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HEAD OF REGISTRO .IT

Marco Conti

Quarter in short

Midway along the path of...2022!

by Francesca Nicolini

The time span from May to August, although apparently in standstill due to the summer break, has brought many news, the appointment of Marco Conti - head of the Registro .it - among the nine experts supporting the National Cybersecurity Agency, and the new initiatives of the Ludoteca. This part of the year also enabled us to look at the results of two new analyses carried out by the Registro's Observatories on the growth of .it domain names in relation to two specific sectors (tourism and ICT).

The protagonist of the second quarter of 2022, the reference period in this issue, is statistics. In May and July, the Registro .it Observatories' "Tourism in the Net" and "ICT in the Net" surveys were released. These showed - respectively for the tourism sector and all related activities, and services and activities in the Information and Communication Technology sector - a sharp increase in .it domain names in these sectors, an undeniable sign of the resilience and post-pandemic recovery of businesses and freelancers, including through their online activities.

As usual, October is the month of the Internet Festival, created and promoted by the Registro as well. The twelfth edition focus on the keyword #imperfection, to understand the pros and cons that a digital revolution entail, its "edges" and imperfections that can be improved.

One of the news in this issue, is dedicated to the anticipation of the new series of "What a Digital World", the animated web series of Registro .it on the digital challenges that are changing our daily lives; episodes are new, yet the style of the story has not changed.

It remains, indeed, simple and amusing, so as to make citizens, companies and freelancers understand what we do not know about the Web: the opportunities it offers us, the digital transformation of companies and the tools that will lead us into a rather near future.

Finally, the Ludoteca of Registro .it continues its journey to spread digital culture and the correct use of the Internet among the very young generations. It does so by participating in relevant events and organising some specific ones.

The autumn begins with a big news: a guide for parents and youngsters has been prepared for the use of the video game "Nabbovaldo and the blackmail from cyberspace", a serious game on cybersecurity and protection from possible dangers and cyberattacks, designed for children and young people aged between 11 and 14.

Enjoy your reading!





Summer 2022: Italian tourism started again on the web

by Stefania Fabbri and Maurizio Martinelli

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7,764 new .it websites were classified in the tourism sector in the first six months of 2022, almost twice as last year's total, according to the permanent observatory of the Registro .it "Tourism in the Net", which analyses the spread of the various categories belonging to the tourism sector on the Internet.

The observatory registers **an increase in all sectors in the tourism sector, but the one reporting the best increase is Catering, which goes from 1,763 classified sites in 2021 to 3,642 in the first half of 2022, 106% more than last year's.**

The Accommodation category also recorded a **58%** increase in 2022, followed by **Tour Operators** and **Transport**, which - with 319 new .it names - registered a **25%** increase over the 2021 total.

In addition to the increase in new registrations, the survey also highlights an increase in cancellations, which reached 5,516 in the first half of 2022, compared to a total of 2,025 last year.

However, the result is still positive, even net of cancellations: the sector recovering after the long period of crisis dictated by the Covid 19 pandemic, as confirmed by the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, which, in the first quarter of 2022, reported an increase in world tourism of 182% compared to last year. Such growth is expected to gradually continue throughout 2022.

Overall, the analysis shows that .it sites pertaining to the tourism sector have increased considerably since the survey began in 2017. At that date, in fact, the observatory counted a total of 22,992 .it websites belonging to the sector, while today the number of sites related to tourism has reached 148,021, marking an overall growth of 543%



2021/2022: sharp rise in .it names of the ICT sector

by Maurizio Martinelli and Francesca Nicolini

The permanent Observatory "ICT in the Net" of the Registro .it, created to scan the spread of the various sectors belonging to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on the Internet, gives us a more than positive picture: in 2021 the technological sphere boasts 12 thousand new .it domains and, in the first four months of 2022, the growing trend is confirmed by the almost 133 thousand .it sites registered.

In detail, as at 30 April this year, in the ICT sector, 5,347 .it sites were registered; nevertheless this showed a decrease of 22.72%, compared to the same period (January - April) of 2021, when almost 7 thousand .it sites were registered. The picture outlined by the Observatory shows that 70.7% of Italian Internet names have been registered by the various technological sectors of business and the economy.

The Registro's analysis, through the data focused on by "ICT in the Net", highlights another important fact: online businesses with .it names and related to the ICT sector have increased; it has increased by 150% in the last five years. This result emphasises the importance of online presence for companies and freelancers and online business as an opportunity to be seized, not only for one's own business, but also to push web economy and contribute to the growth of the country.

According to this analysis, new sites related to "telecommunications" and "IT", with their 90.92% are dominant, followed by those related to "commerce" and "repair" with 5.64% and "news" and "blogs" with 2.63%.

The Observatory analyses specific ICT macro-areas, each with a specific classification: from the wholesale trade and repair of equipment (including computers, peripherals and communications equipment), to the manufacture of electronic components and boards, computers and peripheral units, audio and video consumer electronics products, and magnetic and optical media; from news, information and blogs, to telecommunications and IT (including software production, IT consultancy and other related activities, such as web search portals, data processing and hosting).

