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HEAD OF REGISTRO .IT

Marco Conti

Quarter in short

Everybody online, for business, opportunities and digital identity

by Francesca Nicolini

The pandemic emergency is not over yet and, with its tail twists, it is preventing us from resuming normal activities one hundred per cent and forcing us into restrictions, smart working and social limitations. But above all, it teaches us and confirms an undeniable fact: the Internet is a precious resource, to be properly used in the company, at school or at home, learning to know all the opportunities it offers us and the digital future (just around the corner) that it has to reveal to us.

And this has been the aim of the Registro .it - even in these 4 months that have just passed - which has continued to communicate and disseminate and, which, in July, launched its first podcast entitled "Digital Tomorrow", discussing the various topics of the digital world, which have already changed and will increasingly change our future, such as the Internet of Things, blockchain, 5G and Artificial Intelligence.

"Piccole Medie Digitali" 2021, the cycle of free Web Talks devised by the Registro .it, continued to emphasise, instead, the importance of the metaphorical "window on the world", starting with companies and freelancers who can improve and optimise their business and relaunch it even in times with such narrow boundaries, such as those we are experiencing due to the pandemic: the internet has continued to be an opportunity even when physically going to work was not allowed.

However, if business activities are important, the process of dissemination in schools with the Ludoteca has tried to embrace as many targets as possible, such as pupils, parents and teachers, with the intention of "educating" everyone to the good use of the Web, focusing on the opportunities, but also on the risks, which shall be avoided. In this context, in addition to a new series of webinars, new multimedia products and new projects have been created, such as the cycle of graphic animations "Carpe digital", dedicated to basic topics of the world of the Net and the Web, and a column entitled "Cyber Care", entirely dedicated to cybersecurity, the leading theme of the Ludoteca project of the Registro .it.

In this issue, you will find all this and much more, together with the usual statistical data, forthcoming events and news from around the world, and we could not miss a preview of the upcoming Internet Festival 2021, which this year too will be held both in presence and online. The keyword #Phygital, sums up the moment we are living in, a new world, in between, where the limit of what is real and what is virtual has been lost.

Enjoy your reading!





digital transformation in the (first) podcast of Registro .it by Stefania Fabbri Digital Tomorrow is the title of the first series of podcasts produced by Registro .it and hosted by Mr. Pepe Moder to discuss the digital future of Italian SMEs.
In the ten scheduled episodes, the voices of entrepreneurs and researchers from the CNR tell the success stories and challenges of the digital entrepreneurship of tomorrow, thus outlining the state of the art of our small and medium-sized enterprises.

Quarter Front Page



The first 3 episodes of Digital Tomorrow are online on the Registro .it website and on all major podcast platforms

DIGITAL
TOMORROW

In the first, Gianluca Diegoli and Ilaria Tabone, CEO of Molino Rossetto, talk about digital transformation and its impact on B2B (Business to Business, companies that provide products and services for other companies) and B2C (Business to Consumer, companies that provide products and services for the end consumer) companies.

The second deals with cybersecurity and the importance of the security of IT systems for small and medium-sized enterprises, in the face of constantly evolving threats. The guests of the episode are Fabio Martinelli, research manager at the CNR, and Gabriele Faggioli, CEO of Partners4Innovation.

The third is dedicated to the Internet of Things: Pepe Moder interviews Paolo Barsocchi, first researcher at CNR, and Giommy Bazzoni, Consulting Director & partner of 3Logic, to understand how the Internet of Things can improve working conditions, business models, productivity and production quality of companies.

