTC)

<https://sched.co/1T4MM>

GDS: Subsequent Procedures IRT (1 of 3)

Saturday, 21 October 2023

10:30-12:00 CEST (08:30-10:00 UTC)

[Agenda](#)

<https://sched.co/1T4Ko>

IDN EPDP Working Session (2 of 3)

Saturday, 21 October 2023

10:30-12:00 CEST (8:30-10:00 UTC)

<https://sched.co/1T4MO>

CPWG Overview

Sunday, 22 October 2023

10:30-12:00 CEST (08:30-10:00 UTC)

<https://sched.co/1T4Kq>

ALAC Sub-Committee on Outreach and Engagement

Sunday, 22 October 2023

16:30-17:30 CEST (14:30-15:30 UTC)

<https://sched.co/1T4Ku>

IDN EPDP Working Session (3 of 3)
Monday, 23 October 2023
16:30-17:30 CEST (14:30-15:30 UTC)
<https://sched.co/1T4KM>

GAC Discussion on New gTLD Program Next Round (1/2)
Tuesday, 24 October 2023
08:30-09:30 CEST (06:30-07:30 UTC)
<https://sched.co/1T4Jl>

ALAC/GAC session
Tuesday, 24 October 2023
11:30-12:30 CEST (09:30-10:30 UTC)
<https://sched.co/1T4JO>

GAC Discussion on New gTLD Program Next Round (2/2)
Wednesday, 25 October 2023
09:00-10:00 CEST (07:00-08:00 UTC)
<https://sched.co/1T4Jb>

GDS: Subsequent Procedures IRT (2 of 3)
Wednesday, 25 October 2023 (2 of 3)
16:00-17:30 CEST (14:00-15:30 UTC)
[Agenda](#)
<https://sched.co/1T4Ll>

GDS: Subsequent Procedures IRT (3 of 3)
Thursday, 26 October 2023
09:00-10:00 CEST (07:00-08:00 UTC)
[Agenda](#)
<https://sched.co/1T4Kf>

Planning for String Similarity Review in the next gTLD Round
Thursday, 26 October 2023
09:00-10:00 CEST (07:00-08:00 UTC)
<https://sched.co/1T4IL>

Background documents for the Next Round

- [The New gTLD Program: Next Round Implementation Plan](#)
- Next Round [webpage](#)
- [Final Report](#) on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process
- [IRT community workspace Wiki](#)

4 Applicant Support Program

Applicant Support Sessions During ICANN78 Prep Week:

Applicant Support Program: Exploring Research Findings from Other Global Programs

Tuesday, 10 October 2023

16:30-17:30 CEST (14:30-15:30 UTC)

<https://sched.co/1Sgpm>

Next Round-Related Sessions During ICANN78:

Applicant Support Program (GDS: Subsequent Procedures IRT (2 of 3))

Wednesday, 25 October 2023 (TBC)

16:00-17:30 CEST (14:00-15:30 UTC)

[Agenda](#)

<https://sched.co/1T4LI>

What is it?

The Applicant Support Program (ASP) was developed for the 2012 round of the New gTLD Program. The [SubPro Operational Design Assessment \(ODA\)](#) stated that the goal of the ASP is to provide financial and non-financial assistance to gTLD applicants that require support and who carry out work related to public interest benefit. The [GNSO Guidance Process \(GGP\) for ASP](#), initiated in August 2022, was tasked, among other things, with articulating what constitutes success of the ASP and in doing so, proposing what data and metrics should be collected to inform the program's evaluations.

As noted in the SubPro ODA, the ASP application window is separate from the New gTLD Program application window, occurring before the opening of the New gTLD Next Round of applications and requiring submission of specific application information related to financial need and public interest evaluation criteria ([SubPro ODA: 331](#)). Applicants will be able to apply for applicant support funds approximately 18 months before the New gTLD Program application submission period opens ([SubPro ODA: 331](#)). Based upon the current timeline, this would mean the ASP application submission period commences in Q4 2024. ICANN org expects to open the application submission period for Applicant Support in advance of the New gTLD Program application submission period to allow time for ICANN org to identify the number of applicants requesting support. This would also prevent applicants from paying a new gTLD application fee before they know whether they qualify for support.