Statistics

Growth of the New Registrations

Yearly growth

Entity Types

Reasons for oppositions

Top Regions

Oppositions - Reassignments relationship

Monthly Trend of the Oppositions

Yearly trend of the Oppositions - Reassignments

Authinfo requests

Requests from competent authorities

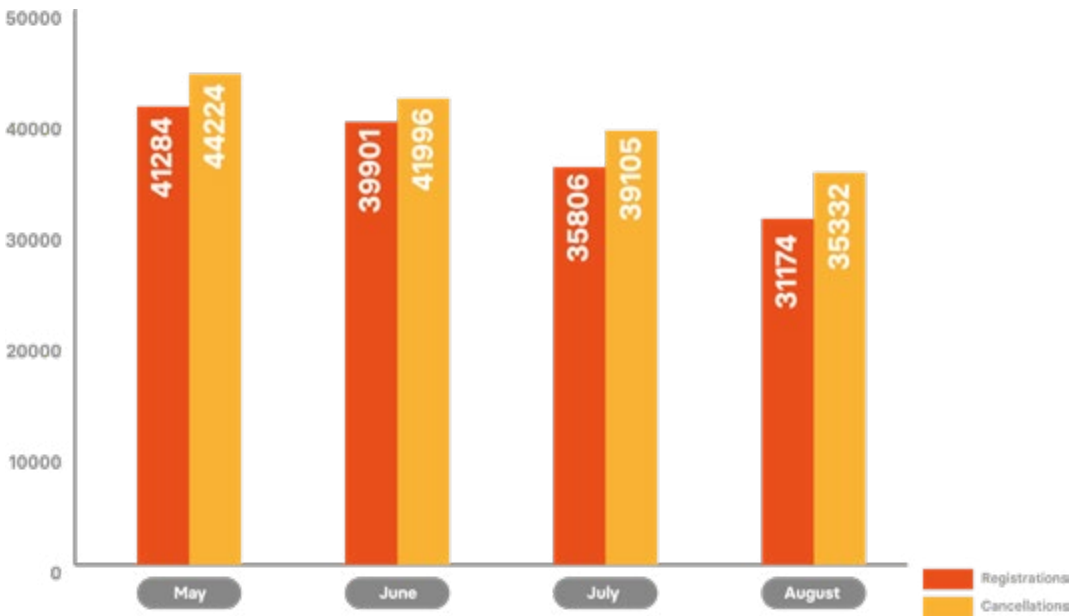
Reserved names

Verification of domains by The Registro

Statistics

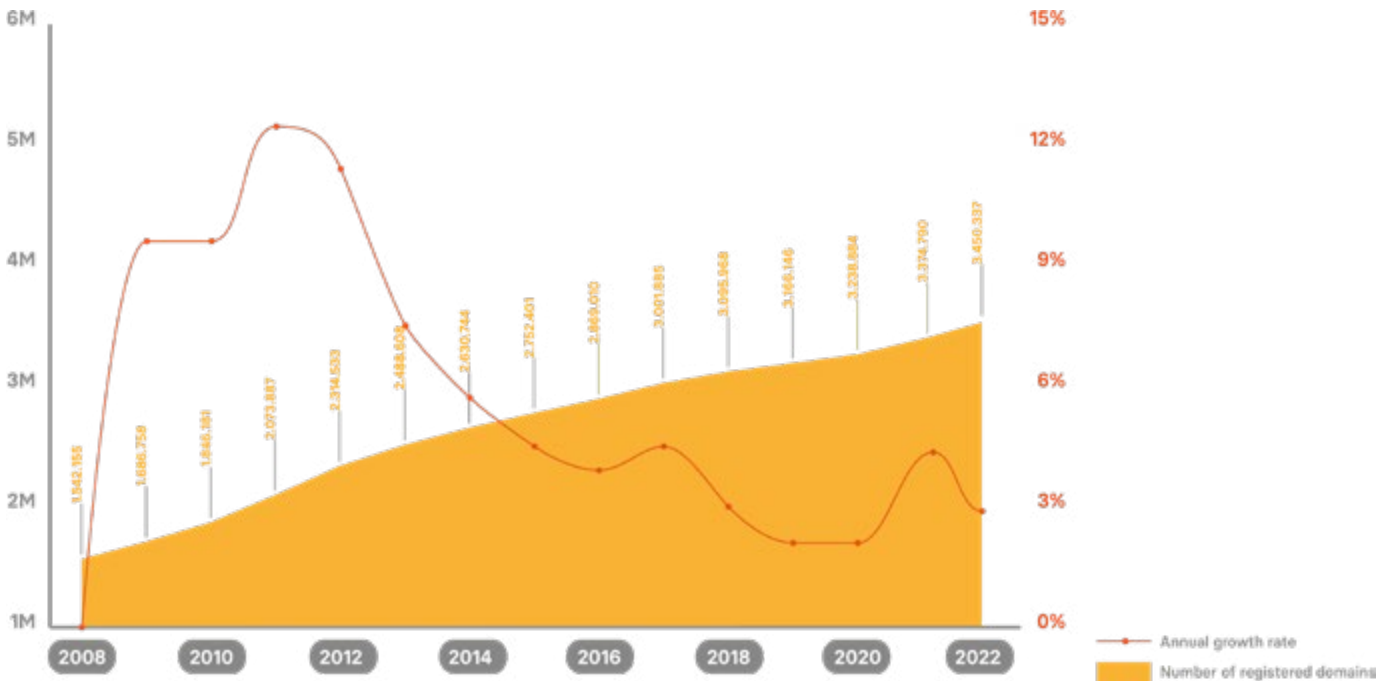
Growth of the New Registrations

An analysis of the trend in registrations of .it names shows that new registrations amount to more than 148 thousand domains. However, in these 4 months of 2022, the number of cancellations exceeded the number of new registrations by more than 12 thousand domains, compared to 9 thousand in the same four months of 2021. The trend shows a significant decrease in the number of new registrations during the second four months of 2022.



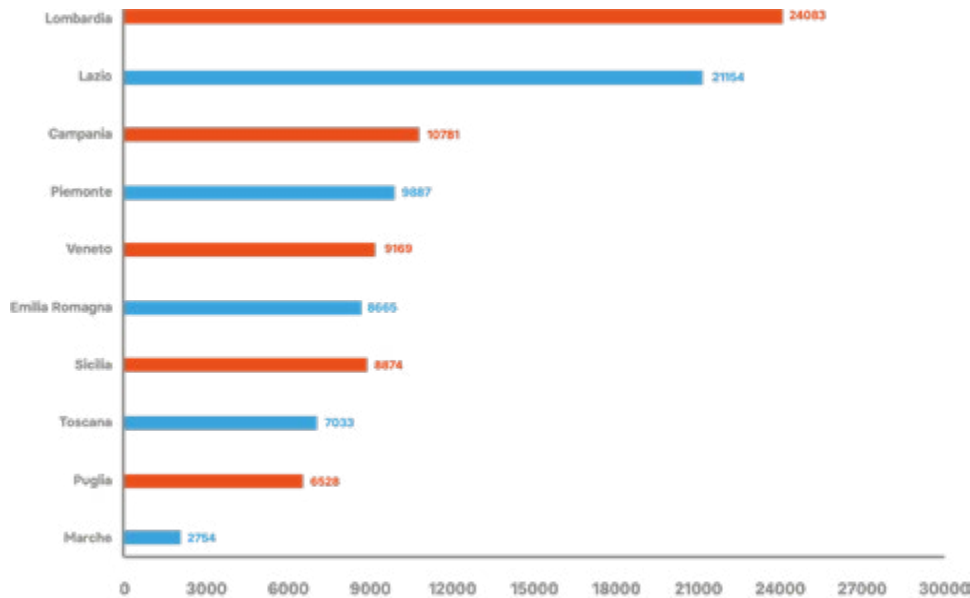
Yearly growth

At the end of the second quarter 2022, the total number of .it domains amounted to 3,449,584, with a small decrease of -0.02% (-753 domains) compared to the end of 2021. The growth in this four-month period compared to the same period in 2021 is much lower, but in line with the trend in the first four months of 2022.



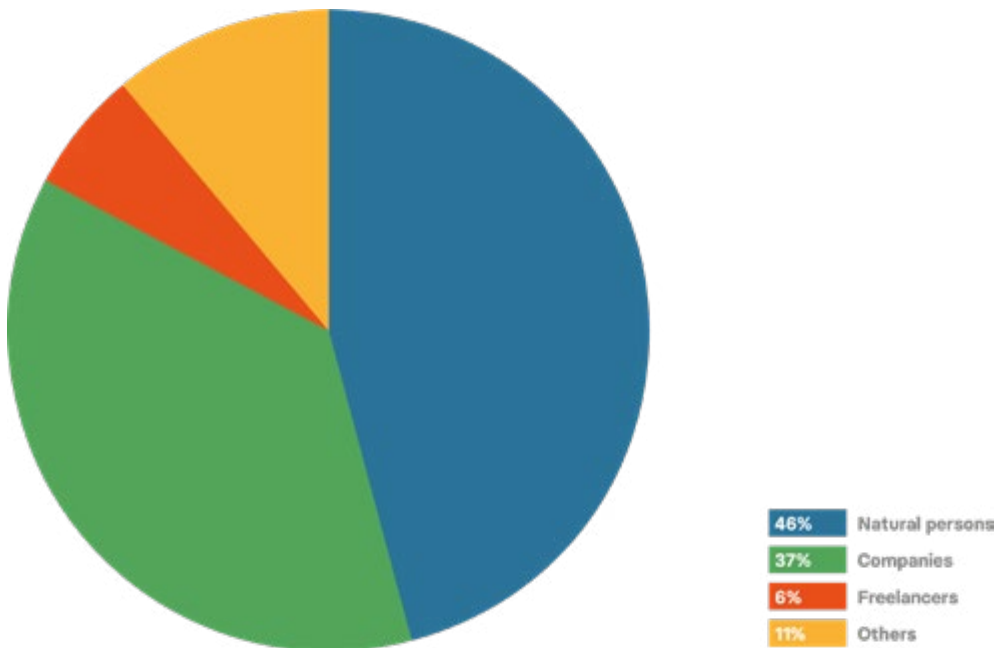
Top Regions

During the second four months of 2022, Lombardy reconfirmed its leading position in terms of registrations of new domains, even though its percentage fell by one point, while the region of Lazio increased by a good 4 percentage points compared to the first 4 months of 2022. Campania, Piedmont, and Veneto also remain in the same positions. On the other hand, Sicily performed well, increasing its percentage by two positions in the regional ranking.