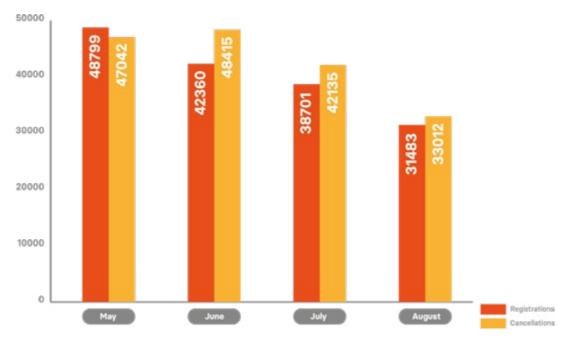
Each episode, one per month, is dedicated to a specific topic, in order to look at the digitisation of one's own business: from artificial intelligence to blockchain, from cybersecurity to Industry 4.0, passing through the Internet of Things, digital brand identity (and consequently also the issue of privacy) and the potential of 5G networks.

The lockdowns, the natural emergency containment of Covid-19, and the long tail of the pandemic have changed the way companies, especially SMEs, interact with their public and produced a definite acceleration in the use of digital. Just think that in 2020 alone, the number of companies choosing the .it domain for their online identity increased by 56% compared to 2019: out of 10 new .it domains registered last year, 4 belong to Italian companies.



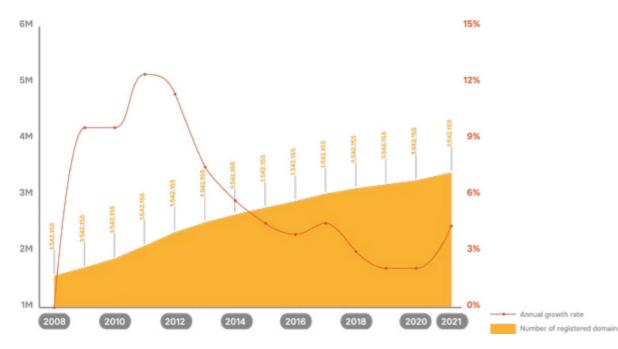
Growth of the New Registrations

Compared to the same period of the last year, an analysis of the trend in registrations of .it domain names in the second quarter of 2021 shows a considerable increase in cancellations, which exceeded new registrations by more than 9,000 domains. It should be noted that only in May did new registrations exceed cancellations. However, this difference is much smaller than in May last year



Yearly growth

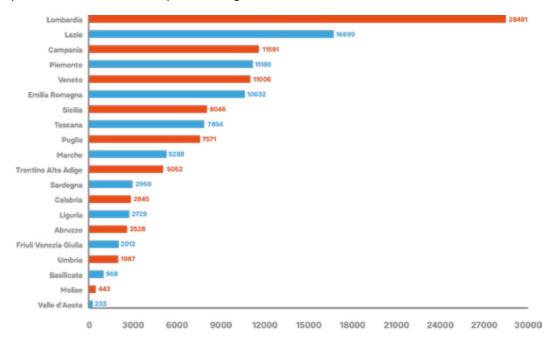
The total number of .it names registered at the end of the second quarter of 2021 amounted to 3,426,919, a positive growth of 1.54% (52,129 more domains) compared to the end of 2020. This figure shows a lower growth rate than that recorded during the second quarter of 2020, but is in line with the values recorded during the same four-month period in previous years (2017 to 2019)



Top Regions

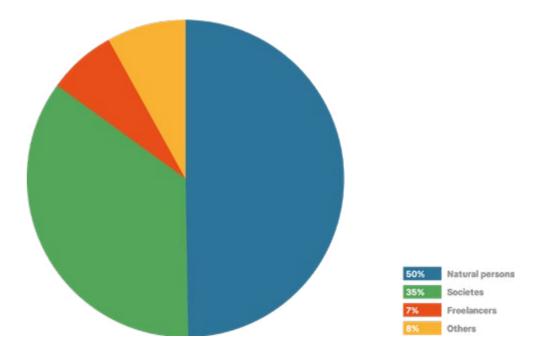
During the second quarter, Lombardy recorded the highest number of new registrations (20%), but lost one percentage point compared to the previous four months. Lazio also lost one percentage point, although it remained in second place with 12%.