Applicants that qualify for support would be eligible for reduced application fees related to the New gTLD Program, have access to a curated list of pro bono service providers to assist with the development of applications and related content such as registry policies, and a bid credit or multiplier if the supported applicant participates in an ICANN Auction of Last Resort ([SubPro ODA: 331](#)). On expanding the scope of financial support to applicants (Recommendation 17.2), the Board resolved the following:

The Board reiterates its previous concerns about Recommendation 17.2, which calls for ICANN to “expand the scope of financial support provided to Applicant Support Program beneficiaries beyond the application fee to also cover costs such as application writing fees and attorney fees related to the application process.” As previously noted, the Board is concerned that the expansion of applicant support to affirmative payments of

costs beyond application fees could raise fiduciary concerns for the Board. For example, such expansion of support could raise the possibility of inappropriate use of resources (e.g. inflated expenses, private benefit concerns, and other legal or regulatory concerns). For these reasons, the Board has determined that its adoption of this Recommendation would not be in the best interests of the ICANN community or ICANN. The Board recognizes and appreciates, however, that some potential gTLD applicants may need or benefit from these other types of financial assistance. As a result, the Board is conducting ongoing work relating to expanding the scope of financial support. ([SubPro Scorecard 10 September 2023](#): 18).

The Support Applicant Review Panel (SARP) will evaluate ASP applications. ICANN org envisions that the SARP will be convened as an independently contracted third party that conducts the review and evaluation of applications for support, based upon public interest benefit and financial need criteria. Applicants seeking support will be notified whether they qualify prior to the New gTLD Program application submission period opening in order to give a sufficient period of notice. Please refer to the [New gTLD Program: Next Round Implementation Plan](#) for more detailed information.

ICANN org anticipates sharing the draft of the ASP handbook with the SubPro IRT in the coming months.

What has occurred since ICANN77?

The aforementioned GGP on ASP was open for [Public Comment](#) from 31 July - 11 September 2023. Eight comments were submitted, including one from ICANN org itself. Please see the Public Comment Summary Report [here](#). A newer version of the [GGP Working Group's Report](#) is expected for December 2023, and the GGP Working Group will continue to meet to review the Public Comments.

As mentioned above, ICANN org published its [New gTLD Program: Next Round Implementation Plan](#) on 31 July 2023. There have also been Board discussions regarding [SubPro Final Report Recommendation 17.2](#) (“The Working Group recommends expanding the scope of financial support provided to Applicant Support Program beneficiaries beyond the application fee to also cover costs such as application writing fees and attorney fees related to the application process.”). On 10 September 2023, the Board resolved not to adopt Recommendation 17.2 at this time, pursuant to Bylaws Annex A, Section 9.

ICANN org has continued its work on implementation efforts for ASP (working in parallel with the GGP, with an understanding that the GGP’s final outputs will help inform the design of the program).

What to expect at ICANN78

On 10 October 2023, ICANN org will hold a Prep Week session to present key findings from research exploring globally recognized procedures of similar financial assistance programs. As called for in the SubPro Final Report (Implementation Guidance 17.7), the research explores “procedures that could be adapted to the implementation of the Applicant Support Program.” The research focuses on best practices and strategies to promote accessibility of global programs, specifically focusing on four key intervention areas: the applicant pool, eligibility criteria, application evaluation, and ongoing support. In addition to a presentation of key

research findings, this session will also include a discussion of the potential implications of these findings for the Applicant Support Program in the Next Round.

ICANN org plans to have the **first discussion with the IRT on Applicant Support during ICANN78**, followed by several sessions within the ASP IRT sub-track in Q4 2023 and Q1 2024.