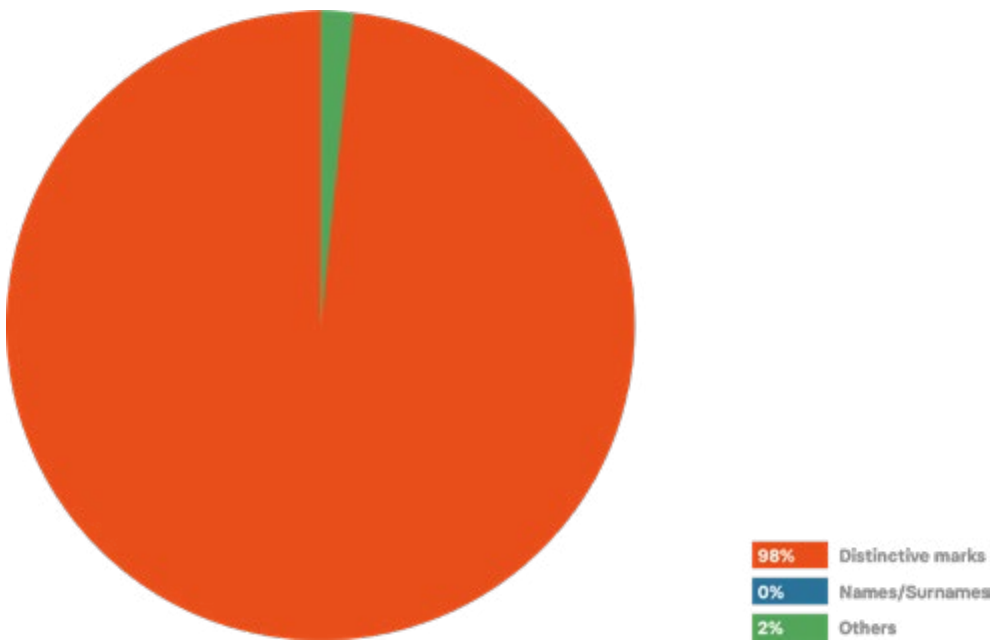
Entity Types

Compared to the first quarter 2022, the percentage of natural persons decreased by two points to 46%. However, the percentage for businesses and freelancers increased by one point to 37% and 6% respectively.



Reasons for oppositions

In this second part of the year - May/August – almost all the oppositions (98%) concern the infringement of distinctive company signs.
Compared to the previous quarter, an increase of 12% was recorded.
The remaining 2% refers to objections based on “various” reasons.

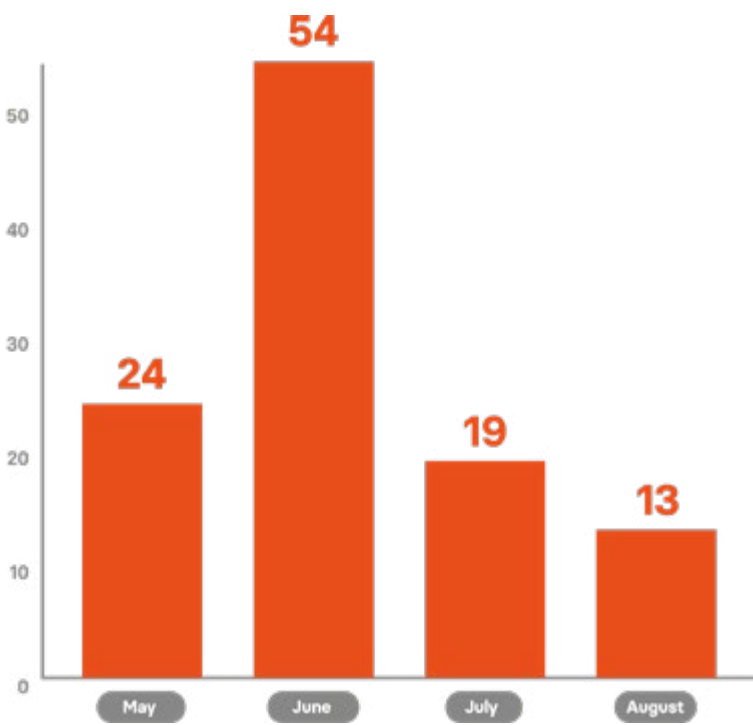


Monthly Trend of the Oppositions

In the observation period, the 54 oppositions started in June immediately stand out, bringing the average for the quarter to 28, 10 more than the average for the first quarter.

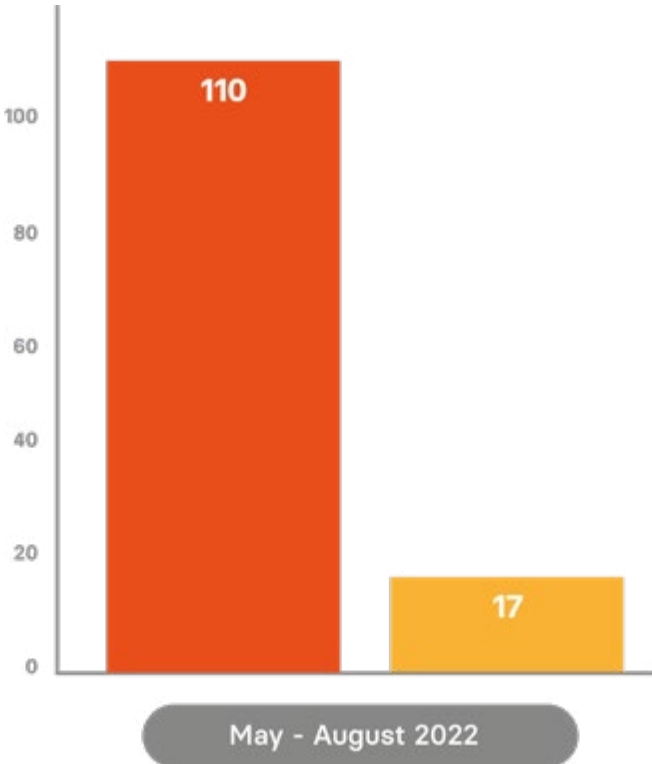
The peak of 54 activations in June was due to the fact that an Italian legal entity activated 33 oppositions against the same number of assignees, 3 of whom were foreigners, causes the period average to be inaccurate.

13 oppositions occurred in August, which is the lowest figure in the observation period. A “small” number of activations, 19, occurred in July. Only May comes close to the average for the period, with 24 oppositions.



Oppositions - Reassignments relationship

A total of 110 oppositions were activated in the second quarter. Specifically, well over half of the cases, i.e., 78 oppositions, involved Italian nationals, either assignees or opponents. Twenty oppositions were activated by Italian subjects against the same number of foreign assignees. In 7 cases, non-Italians appealed to the opposition in respect of domain names assigned to fellow countrymen. Finally, 5 procedures have seen foreign subjects involved, either as assignee or as opponent. Out of the 17 reassignment procedures in the period, 10 saw Italian subjects involved, both as assignee/respondent and as opponent/complainant. In 3 cases, Italians resorted to the reassignment procedure in order to have names already assigned to non-Italian subjects reassigned to them. In as many cases, the subjects proposing the procedure were foreign as were the assignees/ respondents. Only one case involved a non-Italian subject as opponent/complainant against an Italian, assignee/respondent.

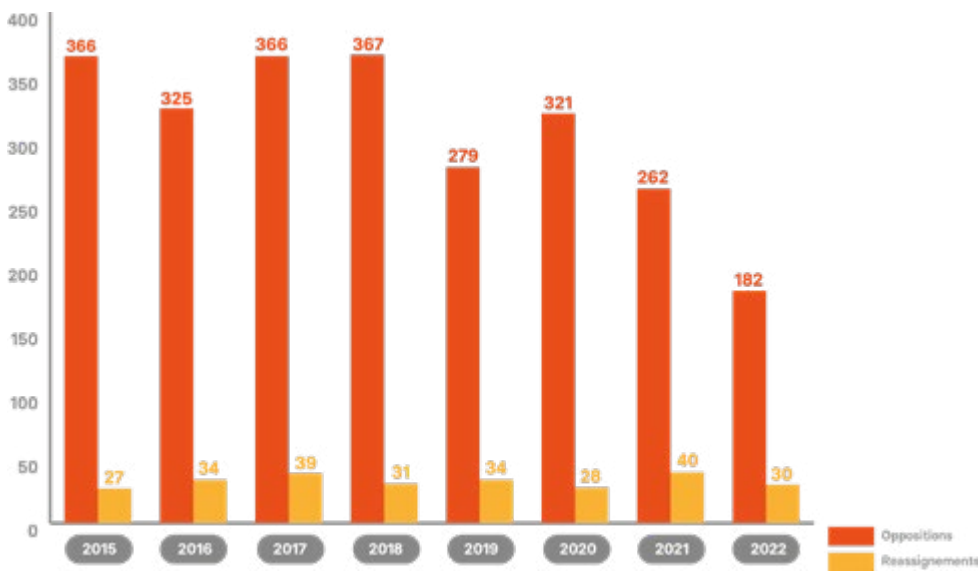


Yearly trend of the Oppositions - Reassignments

In this four-month period, out of these 110 oppositions, 17 reassignment procedures were conducted by the PSRDs, for a subtotal of 182 and 3 respectively.