Compared to the previous four months, the regions of Campania, Piedmont and Veneto remained in third place with the same percentage of 8%



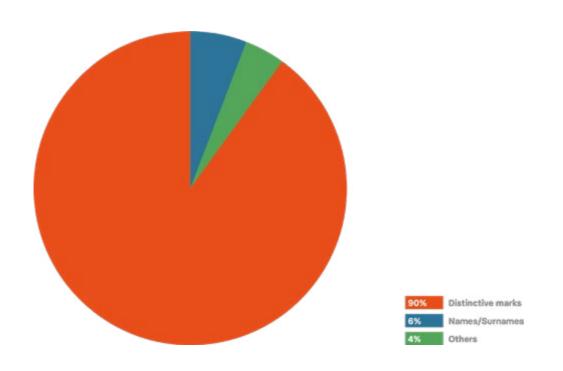
Entity Types

The percentage of new registrations by natural persons increased compared to the previous quarter, reaching 50% (half of new registrations), but at the expense of businesses, which lost one percentage point. The percentage of self-employed and other categories remains unchanged



Reasons for oppositions

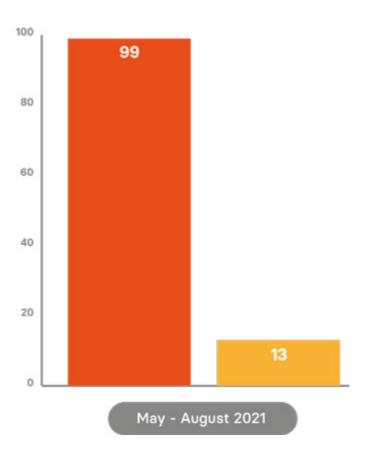
Infringement of distinctive business signs represents 90% of the oppositions brought. The remaining 10% can be broken down as follows: 6% were filed to protect the name/surname, the remaining 4% concerned "various" reasons



Reassignements

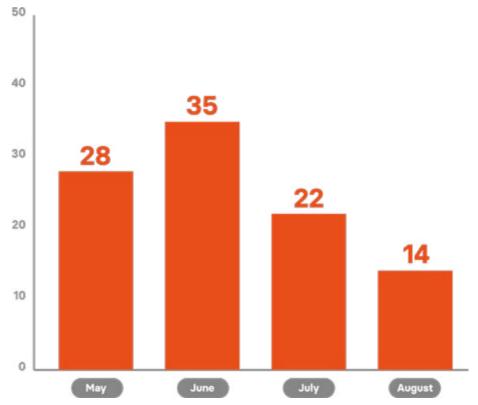
In the second quarter of 2021, 99 objection procedures were activated and 13 reassignment procedures were filed with the PSRD. There are 70 opposition procedures filed by Italian subjects against as many fellow countrymen; 22, instead, were filed by Italian subjects against foreign assignees. In 5 cases, a foreign subject resorted to the opposition of a domain name where the Registrant is an Italian subject. Finally, 2 oppositions concerned foreign subjects, i.e. non-Italian registrant and opponent.

Out of the 13 reassignment procedures, 6 were initiated by foreign parties against foreign parties, i.e., non-Italian complainant and respondent; 2 were proposed by foreign parties against Italian assignees; 3 involved Italian parties, both as complainant and respondent. In two cases, an Italian party was the proposer against a non-Italian subject



