The Winners of the CENTR Awards 2013 which recognise outstanding examples of ccTLD best practices and contributions to the internet community were announced during the Gala event for the 50th CENTR General Assembly in Brussels.

The Awards were split into 4 categories; the Contributor of the Year, Research and Development, Security and the award for Marketing and Communication. More than 35 different projects/individuals were nominated by the CENTR members. Each category received multiple nominations which were drilled down to a shortlist and voted on by an independent jury.

CENTR launched the awards to acknowledge the outstanding work done by ccTLD registries and their teams.

Below are the winners of each category. Video presentations as well as an overview of all nominated projects can be found at www.centr.org/awards2013.

**“Contributor of the Year”**
Anne-Marie Eklund Löwinder (.SE) - pioneering contributions to DNSSEC

**“Security”**
.SE and Nominet UK - Development of OpenDNSSEC

**“Research & Development”**
AFNIC WINGS project - Widening Interoperability for Networking Global Supply Chains

**“Marketing and Communication”**
EURid - Co-funded Marketing Program for .eu

"Thank you! I am very proud to receive two of the CENTR awards, it is encouraging. We all work very hard to make sure that the domain name part of the Internet works as well as possible, seamless to the users. ccTLD's are like plumbers, people don't often think about what we are doing, they just expect it to work. The Awards put focus on the important job that we all are doing in different area". - Anne-Marie Eklund-Löwinder (.SE)
"The Social Role of a ccTLD Registry"

This year’s Internet Governance Forum was hosted by Government of Indonesia on the Island of Bali. CENTR has a tradition of (re)presenting the ccTLD community at this global forum.

This year CENTR organised a workshop on ccTLD related issues in close cooperation with the other regional ccTLD organisations – AfTLD for Africa, APTLD for Asia and the Pacific and LACTLD for Latin America and the Caribbean. Where previous workshops shed light on technical or governance related topics, the Bali workshop discussed *the Social Role of a ccTLD Registry*. ccTLDs from the different continents showcased projects and activities they run next to their main task of managing the national country code and by which they contribute to the development of the Local Internet Community. ‘The workshop contributed significantly to underline the importance of the leading role the ccTLDs played, are playing and will continue to play within their communities’ said Giovanni Seppia (Chair of the CENTR IGF workshop).

For more information:
Agenda and presentations are available at [www.centr.org/igf2013](http://www.centr.org/igf2013).

Who’s using the local ccTLD?

‘*Who is using the local ccTLD?’* CENTR and LACTLD surveyed their members about the preference of local institution, governments and large banks for the national country code. The answers of the more than 50 ccTLD operators in the European and Latin American region clearly show the preference for the local ccTLD over TLDs. In another question from the same survey it was found that the most common reason for why business/individuals chose the local ccTLD is because it present a ‘national identity’. The results of this survey were also presented at the IGF meeting in Bali.

![Bar chart showing preference of local ccTLD](attachment:image.png)

**SOURCE:** CENTR, LACTLD – “Social Role of a ccTLD Registry” Survey (Aug 2013)
What are AFNIC’s most important achievements related to RnD so far?

Since its launch in 2007, AFNIC’s R&D department has become fully integrated into its ecosystem both national and international levels. AFNIC has leveraged partnerships with both academic and industrial research in order to explore innovative ideas and build prototypes, platforms and new products and services. For instance, AFNIC’s R&D has capitalized over several years on its knowledge and know-how assets to build on one hand a versatile DNS measurements platform (DNSwitness), and the other, a Federated Object Naming Service (F-ONS) platform within the Internet of Things (IoT) field. Thanks to the DNSwitness platform, AFNIC jointly founded with the French National Information Security Agency (ANSSI) the Observatory of Resilience of the French Internet in 2010. Since then, two annual reports have been published, sharing methodology and resilience assessment based on a set of indicators and metrics, including DNS-based ones. As for the F-ONS platform, AFNIC has not only demonstrated the feasibility of a DNS-based solution for the supply chain and logistics domain, but has also significantly contributed to elaborating the new ONS 2.0 standard published in December 2012 by GS1 SDO.

How important is RnD to AFNIC’s core functions – being the .fr Registry?

From its core business perspective, AFNIC has set two missions to its R&D department. First, to identify innovative ideas and promising technology and build proofs of concept and prototypes leading to new products and services, so as to contribute to the economic sustainability of the registry. Second, the R&D activity has been commissioned build and keep tight collaboration with the operational team in terms of study and preparation for new technology deployment/migration in production, alongside with contribution to the optimization and to the continuous performance improvement of the production systems.

How could the internet community benefit from a Registry’s RnD?

Among other missions, as the registry for .fr, AFNIC has got the following: "Working for a secure and stable Internet, open to innovation, where the French Internet community plays a leading role". AFNIC’s R&D team has inherited this mission since its creation by design. It has been sharing its acquired expertise, with the Internet community, through seminars, tutorials and training sessions, and in order to raising awareness about the importance of adopting and deploying new technologies/standards such as IPv6 and DNSSEC.

Do you have a message for RnD colleagues in other European ccTLD Registries?

Many of us have been carrying out R&D activity at their National or Registry level. It seems the results have been rather up to their expectations so far. However, given the greatest challenges facing our industry, no single registry could come up alone with new solutions both preserving our businesses sustainability and seizing new business opportunities beyond domain names. Putting together our efforts in projects on common interest topics could definitely increase our chances to reach such objectives.”

Registrations and Growth

Source: CENTR stat database, gTLDs: Hosterstats.com
Note: ‘CENTR’ members represent more than 95% of European ccTLDs in terms of domain registrations
What’s been happening at CENTR?

29th CENTR Technical Workshop - Athens – Over 40 participants were present in Athens at this workshop which included topics; an overview of the Greek Registry (.GR), a panel discussion on DNS poisoning, the RIPE Atlas, the .be IDN launch and the ‘Domain Browser’ user interface from CZ.NIC.

5th CENTR Security workshop - Vienna – This workshop attracted 31 participants, a record number since the inception of the CENTR Security Working Group one and a half years ago. At the workshop recent hacks, registrar security and malware detection were discussed amongst other topics.

Contact CENTR

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