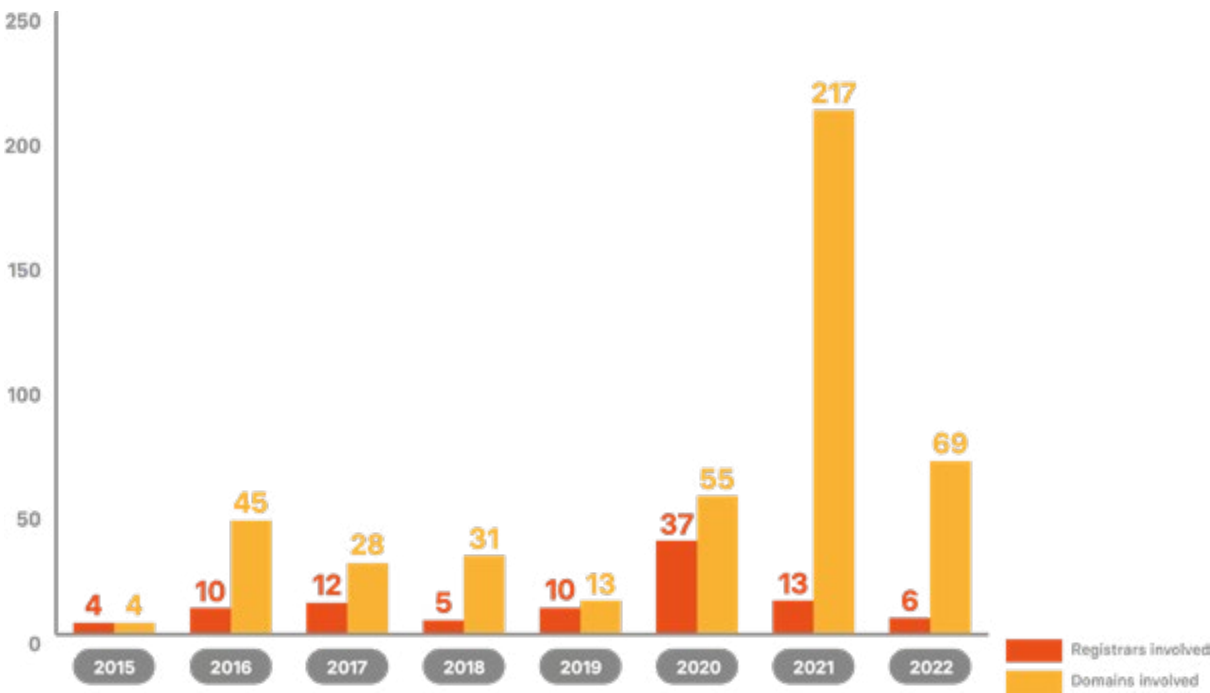
Therefore, the trend in oppositions has remained constant (189 oppositions as of August 2021), while reassignments are on the rise, with +8 compared to the same period (22).

Specifically, at the end of the procedure of 12 cases, the College, when recognising the rights of the opponent/ complainant, upheld the appeal. In doing so, it approved the transfer of the domain name. In one case only did the College rule sanctioning the termination of the procedure. Finally, 4 procedures are awaiting a decision by the College.



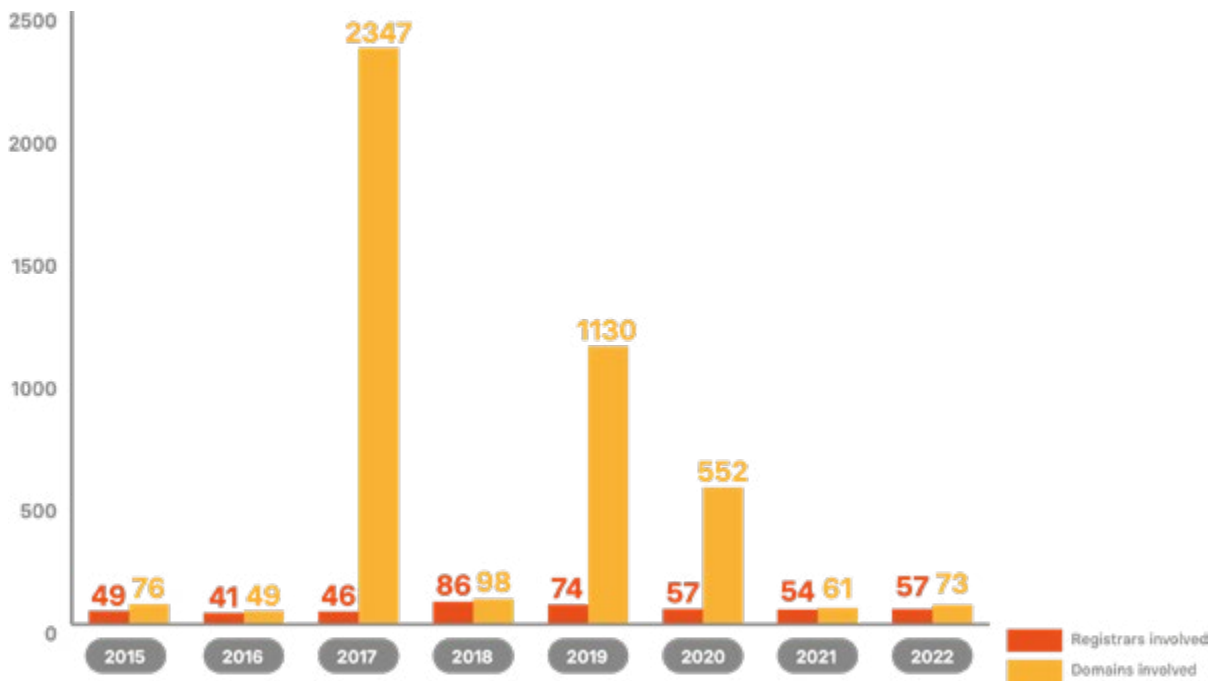
Authinfo requests

In the second quarter 2022, requests for Authinfo codes concerned only 3 domain names, 2 of which were managed by a non-operational Registrar. Overall, in the first 8 months of 2022, almost all of the Authinfo codes issued were due to the inoperability of a single Registrar.