Monthly Trend of the Oppositions

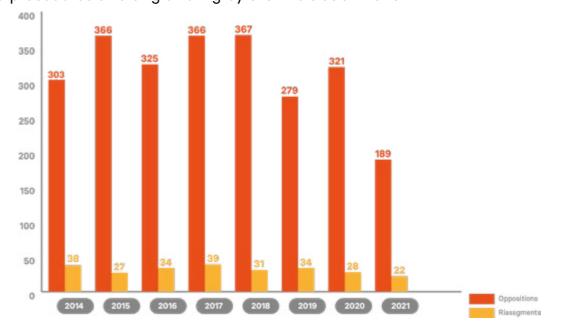
The monthly average for the period is equal to 25 activations, 9 procedures more than in the first four months. However, the trend is not steady, considering that June saw the highest number (35) of procedures in the period under review, 10 above the average, and August the lowest number compared to the average (14), with 11 fewer activations. Ninety per cent of the opposition requests are based on the infringement of the company's distinctive signs (company name, trade mark and 10 sign): 89 out of 99. The remaining 10 were divided as follows: 6 claimed infringement of the right to a name, the other 4 were different



Yearly trend of the Oppositions - Reassignements

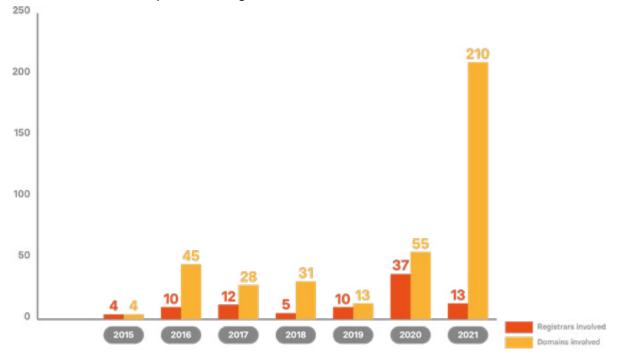
In the second quarter, compared to 99 oppositions, 13 reassignment procedures were filed with the PSRD. In 7 cases, the Arbitration Panel recognised the rights of the opposing/complainant, accepting the appeal filed.

In only one case, the Board did not reassign the domain name to the complainant/opponent, with the consequence that the domain name remained to the respondent/assignee. Lastly, there are 5 procedures awaiting a ruling by the Arbitration Panel



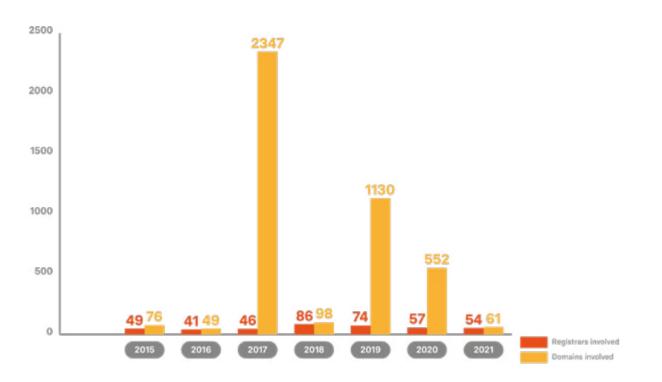
Authinfo requests

During the first 8 months of 2021, Authinfo requests actually quadrupled compared to 2020, mainly as a result of the closure of some Registrar companies that still maintained a significant portfolio of domain names. Only marginally, domain names were released to Registrants whose domains were maintained by active Registrars



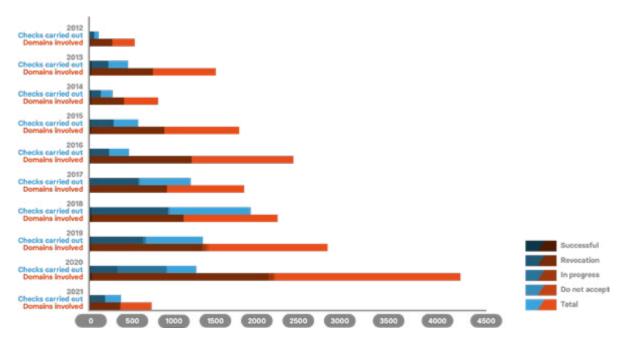
Requests from competent authorities

In general, requests from the competent authorities increased compared to 2020. Nonetheless, the number of domain names involved has decreased, since requests have almost exclusively concerned a single domain, and not several names linked to the same assignee