Further information

Useful documents:

- [SubPro Final Report](#), especially Topic 17: Applicant Support (p. 71), outputs summarized also in the table, pp. 251-257
- SubPro [Operational Design Assessment \(ODA\)](#)
- [ODA Assumptions](#)
- [GNSO Guidance Process \(GGP\) on Applicant Support Working Group - Draft Final Report](#)
- [Next Round Implementation Plan](#)

5 Registration Data Policy (EPDP Phase 1) Implementation Review Team

Session details for ICANN78:

GNSO - Registration Data Policy IRT
Thursday, 26 October 2023
13:15-14:30 CEST (11:15-12:30 UTC)
<https://sched.co/1T4Mj>
[What to expect at ICANN78](#)

The EPDP Phase 1 Implementation Project Team (IPT) has completed its work in drafting language for the Registration Data Policy. However, the publication of the policy has been placed on hold due to the letters to the ICANN Board from the [GAC](#) and [Registrars Stakeholder Group](#) concerning the Urgent Request timelines outlined in the policy. ICANN org is currently assessing next steps to publish the policy. For updates, please see the [Registration Data Policy IRT wiki](#) and be sure to join the ICANN78 session on 26 October 2023.

What is the status of this project? What has occurred since ICANN77?

The draft Registration Data Policy language and review and analysis of all impacted policies and procedures were published for [Public Comment](#) on 24 August 2022. The [Public Comment Report](#) was published on 20 January 2023 following three months of comment period accommodating two extension requests from the community due to the large and complex scope of the subject matters that included draft policy language for the Registration Data Policy, revisions to 20 [impacted policies and procedures](#), a new policy advisory to replace the [existing advisory](#), and an updated Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) Profile.

ICANN org [reviewed the comments](#) received, evaluated them to determine the policy language changes required, and reviewed them with the IRT to finalize the policy language for publication.

The publication of the policy was put on-hold due to a [letter](#) from the GAC to the ICANN Board requesting the ICANN Board to review the Urgent Request response time requirement in the policy. The Registrar Stakeholder Group subsequently wrote a [letter](#) to the ICANN Board providing their input on the Urgent Request response time and discussions are ongoing around next steps.

The gTLD Registration Data Policy encompasses 34 policy recommendations from three ICANN Board Resolutions over three years:

- EPDP Phase 1: [Board Resolution](#) in May 2019 (29 recommendations)
- EPDP Phase 2: [Board Resolution](#) in June 2021 (4 recommendations)
- Supplemental Recommendation 12: [Board Resolution](#) in February 2022 (1 recommendation)

The implementation plan includes:

- Registration Data Policy
- Revisions to 20 [impacted policies and procedures](#)
- A new policy advisory to replace the [existing advisory](#)

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- An updated RDAP Profile

This policy replaces the [Interim Registration Data Policy](#) that has been in effect since 20 May 2019 and requires contracted parties to continue to implement measures consistent with the [Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data \(Temp Spec\)](#) as a result of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

What is the topic/background?

The [Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data](#) (TempSpec), which modified existing requirements in the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) and Registry Agreement (RA) to comply with the GDPR, was adopted by the ICANN Board on 17 May 2018. Following Board adoption, an EPDP was initiated on the Temp Spec to determine if it could become an ICANN consensus policy as is, or with modifications.

The Interim Policy, effective as of 20 May 2019, requires contracted parties to continue to implement measures consistent with the [Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data](#), which expired on 25 May 2019.

Further information

For further information, please consult the [Consensus Policy Implementation Framework](#) page on ICANN.org or contact dennis.chang@icann.org or globalsupport@icann.org.

6 RPM Phase 1 Implementation

What is the status of this project? What has happened since ICANN77?

The IRT is assisting ICANN org in the implementation of the policy recommendations from the Phase 1 work of the Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group on the Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs. This project incorporates a phased approach that allows for straightforward-to-implement recommendations to be implemented first, with recommendations with more significant complexity and timing considerations to be implemented sequentially according to level of effort.

Since ICANN77, the Implementation Team met to review proposed changes to the RPM-related procedural documents as well to discuss how to address a number of open items concerning the outputs in the first implementation category. On 24 August 2023, the implementation team published for [Public Comment](#) the proposed changes to the RPM-related procedural documents which were revised in accordance with the relevant PDP Phase 1 outputs. The Public Comment is scheduled to close on 3 October 2023.

Project timeline - upcoming milestones and completion date

Based on the RPM IRT Phase 1 [Implementation Plan](#), ICANN org estimates that implementing the 15 recommendations in the first group, which have been identified as the most straightforward-to-implement as they involve updating existing procedural documents, will require a minimum of five to six months. Implementing the remaining recommendations is estimated to take a minimum of one year due to their complexity and the need to involve multiple stakeholders. Since the implementation team first convened in the last quarter of 2022, implementation is projected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2024.