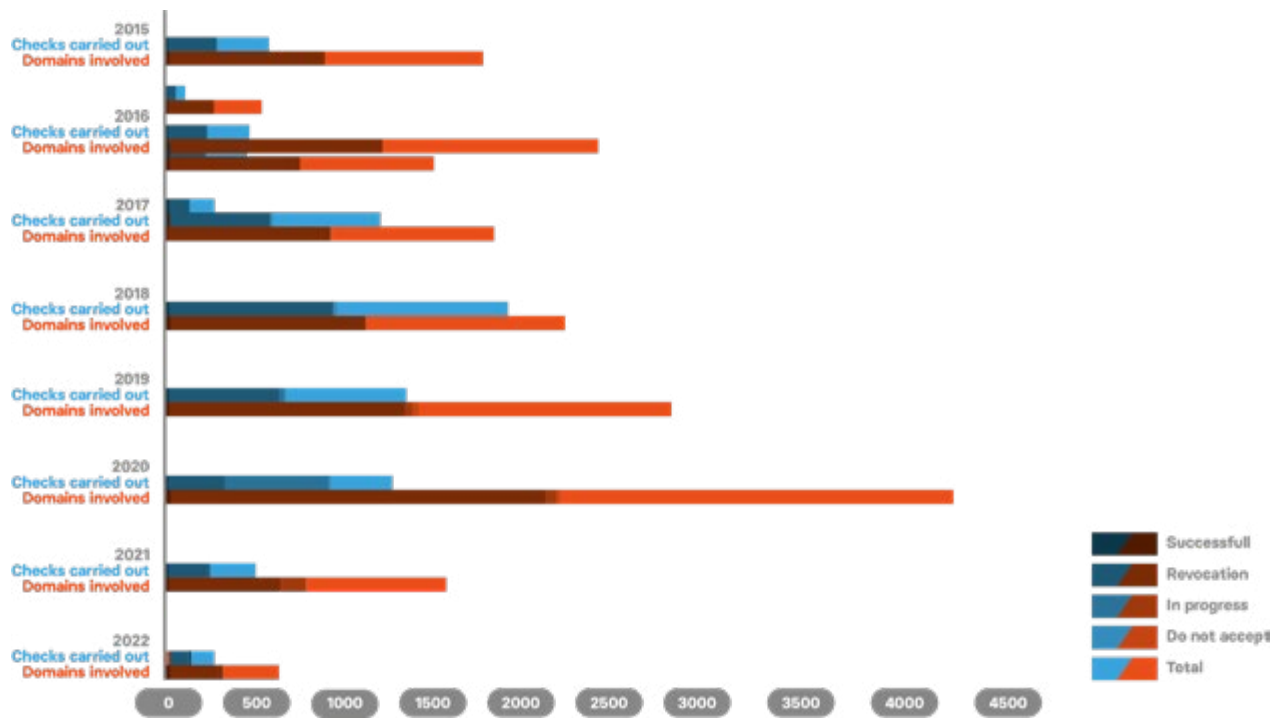
Requests from competent authorities

Requests from the competent authorities decreased; they concerned 22 domain names compared to 51 in the first quarter.



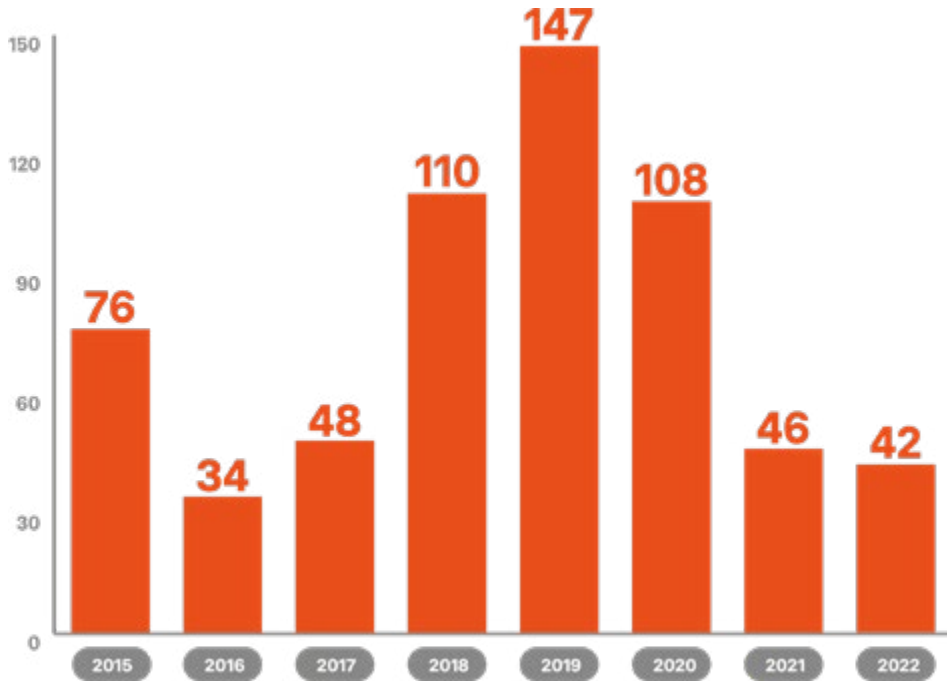
Verification of domains by Registro

A total of 135 verifications were carried out, covering 243 domain names. This figure is in line with the previous four months. The verifications led to the revocation of 204 domain names.



Reserved names

Only 7 reserved domain names were registered, compared to 35 in the previous period. This figure remains in line with the first 8 months of 2021.





.it News

**IF2022 – Internet Festival:
the keyword is #Imperfection**

**From 5G to the Dark Web:
“What a Digital World” takes
on the digital world
in the new season**

**Marco Conti is one of the nine elected
experts in national cybersecurity**

.it News

IF2022

Internet Festival: the keyword is #Imperfection

by Stefania Fabbri and Chiara Spinelli



Twelfth edition for the Internet Festival with in-person and online events will be held in Pisa from 6 to 9 October to talk about digital innovation but in a less idealised way; in fact, the key word is imperfection. The Registro .it and the CNR Institute of Informatics and Telematics (IIT) are among the promoters and organisers again this year.

During the four days of the Festival, imperfection, understood as ethical and inclusive digital innovation capable of putting the human being and his ecosystem back at the centre, will be the protagonist of numerous panels, laboratories, meetings with authors, workshops and performances that will be held in the 13 different venues of the city.

As usual, the events held and/or organised by the Registro .it and the IIT are aimed at different targets and focus on different topics: online marketing tools for SMEs, cybersecurity, the Internet and its correct and conscious use in schools, artificial intelligence and quantum computing, the two frontier research strands that will change the Internet and the connected technologies we use every day.

5 October 2022

Hackathon Cybersecurity Manifesto for the Connected School

Classroom 40 of the Pisa Research Area

Time: 3.00- 6.00 pm - Closed event, by invitation only

A day of collaborative work to finalise the drafting of the Manifesto with the Decalogue for the Connected School, a guide with the ten main rules for aware and safe surfing.

6 and 7 October 2022

Cyber Park

Classrooms 27, 28, 29 of the Pisa Research Area

Activity reserved for schools

The "Cyber Park" educational playground is a play space dedicated to cybersecurity, understood as a set of knowledge, skills and techniques to protect computer systems and digital data. During the workshops, classes will be involved in interactive games based on the use of original and entertaining teaching materials, useful for acquiring knowledge on the main cybersecurity topics such as data protection, malware, the main cyber-attacks, security mechanisms (firewalls, antivirus, authentication, cryptography), fake news and topics related to risks in the social sphere such as hate speech.

6 October 2022

But are we sure? Cybersecurity in schools

Pisa Research Area Auditorium

Time: 10.00-12.00 am - Event with free admission subject to availability.

The Registro .it and cybersecurity: digital culture and cybersecurity experts among teachers and entrepreneurs, to guide students and teachers on the opportunities and risks related to active digital citizenship and the evolution of cybersecurity. During the event, curated and moderated by Giampaolo Colletti, journalist and storyteller, the Manifesto with the decalogue for the connected school on cybersecurity will be presented.



Crescere digitali

Ludoteca
Registro.it

GIOVEDÌ 6 OTTOBRE 2022
ore 10.00-11.30

Auditorium CNR - via Giuseppe Moruzzi 1 – Pisa

Ma siamo sicuri?
A scuola di cybersecurity

Presentazione del primo manifesto per la sicurezza digitale dedicato alle studentesse e agli studenti

6 October 2022

The School of Digital Update.

Making your company competitive through digital marketing: strategies and tools

Pisa Research Area Auditorium

Time: 2.30-6.00 pm - Event with limited number of members only

An afternoon dedicated to levers and tips to adapt one's business to an increasingly digital and evolving world. 50 company managers involved in a training course to understand how to transform digital into a concrete tool for improving one's business. Identifying the right strategy, using email and social to sell, measuring one's performance, acquiring new customers, but not only that, many other topics will have no more secrets after this afternoon.

7 October 2022

Cybersecurity Day

Pisa Research Area Auditorium

Hours: 09.15-01.00 am/2.15-6.00 pm

Event with free admission subject to availability

Cybersecurity is a topic in the headlines, which is becoming part of our daily lives. Experts in the field, researchers, representatives from the business world and the public administration will talk about it during the day, with a special focus on young people, secondary school students and their teachers, in order to highlight the job opportunities that this sector offers. Current challenges in cybersecurity will also be discussed during the day, and the results of the research activities of the IIT Cybersecurity Lab within the framework of European projects and in cooperation with many private and institutional partners will be presented.

8 October 2022

The Next Big Things

Pisa Research Area Auditorium

Time: 4.00 pm - Event with free admission subject to availability

Pisa Research Area Auditorium - Time: 4.00 pm - Event with free admission subject to availability.

Artificial intelligence is the first stop on this journey to the frontiers of computing, the new paradigm around which reliable and human-centred services and technology are built, between technological challenges and ethical implications. We will talk about this with Yoshua Bengio (University of Montreal), 2018 Turing Prize for his studies on deep learning. We will also talk about new automotive technologies, the challenges of robotics and the relationship between AI and society.