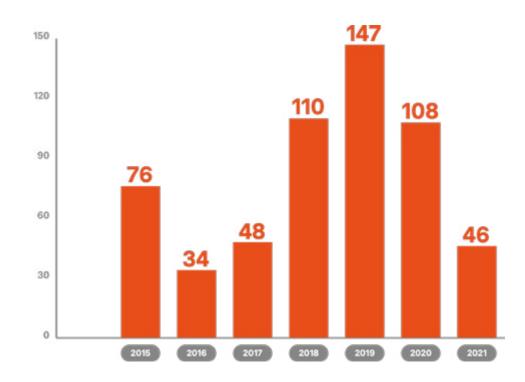
Verification of domains by Registro

Compared to 2020, the number of domains involved in subjective requirement verifications significantly decreased, while being in line with the first months of this year. This result was also achieved thanks to the measures enforced by Registro .it to counter the obvious inaccuracy of some Registrants' data. This activity was carried out in partnership with the Registrars who maintained the domain names and who updated or cancelled them whenever possible



Reserved names

The number of requests for registration of domain names reserved for municipalities, provinces and regions is in decline compared to last year, as almost all municipalities have now registered their reserved domain names





Quarter .it News

#Phygital: between physical and digital, the new frontiers of our world at the Internet Festival 2021

by Chiara Spinelli



#Phygital combines the words physical and digital. It sums up the union of atoms and bits, and the proximity of the real and virtual worlds, which are now indissolubly fused. It is the world we find ourselves living in after more than a year of global pandemic, the one in which we have learnt to use the web not only to work or study at a distance, to shop or to get information, but also to cultivate relationships, enjoy cultural events, keep in touch in a society that has made distancing its weapon of survival.

Internet Festival 2021 returns in this context with a hybrid edition between digital and in-person events, as last year, fully #phygital: the live part will take place in Pisa from 7 to 10 October, while the online programme will extend with a rich agenda of events until December.

Registro .it and CNR-IIT, which have been among the promoters of the event since the zero edition, are present in the Internet Festival agenda with a set of appointments:







• Piccole Medie Digitali Web talk: on Thursday 7 October, with a panel led by Enrico Pagliarini entitled "Digitalizzazione e Internazionalizzazione: le sfide per le PMI del Made in Italy" ("Digitalisation and Internationalisation: the challenges for Made in Italy SMEs");



- Thursday 7 October, panel "Ma se l'aspirapolvere mi spiasse?" ("What if the hoover spied on me?"), dedicated to cybersecurity issues for home automation, organised by the SIFIS-Home European project of which CNR-IIT is the lead partner.
- Cybersecurity day, the annual computer security event organised by the CNR's Institute of Informatics and Telematics, scheduled for Friday 8 October.



• Saturday 9 October, two appointments for teachers linked to Ludoteca project of the Registro .it: the panel "Il digitale a scuola: e gli insegnanti?" ("Digital at school: what about teachers?") and ""Nabbovaldo e il ricatto dal Cyberspazio", imparare la cybersecurity con un videogioco" (""Nabbovaldo and the cyber blackmail", learning cybersecurity with a video game");

The Ludoteca will also be part of the T-Tours, IF's events dedicated to schools, with an online workshop entitled "A scuola di cittadinanza digitale con la Ludoteca del Registro .it" ("At school with the digital citizenship of the Ludoteca by Registro .it") All information on the programme is available on the event website: www.internetfestival.it

Quarter .it News

Marco Conti is one of the Draghi government's advisors on Al

by Francesca Nicolini

Artificial intelligence is increasingly pervasive and is becoming a powerful part of our daily lives, across the board and in various sectors, from IT and telecommunications to microelectronics, from energy to pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, from transportation to environment.