What is the topic/background?

On 18 February 2016, the GNSO Council [resolved](#) to initiate a two-phased PDP to review all existing RPMs in all gTLDs. The Final Report issued by the PDP Working Group is the culmination of over four years of work from Phase 1, assessing the effectiveness of the relevant RPMs established as safeguards in the 2012 New gTLD Program. These RPMs are: the Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure (TM-PDDRP); Sunrise and Trademark Claims services offered through the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH); and the URS dispute resolution procedure.

The Working Group finalized its recommendations and submitted its Phase 1 Final Report to the GNSO Council on 24 November 2020. In January 2021, the GNSO Council unanimously [approved](#) the [Final Report](#), containing thirty-five (35) final recommendations from the Phase 1 work of the PDP Working Group on the Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs. Pursuant to the ICANN [Bylaws](#), the GNSO Council transmitted the recommendations to the ICANN Board and a Bylaws-mandated Public Comment proceeding concerning the Phase 1 Final Report was conducted (from 7 April 2021 to 21 May 2021).

On 16 January 2022, the ICANN Board [adopted](#) all thirty-five (35) final Phase 1 PDP recommendations as documented in the PDP Working Group's Phase 1 Final Report. On 16 January 2022, the Board [adopted](#) the policy recommendations from the Phase 1 PDP and directed a tiered approach for the work based on timing, staffing, and resourcing needed for implementation of the recommendations. In adopting the recommendations, the Board [noted](#) that implementation of the recommendations could be divided into several categories. These implementation categories are:

- Recommendations that call for updates to existing operational practices or documentation concerning the RPMs where no substantial resources are required for implementation - a total number of sixteen (16) recommendations.
- Recommendations to maintain the status quo (i.e., maintaining the Phase 1 RPMs as implemented for the 2012 New gTLD Program) - a total number of nine (9) recommendations;
- Recommendations that require substantial resourcing, and involvement of multiple stakeholders to implement - a total number of six (6) recommendations; and
- Recommendations affecting subsequent round(s) of new gTLDs - a total number of four (4) recommendations.

The IRT is assisting ICANN org in implementing the recommendations in the first and third implementation categories identified above. Implementation of the remaining recommendations from the Phase 1 Final Report will be integrated into the implementation work related to the subsequent round of new gTLDs.

For more information, including regarding past meetings, please consult the [RPM IRT Wiki page](#).

7 Other Ongoing Work

7.1 TLD Operating Models Study

ICANN org published a Request for Proposal in March 2022 to perform a global study focused on operating models, user requirements, and other factors related to running a TLD in the Internet's DNS. The goal of the study is to provide evidence-based information related to possible operating models, opportunities, and partnerships for TLDs that may benefit diversity and innovation in the gTLD space. The results should help the ICANN org and community understand what information is most important to consider in developing rules and procedures for the next gTLD round to support diversity and innovation in the DNS while maintaining DNS security, stability, and resilience.

In August 2022, ICANN org selected Analysys Mason to conduct the study, and the project started in September 2022. Analysys Mason is in the final stages of the report drafting phase of the project, and ICANN org expects the project to conclude by Q4 2023.

The [Request for Proposal: Top-Level Domain Operating Model Study](#) page provides more details about the scope and methods of the study.

7.2 Operational Design Phase (ODP) Community Consultation

As established in the [Operational Design Phase \(ODP\) Process Paper](#), ICANN org will conduct a community consultation to ensure that the ODP operates effectively and fulfills the needs of the ICANN Board, community, and org. Topics to be explored in this community consultation will include, but are not limited to:

- Scoping of the ODP
- Content and utility of the ODA
- Interactions with GNSO Council and Liaison

Data collection and analysis for this project will be performed in two phases. The initial phase of research, which includes the collection and analysis of internal ICANN org data and relevant ICANN meeting session data, was concluded in September 2023. Findings from this initial phase of research will be used to inform the design of data collection tools to be used in the second phase of research, where ICANN org will analyze results from previous GNSO Council surveys and gather additional feedback from the ICANN Board and community. It is anticipated that this second phase of research will begin in Q1 2024. Findings from both research phases will be summarized in a final report and published for Public Comment. This community consultation will form a key component of the ongoing review and improvement efforts of the ODP process.