In the second part of the event, quantum computing and quantum internet will be covered: more than 50 years after the birth of the internet, quantum computers are already a reality, they represent the future of computing and pose a new challenge to research, the creation of a new internet that can connect them. Among others, Anna Grassellino (Director of the SQMS Research Centre at Fermilab Chicago), Alessandro Curioni (IBM Research) and Sergio Boixo (Chief Scientist Google) will be on stage.

Marco Conti, IIT-CNR Director, will open the event and Maria Chiara Carrozza, President of the National Research Council of Italy, will draw the conclusions.

The event is promoted by IIT-CNR in collaboration with Ansa.

All programme information is available on the event website.

From 5G to the Dark Web: “What a Digital World” takes on the digital world in the new season

by Stefania Fabbri



Telling the complexity of the Web in a simple, appealing and immediate way: new season, same mission for “What a Digital World”, the Registro .it web series dedicated to the challenges of the digital world.

Five episodes, five different topics, to explore some of the most discussed and topical issues in the recent debate around the web and new digital technologies.

The first episode will be about 5G, an acronym we all hear more and more often, but about which there is a great variety of clichés and myths to dispel. By retracing the history of mobile telephony from 1979 (when the first 1G network was launched in Tokyo) to the present day, we will discover that 5G is not a simple evolution but a discontinuity that contributes to improving many of the technologies we already know, while also allowing us to use new ones.

The second episode is dedicated to the security of smartphones, which are increasingly used for shopping, banking and many other activities that require passwords and personal data. This valuable data is stored in our mobile devices, constantly exposed to potential risk of attack because they are always connected and on the move, but it is possible to avoid most of these risks by following the “smart tips” presented in the video.

The third chapter of the series focuses on the exploration of the part of the Internet that Surface Web users are not familiar with, the underlying Deep Web, of which the Dark Web is a part, which is estimated to contain between 90 and 99 per cent of the content on the Internet.

The last two episodes, still in the works, will be devoted to “Quantum internet and quantum computing” and “Big data and privacy” respectively.

The first two episodes of the new series are already available on the website and on the social channels of the Registro .it.

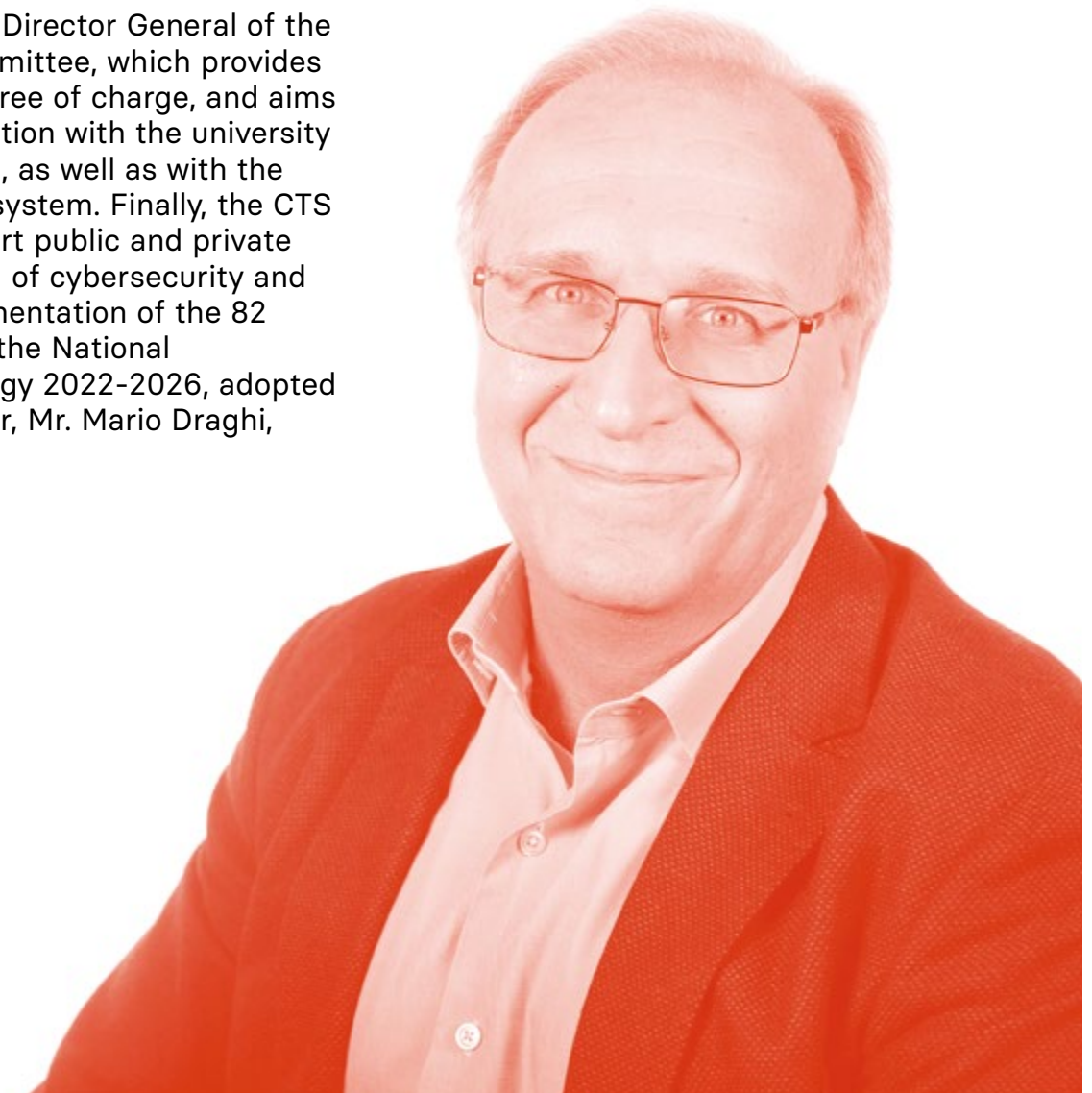
Marco Conti is one of the nine elected experts in national cybersecurity

by Francesca Nicolini

The Director of the Institute of Informatics and Telematics (IIT) of the Pisa CNR and head of the Registro .it, Marco Conti, has been elected member of the Scientific Technical Committee (also CTS) of the Italian Cybersecurity Agency (ACN), established by decree of appointment of the undersecretary Franco Gabrielli, as Delegated Authority for the Security of the Republic.

Safeguarding national interests in the field of cybersecurity and ensuring coordination between the public actors involved in the matter are the objectives of the ambitious mission of the Italian Cybersecurity Agency, which is supported by the Scientific Technical Committee for this purpose. The CTS is made up of nine experts, selected from among the major players in the dissemination of the cybersecurity culture: out of these nine experts, four represent the world of industry operating in the Agency's areas of activity, including small and medium-sized enterprises; four represent the university and research system, and one as represent the associations working to guarantee the security of the Italian strategic companies.

Mr. Roberto Baldoni, Director General of the ACN, chairs the committee, which provides consulting services free of charge, and aims to promote collaboration with the university and research system, as well as with the national production system. Finally, the CTS contributes to support public and private initiatives in the field of cybersecurity and to ensure the implementation of the 82 measures set out in the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2022-2026, adopted by the Prime Minister, Mr. Mario Draghi, on 17 May 2022.





Cybersecurity and gamification: Nabbovaldo goes to the Modena Festival del Gioco

by Giorgia Bassi

"Nabbovaldo and the cyber blackmail", the videogame of the Ludoteca of Registro .it, dedicated to cybersecurity was presented at the new edition of "Play - Festival del Gioco", scheduled at Modena Fiere from 20 to 22 May.

The protagonist of the Modena Festival is gaming in all its forms, with a large space dedicated to edutainment (educational entertainment), a tool that has been recognised for training and teaching also in schools.

The aim of the videogame Nabbovaldo, conceived as an adventure in four chapters and developed in partnership with Symmaceo and Grifo Multimedia, is to improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in the use of the Internet, so as to encourage the adoption of good practices related to cybersecurity.