In view of the many applications of AI, and in order to contribute to helping Italy escape the economic and social consequences of the post-pandemic crisis, the government has set up a restricted 'Working Group on the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence', to which Marco Conti, head of Registro .it and director of the Institute of Informatics and Telematics of the CNR in Pisa, has been appointed.



The task force - made up exclusively of nine Italian experts, five women and four men, all coming from the academic world - has been asked to set up the national strategy on artificial intelligence and make it consistent with the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). The working group will have an advisory function and will submit the identified strategic approach to the three competent Ministries: the Ministry for Universities and Research, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Minister for Technological Innovation and Digital Transition.

Marco Conti is a research manager at the CNR, director of the Institute of Informatics and Telematics of the CNR in Pisa (IIT-CNR) and head of the Registro .it. He has published more than 400 scientific articles and five books on new generation internet computer networks, social networks, intelligent systems, and has coordinated numerous European projects. He is the principal investigator of the first national doctorate in Artificial Intelligence at the CNR. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Start 4.0 and of the Scientific Technical Committee of Artes 4.0 (national competence centres on Industry 4.0). In November 2017, he was included in the '2017 Highly Cited Researchers' list as one of the most cited researchers worldwide for the area 'computer science'.

The Ludoteca grows up: new contents, webinars and videos



by Giorgia Bassi

Training the new generations to make conscious use of digital technologies and online resources requires the involvement of teachers and families, who are essential educational reference points. In order to support adults in the difficult task of becoming active participants and not passive spectators of the digital life of the youngest children, the Ludoteca of the Registro .it has provided many resources, both educational for teachers - such as, for example, the Web app Internetopoli - and informative for a non-expert audience interested in learning about and deepening their knowledge of the Internet.

As early as last school year, this 'training' process was supplemented by an editorial plan that included the launch of video columns to be published on the project's social media (website, YouTube, FB page, Instagram and Twitter), differing in format and subject matter, but all aimed at a wide audience. The choice of videos, nowadays the most widely used format in digital communication, responds to the need to transmit technical content in a direct and creative language, suitable for all the Ludoteca's targets (pupils, teachers and families) and also allows easy use on social channels.

With this in mind, the video cycle entitled "I webinar della Ludoteca del Registro .it" ("The webinar of the Ludoteca of the Registro .it") has been prepared (five have already been published out of ten videos lasting about 20 minutes each). It aims at offering in-depth analysis on digital technology by experts and researchers from the CNR. Today, these topics, such as 5G, the Internet of Things (IoT), the digitisation of services, the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in schools, fake news and artificial intelligence, are much debated. The method used in the creation of these multimedia products is to introduce the topics starting from

the technical aspects, always highlighting the positive effects on society, but with an open point of view also on the critical issues, such as - for example - the problems related to the protection of privacy and the lack of a widespread digital culture.

The cycle of graphic animations "Carpe digital" (two videos already published, for a total of six, each lasting about 1.30"), on the other hand, is devoted to basic topics related to the Net and the Web: domain names, the difference between the Internet and the Web, Big Data, cookies, search engines and browsers, the TCP/IP protocol. The tone is informative and the style helps to visualise even complex technical concepts, such as domain names, compared to the addresses of a city represented with houses, buildings (including, of course, the headquarters of the Registro .it!) and streets.

Finally, a section entirely devoted to cybersecurity, the main theme of the Ludoteca project of the Registro .it could not be missing: "Cyber Care" is the name of this cycle, which involved researchers from the "Trust, Security and Privacy" Unit of the Institute of Informatics and Telematics of the CNR in Pisa. The videos (three of which have been published, with five more scheduled, each lasting about 1.30") deal with specific aspects of computer security on which research in this field is currently focused, such as biometric systems, mobile and IoT, machine learning and artificial intelligence. The aim of this column is to make people understand that there are increasingly sophisticated and evolving security procedures, but the most important form of defence remains user behaviour and therefore good 'cyber hygiene' practices. The "Cyber Care" cycle is also particularly suitable for secondary school children and will be used as an in-depth tool in the Cybersecurity4Teens project planned for the new 2021-2022 school year.