7.3 Competition, Consumer Choice and Consumer Trust (CCT) Review Team Recommendation Implementation (Contracted Parties Survey)

In 2016 the CCT review team assessed the degree to which the New gTLD Program promoted consumer trust, choice, and increased competition in the DNS. The review team also reviewed the effectiveness of safeguards put in place to mitigate possible issues arising from the New gTLD Program. Five [CCTRT Final Report](#) recommendations call on ICANN org to survey contracted parties for the data necessary to further assess the impact and effectiveness of safeguards. ICANN org is in the process of designing a voluntary pilot survey to gather this requested data.

To ensure the most meaningful and useful data can be collected from this survey, ICANN org consulted with contracted parties in July and August 2023 to gather feedback on survey design. Findings from this consultation suggest ICANN org compliment the voluntary pilot survey with interviews to offer a more nuanced understanding of the impact of registration restrictions. The voluntary pilot survey and interviews are anticipated to be conducted in Q4 2024. Once data collection is complete, results and participation rates will be reviewed to assess whether data brings valuable insights to ICANN org and the community, and whether these data collection efforts should be repeated at regular intervals. The anticipated completion date is Q1 2024.

7.4 Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI)

Current state and requirements

This update is based upon the assumption that there are approximately **500** affiliated proxy or privacy (P/P) service providers affiliated with ICANN-accredited registrars currently in existence.⁸ ICANN org has not adjusted this number based on more advanced research, as there have not been available resources to do so at this point. This number can be useful because it can inform the resources that ICANN will need in order to implement the Recommendations of the [PPSAI Final Report](#) (7 Dec 2015).

Under the current [Interim Policy](#), based on the Temporary Specification, registrars are required to:

- 2.6. ...in the case of a domain name registration where a privacy/proxy service used (e.g. where data associated with a natural person is masked), Registrar MUST return in response to any query full WHOIS data, including the existing proxy/proxy pseudonymized email.

⁸ The [estimation in 2017 during the first IRT](#) was 250 providers.

Relevant ICANN activities

EPDP Phase 1 Implementation

- The EPDP Phase 1 work recommended a similar provision: “In the case of a domain name registration where an "affiliated" 11 privacy/proxy service used (e.g., where data associated with a natural person is masked), Registrar (and Registry where applicable) MUST include in the public RDDS and return in response to any query full non-personal RDDS data of the privacy/proxy service, which MAY also include the existing privacy/proxy pseudonymized email.”

Pending and Planned ICANN Activities

- ICANN org maintains a page on current, paused, and upcoming policy implementation work. This includes PPSAI recommendations, noting that based on resourcing, it would expect to continue the implementation work on the PPSAI recommendations following the completion of the EPDP Phase 1 implementation which, as of this writing, is still in progress.

7.5 Guidelines for GDS Liaisons to PDPs

In September 2022, ICANN org published a set of guidelines for GDS liaisons to a GNSO policy development process.⁹ The goal of these guidelines is to both provide GDS liaisons with the foundational knowledge and tools required to carry out the liaison function effectively as well as provide transparency and clarity to the ICANN community on the expectations for the role.

Based on feedback received from the GNSO Council at ICANN76, ICANN org has now updated these guidelines to account for the interaction between the Board and GDS liaisons as well as the role of the GDS liaison to identify dependencies with other PDPs or ongoing community work that may have an impact on the implementation of recommendations. The updated guidelines have been shared with the GNSO Council, and ICANN org will provide an overview of the updates at ICANN78. The updated guidelines will be published on the Consensus Policy Implementation Framework (CPIF) page.¹⁰

⁹ Find the guidelines on the CPIF page here: <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/guidelines-gds-liaisons-pdp-15sep23-en.pdf>.

¹⁰ Consensus Policy Implementation Framework (CPIF) process: <https://www.icann.org/policy/implementation>



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