The seminar "Cybersecurity with the video game Nabbovaldo in schools", held by Giorgia Bassi of the Registro .it Ludoteca and Angela Franceschi, a PhD student in Education Sciences and Psychology at the University of Florence and a research fellow at the CNR-IIT, was an opportunity to describe the contents and aims of the video game and present data on the effectiveness of the workshops held in classes.

Visitors were also able to learn about the serious game in the permanent poster session.



The Ludoteca participates in the "Comics&Science" travelling event

by Giorgia Bassi

On 31 May, in the former Benedictine Convent, the Ludoteca of Registro .it participated in the travelling event of "Comics&Science", which stopped in Pisa. Two days of meetings, exhibitions and activities to discover the world of science popularisation through comic book narration, in collaboration with the University of Pisa, the CNR-IIT, the Museum of Computing Instruments and Ego, the European Gravitational Observatory.

Several secondary school classes took part in the workshop held by the Ludoteca, carrying out group activities on cybersecurity issues and discussing good practices for safe surfing.

Among the games proposed were the Cyber Quiz, comics starring Nabbovaldo, who is also the main character of two comics published by "Comics&Science" ("Nabbovaldo and the seasons in Internetopolis" and "Nabbovaldo versus the zombie laptops") and the videogame "Nabbovaldo and the cyber blackmail".

The workshop was conducted by the Ludoteca staff with the contribution of the Comics&Science team, including the illustrator Gabriele Peddes, creator of the character Nabbovaldo, who revealed some tricks of the trade and curiosities related to the world of comics to the children.

Internet and computer safety in the classroom: a guide for teachers and students is coming soon

by Giorgia Bassi

Teachers are one of the privileged targets of the Registro .it Ludoteca: it is therefore crucial to design resources that support the independent use of all the project's teaching tools.

Since last year, the educational proposal for secondary schools has focused on the theme of computer security, introduced through the video game "Nabbovaldo and the cyber blackmail", a very suitable tool for this age group, which has also enabled to experiment the "flipped classroom" teaching method, with a game phase managed autonomously by the children and a subsequent phase of discussion and in-depth study in class.

It goes without saying that such an innovative learning model required a training activity aimed at teachers, to familiarise them with this type of tool (game mechanics, contents and multimedia languages) but also to acquire some basic skills on computer security.

For the new school year 2022/23, in addition to the training hours, teachers will also have at their disposal the videogame User's Guide and the Teacher's Guide for children, produced in collaboration with the Libri publishing house.

The Teachers' Guide is conceived as a collection of the main contents of each chapter of the video game (4 in all plus a final epilogue) and offers insights and proposals for activities to be carried out in the classroom, recalling various types of resources from the Ludoteca, including multimedia resources such as webinars and video clips.

The Student's Guide retraces Nabbovaldo's adventure and recalls the environments of the video game, proposing to the students, through engaging and lively communication, in-depth paths on computer security and the world of the Internet.

From the World

A person with long brown hair, wearing a pink fedora-style hat and a grey backpack, is seen from behind. They are standing in a busy, sunlit street with buildings and other people in the background. The person's hands are raised, touching the brim of their hat. The overall scene is bright and slightly blurred, suggesting a candid moment in a travel setting.

EU Council: political agreement on the NIS 2.0 directive has been reached

by Gino Silvatici

The European Parliament adopts the Digital Services ACT (DSA)

by Gino Silvatici

The European proposals for regulation of the geographical indications system

by Arianna Del Soldato and Adriana Lazzaroni

NIST announced the first four “quantum-resistant” cryptographic algorithms

by Arianna Del Soldato and Adriana Lazzaroni

From
the world

EU Council: political agreement on the NIS 2.0 directive has been reached

by Gino Silvatici

NIS (Network and Information Security) is a European directive passed in 2016 that requires all EU Member States to adopt certain common, strategic measures for the security of networks and information systems. Following its update, the NIS Directive has been renamed NIS 2.0.

On 17 June, the EU Council published a document on the NIS 2.0 directive for a common high level of cybersecurity, establishing that Registries and organisations providing domain name registration services - are required to process the data they hold in order to ensure the security, stability and resilience of the DNS (Domain Name System). This obligation aims at obtaining a complete and accurate set of registration data for each Top-Level Domain (TLD) and should not involve the repeated collection and storage of the same data.

The domain name database should include: the domain name itself, the date of registration, the registrant's name, e-mail address, telephone number, as well as the e-mail address and telephone number of the administrative contact of the requested name, if different from the registrant.

The agreement also requires that databases contain accurate and complete information, including verification procedures: to make this happen, policies should take into consideration the standards developed by multi-stakeholder governance structures at the international level.



The European Parliament adopts the Digital Services ACT (DSA)

by Gino Silvatici

The Digital Services Act (DSA) is the new European regulation on digital services: approved on 5 July 2022, it provides for obligations proportionate to the size of the platform and a new culture of prevention of systemic risks, from disinformation to illegal content.

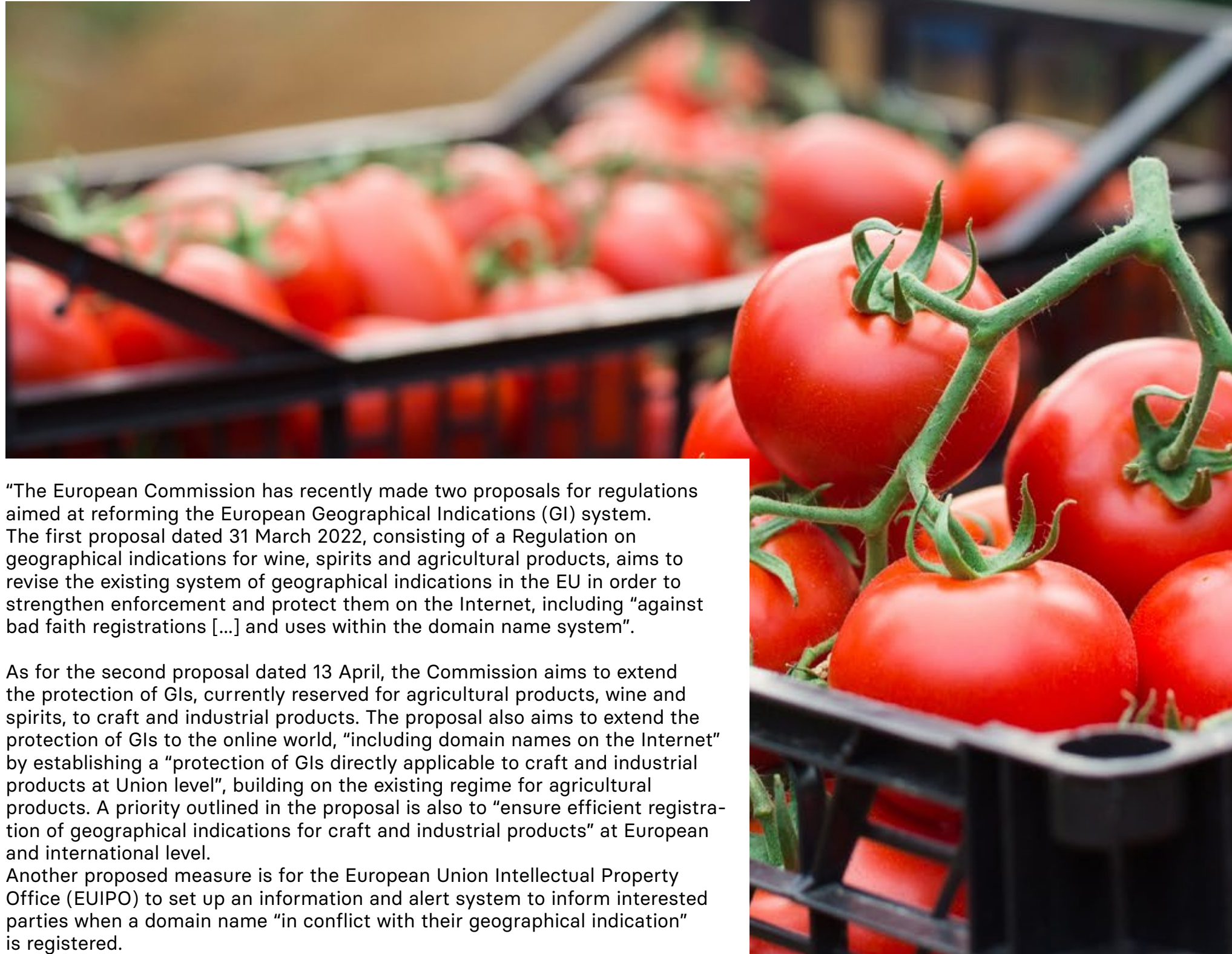
The DSA contains provisions for Top Level Domain (TLD) Registries, Registrars and Domain Name System (DNS) service providers, which can benefit from an 'exemption from liability' with regard to the scope of "illegal content". According to this text, intermediaries will also be required to appoint a single point of contact for the recipients of their services, allowing fast, direct and viable communication by easily accessible means (e.g., telephone, email, instant messaging).