Quarter .it News

Ten years and several projects, three events to celebrate the Ludoteca

by Giorgia Bassi





In 2021 the Ludoteca has grown: ten years of activity, multimedia products, workshops and webinars for different targets. The tenth anniversary of the Ludoteca, which was inaugurated with the first workshops presented at the 2011 edition of the Internet Festival, was an opportunity to celebrate this important date and to propose a programme of online events aimed not only at retracing the stages and initiatives of the project, but also at providing teachers, in particular, with insights into the theme of digital education.

The first event, "La cybersecurity è un gioco da ragazzi!" ("Cybersecurity is child's play!"), held on 6 May, was an opportunity to present the video game "Nabbovaldo e il ricatto dal Cyberspazio" ("Nabbovaldo and the cyber blackmail"), a serious game that introduces children and young people - aged between 11 and 14 - to cybersecurity issues.

During the meeting, the educational objectives of the game and the great potential of gaming in the educational field were presented. Speakers included: Stefania Fabbri, communications and marketing of Registro .it; Cristiano Convertino, game experience expert, project manager and head of the Applied Games and Gamification sector at Grifo Multimedia; illustrator Gabriele Peddes, creator of the character Nabbovaldo, already the protagonist of a series of comics by the Ludoteca and Giovanni Eccher, scriptwriter and game designer.

"Diventare cittadini digitali tra opportunità e rischi" ("Becoming digital citizens between opportunities and risks"), the second panel scheduled for 12 May, was an opportunity to take an all-round look at digital technology with regard to the new generations, from the point of view of the opportunities, but also of the potential risks: from the importance of promoting digital education actions that involve not only young people, but also families, to cyber threats and some good practices for protecting devices and personal data; from the important role of schools and families, to the importance of digital technologies for innovating teaching also through a playful approach. The speakers at the meeting, moderated by the CNR press office chief Marco Ferrazzoli, will be Anna Vaccarelli, head of the Ludoteca project; Ilaria Matteucci, researcher in the Trust, Security and Privacy group at the CNR Institute of Informatics and Telematics in Pisa; Ersilia Menesini, Head of the Department of Education, Languages, Interculture and Psychology at the University of Florence, expert on cyberbullying; Augusto Chioccariello, researcher at the CNR Institute for Educational Technologies in Genoa; and Giovanni Vespoli, Project Manager at the Ministry of Education.

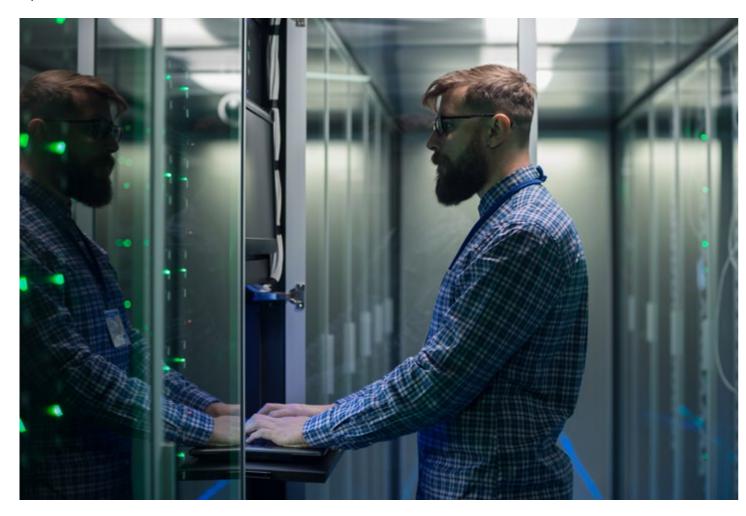
To conclude the tenth anniversary celebrations, an event entirely dedicated to the project could not be missed. "Cultura digitale a scuola: strumenti e nuove sfide" ("Digital culture at school: tools and new challenges") was the panel on 17 May, moderated by Aurelio Calamuneri, Communication Consultant, PR & Media Relations Director at SPENCER & LEWIS, in which the experts of the Ludoteca – Giorgia Bassi, Beatrice Lami, Claudia Mazzanti and Manuela Moretti – described the main stages of the initiative, also anticipating some future developments. During the meeting, finally, the project to evaluate the effectiveness of the workshops in the classes was presented, along with the initial results, which showed a good level of acquisition of knowledge and skills in all the schools involved.