The final text of the DSA is the one that will be implemented by the Member States, following formal approval by the European Council scheduled for September.



The European proposals for regulation of the geographical indications system

by Arianna Del Soldato and Adriana Lazzaroni



“The European Commission has recently made two proposals for regulations aimed at reforming the European Geographical Indications (GI) system. The first proposal dated 31 March 2022, consisting of a Regulation on geographical indications for wine, spirits and agricultural products, aims to revise the existing system of geographical indications in the EU in order to strengthen enforcement and protect them on the Internet, including “against bad faith registrations [...] and uses within the domain name system”.

As for the second proposal dated 13 April, the Commission aims to extend the protection of GIs, currently reserved for agricultural products, wine and spirits, to craft and industrial products. The proposal also aims to extend the protection of GIs to the online world, “including domain names on the Internet” by establishing a “protection of GIs directly applicable to craft and industrial products at Union level”, building on the existing regime for agricultural products. A priority outlined in the proposal is also to “ensure efficient registration of geographical indications for craft and industrial products” at European and international level.

Another proposed measure is for the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) to set up an information and alert system to inform interested parties when a domain name “in conflict with their geographical indication” is registered.

The proposals also contain common provisions requiring the alert system to inform registrants of the “availability of the domain name with a geographical indication”.

In principle, as part of the GI protection package, the domain name alert system should also be extended to all trademarks registered in the EU, according to the proposed amendment of the existing trademark law under Regulation 2017/1001.

Both proposals also emphasise that parties with legitimate interests in registered GIs should be entitled to “request revocation or transfer of the domain name” if the domain name is registered without right, in bad faith, or in the absence of a legitimate interest in the GI, and further provide that competent authorities, designated under EU regulations, may issue measures to take action against illegal content.

There is no doubt that the aforementioned proposals have stimulated a wide-ranging discussion within the main international DNS-related bodies, including on the possible problems relating to the implementation of the proposed Regulations in the registration of domain names (both top-level (TLD) and second-level (SLD)) and on the impact of the reform on European ccTLD operators. While on the one hand the proposals represent a valuable tool to strengthen and protect the specialisation of the (European) states’ production system in the various sectors involved in the Regulations, on the other hand the proposed regulation appears restrictive to many. It should provide for operational margins of applicability left to the legal system of the individual countries, especially with regard to the methods of operational and legal management of any disputed domain names.

This also depends on the fact that the individual ccTLD Registries, although they embrace the same protection principles, do not share consistent regulations on the resolution of disputes over domain names.

At the ICANN 75 meetings in Kuala Lumpur from 17 to 22 September, sessions on the subject will be held with the aim of raising awareness among the Internet community on the developments taking place in the area of Geographical Indication protection on Regions, if any, and ccTLD Geographical Registries.

CENTR also issued an official commentary on the reform of GIs in the EU on 15 September. In it, the general objective of revising the legal framework for geographical indications in the EU is welcomed, in order to guarantee the production of quality agricultural and artisanal products, which constitute Europe’s gastronomic and cultural heritage, but, at the same time, legislators are urged to carefully assess the impact of the new legislation on European ccTLD operators, who are considered to be the core of the public Internet, along with other Internet infrastructure players.



NIST announced the first four “quantum-resistant” cryptographic algorithms

by Arianna Del Soldato and Adriana Lazzaroni

On 5 July 2022, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced the first set of cryptographic algorithms designed to withstand attacks from a future quantum computer that could potentially breach the security systems used in digital systems currently in use. The four selected algorithms will become part of NIST’s post-quantum cryptographic standard, which is expected to be finalised in about two years.

The selection follows a six-year effort run by NIST: “Our post-quantum cryptography programme has harnessed the best minds in cryptography - around the world - to produce this first set of quantum-resistant algorithms, which will lead to common standards, thus significantly increasing the security of our digital information”, said NIST Director Laurie E. Locascio. While US Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo, described the event as “an important milestone in protecting our sensitive data from the possibility of future cyber attacks”.

For general cryptography, used to ensure the confidentiality of information when accessing secure websites, NIST has selected the CRYSTALS-Kyber algorithm. Its advantages include relatively small encryption keys, which can be easily exchanged by parties, as well as its operational speed. For digital signatures, often used when we need to verify identity during a digital transaction or to sign a document remotely, NIST selected the three algorithms CRYSTALS-Dilithium, FALCON and SPHINCS+. Examiners noted the high efficiency of the first two, and NIST recommends CRYSTALS-Dilithium as the primary algorithm, with FALCON for applications requiring smaller signatures than Dilithium can provide. The third, SPHINCS+, is somewhat heavier and slower than the other two, but was considered valuable as a backup for the main reason that it is based on a different mathematical approach than all three other selections.

However, these selected algorithms have higher parameters or calculation times than non-quantum ones, which could pose a problem for protocols and networks as we use them today: TLS, DNSSEC, IPSEC and more.

Quarter .it. examined data security and confidentiality issues related to the introduction of quantum computers in the last issue.

While the standard is under development, NIST encourages security experts to experiment with the new algorithms by integrating them into their applications, but not to include them in their systems yet, as the algorithms may change slightly before the standard is finalised. It is important to emphasise here that there will probably be an intermediate period, in which the security protocols will provide a “hybrid” set of algorithms for transition, compliance and security purposes in case the post-quantum algorithms are hacked. “Hybrid” means that both a pre-quantum (or classical) and a post-quantum algorithm will be used to generate the “secret” that will be used to encrypt or provide authentication.

The IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) has started some work, in particular for TLS, announcing a potential mechanism for adding post-quantum algorithms to the key exchange phase of TLS, as outlined in the documented draft-ietf-tls-hybrid-design-05. In contrast, in certificate-based authentication, there are still no proposals in this regard, and it is not yet clear how certificate transparency and revocation will work. DNSSEC is also an example of a protocol where post-quantum cryptography has a long way to go, due to the need for practical experimentation in order to be able to move forward with technical updates.

NIST is also considering four additional algorithms for inclusion in the standard, which will be the finalists in a second evaluation phase currently in progress. NIST’s decision to implement the two-phases selection is due to the need to obtain a useful standard that offers a solid variety of solutions designed for use in different approaches to cryptography, as well as different algorithms for each use case, should an event prove vulnerable.

All algorithms are available on the NIST website.

Events

International appointments from the digital world

IETF

5-11 November 2022

IETF 115, London (UK)

RIPE

21-22 September 2022

RIPE Days, Tashkent (Uzbekistan)

24-28 October 2022

RIPE 85, Belgrade (Serbia)

CENTR (for members only)

28-29 September 2022

67th CENTR Legal & Regulatory workshop
Bratislava (Slovakia)

6 October 2022

55th CENTR Administrative workshop
Barcellona (Spain)

11 October 2022

21th CENTR R&D workshop, online event

13 October 2022

24th CENTR Security workshop
Vilnius (Lithuania)

17-18 October 2022

36th CENTR Marketing workshop
Ljubljana (Slovenia)

22-23 October 2022

Join 47th CENTR Technical workshop/
OOARC 39 workshop, Belgrade (Serbia)

14 November 2022

2022 Annual CENTR meeting
Ixelles (Belgium)

15 November 2022

CENTR Leaders Day 2022, Ixelles (Belgium)

Other events

30 September 2022

TLDCON 2022, online event

6-9 October 2022

Internet Festival 2022, Pisa (Italy)

26 October 2022

VSIG, online event

28 November 2022

17th Annual IGF meeting, Addis Abeba (Ethiopia)

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