Quarter From the World

Digital Decade: the European Parliament resolution on cybersecurity strategy

by Gino Silvatici



On 10 June, the European Parliament implemented a resolution on the EU cybersecurity strategy, calling, among other things, for "a new robust security framework for critical infrastructure to safeguard the security interests of the EU".

The resolution, addressed to the European Commission, calls for provisions to ensure the accessibility, availability and integrity of the public core of the Internet and, therefore, the stability of cyberspace, in particular with regard to the EU's access to the global DNS root system. The device voted by the European Parliament also welcomes the proposal for a European Domain Name System (DNS4EU) as a tool for a more resilient internet core and asks the Commission to assess how DNS4EU could use the latest technologies, security protocols and cyber threat expertise for a fast, secure and resilient DNS for all Europeans.

Finally, the resolution stresses the need for better protection of the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) and support for a multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance, of which cyber security should be one of the central themes.

Judicial dispute over data protection between the Belgian authority and Facebook: the opinion of the European Court of Justice

by Gino Silvatici

On 15 June, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) issued a ruling on a data protection court dispute between the Belgian authority and Facebook.

The case concerns an injunction procedure brought by the Belgian data protection authority seeking to stop Facebook's processing of personal data of Belgian internet users, using cookies, plugins and pixels. The main issue before the CJEU was whether the Belgian data protection authority can bring an action against a company that is not based in its jurisdiction. On the basis of the 'one-stop shop' mechanism of the GDPR, Facebook argued that only the Irish data protection authorities are competent and the only ones who can bring an injunction action against Facebook Ireland (the sole controller of Facebook users' personal data in the EU).

The CJEU said that DPAs, in principle, have the power to bring any alleged breach of the GDPR to the attention of a court in their own Member State and to initiate or take legal action, in relation to cross-border data processing, even though they are not the "primary supervisory authority".



International appointments in the Internet world

ICANN (www.icann.org)

12-14 October 2021

Prep Week 72th ICANN, virtual meeting

25-28 October 2021

72th ICANN meeting, virtual meeting

IETF (www.ietf.org)

06-12 November 2021

IETF 112, virtual meeting

RIPE

22-26 November 2021

RIPE 83, virtual meeting

Other events

07-11 October 2021

Internet Festival 2021, Pisa, Italy and events at www.internetfestival.it

29-30 November 2021

OARC 36, virtual meeting

06-10 December 2021

16th Annual IGF Meeting, Katowice (Poland)

CENTR (www.centr.org)

07-08 October 2021

53rd CENTR Administrative workshop, virtual meeting

12 October 2021

45rd CENTR Technical workshop, virtual meeting

13 October 2021

22nd CENTR Security workshop, virtual meeting

14 October 2021

65th CENTR Legal & Regulatory workshop, virtual meeting

19 October 2021

35th CENTR Marketing workshop: Tour de table of registry updates, virtual meeting

21 October 2021

19th CENTR R&D workshop, virtual meeting

15 November 2021

2021 Annual CENTR Meeting, Brussels (Belgium)

16 November 2021

CENTR Leaders Day 2020, Brussels (Belgium)

29 November 2021

6th CENTR Academy, virtual meeting

06-07 December 2021

CENTR WG Chairs/Vice-Chairs meeting, Brussels (Belgium)



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