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QUARTER

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about news, events and
numbers of Registro .it

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Andrea Passarella

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01

QUARTER

2025: the year under the banner of NIS2

by Francesca Nicolini

The main focus of this issue is the European NIS2 Directive: a complex challenge, but at the same time an evolutionary opportunity for the entire domain name management ecosystem, which is called upon to adopt new security standards and share greater responsibility.

NIS2 cuts across and involves all areas of Registro's activities, from legal and management areas to technical and operational aspects.

In this context, and in response to recent regulatory developments, the new Registro-Registrar contract is valid for a period of 18 months, from 1 May 2025 to 31 October 2026: this period allows for the completion of the adaptation process at national level and in other EU Member States, ensuring a homogeneous regulatory alignment at EU level.

The "bridging" contract thus represents a functional tool to accompany the domain name system towards a new regulatory framework consistent with European requirements on network and information system security.

The customary annual meeting of Registro.it was held on 4 April, with significant participation of Registrars both in attendance and via streaming, testifying to the strong involvement of the Registrar community and the growing interest in strategic issues for the future of the Registro. Andrea Passarella, director of CNR-IIT and head of Registro, together with the heads of each unit, took stock of 2024 activities and outlined future prospects for 2025 in the context of increasingly dynamic regulatory and technological developments.



The central theme of the 2025 Registrar meeting was, of course, the implementation of NIS2 in Italy, which imposes more stringent requirements for network security, involving domain name managers and Registrars, who are called upon to play an increasingly active role in protecting the digital infrastructure.

In parallel with regulatory efforts, the first four months of the 2025 was also marked by intense activity on several fronts, with a particular focus on the promotion of the .it domain as a symbol of Made in Italy and in support of the online business of small and medium-sized enterprises

For the first time, from 26 to 28 February Registro participated in BTM Italia 2025 in Bari, with a dedicated stand and an event on digital tourism, highlighting the strategic role of the .it domain as a symbol of identity, authenticity and reliability for the sector. The initiative fostered dialogue with Registrars, businesses and professionals, and also saw the presentation of data from the "Tourism in the Net" Observatory (TINe), on tourism data in Italy from Registro .it.

From June 4 to 6, for the second off-site event of 2025, the Registro participated in We Make Future (WMF), the international fair dedicated to artificial intelligence and digital innovation. Once again present with a dedicated booth, the Registro organized the event "Websites (and SEO) Are Not Dead: How to Survive the Era of AI and Instant Answers", a session focused on the evolution of online searches in the age of artificial intelligence and the impact these changes have on websites and digital marketing strategies.

One of the richest activities is the Ludoteca of the Registro .it project, which was set up fourteen years ago with the aim of bringing the very young closer to the world of the Internet, promoting its conscious and responsible use, disseminating knowledge of how the Net works, enhancing its opportunities and at the same time providing the tools to recognise, manage and prevent its risks.

In the first four months of 2025, the Ludoteca continued its commitment to digital education, through the production of papers,

the organisation of seminars and workshops, with a focus on computer security and the orientation of the new generations - especially girls - towards STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines, with a specific focus on computer science.

With reference to the European framework, the first issue of 2025 also deals with the topic of technological sovereignty in the EU, reporting on the statements made during the debate held on 18 March in the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

In the international context, on the other hand, more than ten years after the historic opening of 2012, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is preparing to launch a new phase of gTLD (generic Top-Level Domains) expansion, scheduled for the second quarter of 2026. The aim is to expand the offer of top-level domains, promoting competition, innovation and digital identity for businesses, communities and organisations. The new round is more selective and inclusive, with multilingual and thematic extensions, targeting brands, cities and vertical sectors such as sustainability (.green), emerging technologies (.ai, .blockchain) and smart cities.

In conclusion, the first Quarter of the year confirms the commitment of Registro .it on multiple fronts: regulatory compliance, promotion of online identity, digital skills education and service quality. In this scenario, the NIS2 Directive represents a crucial step, not just a regulatory obligation, but an opportunity to rethink internal processes, strengthen security measures and promote an integrated, resilient and forward-looking vision of digital. In this transformation phase, Registro acts with responsibility, competence and spirit of collaboration, aware of its central role within the Italian and European digital ecosystem.

Enjoy your reading!



PREFECT MILENA RIZZI AND ENG. CLAUDIO CICCOTELLI

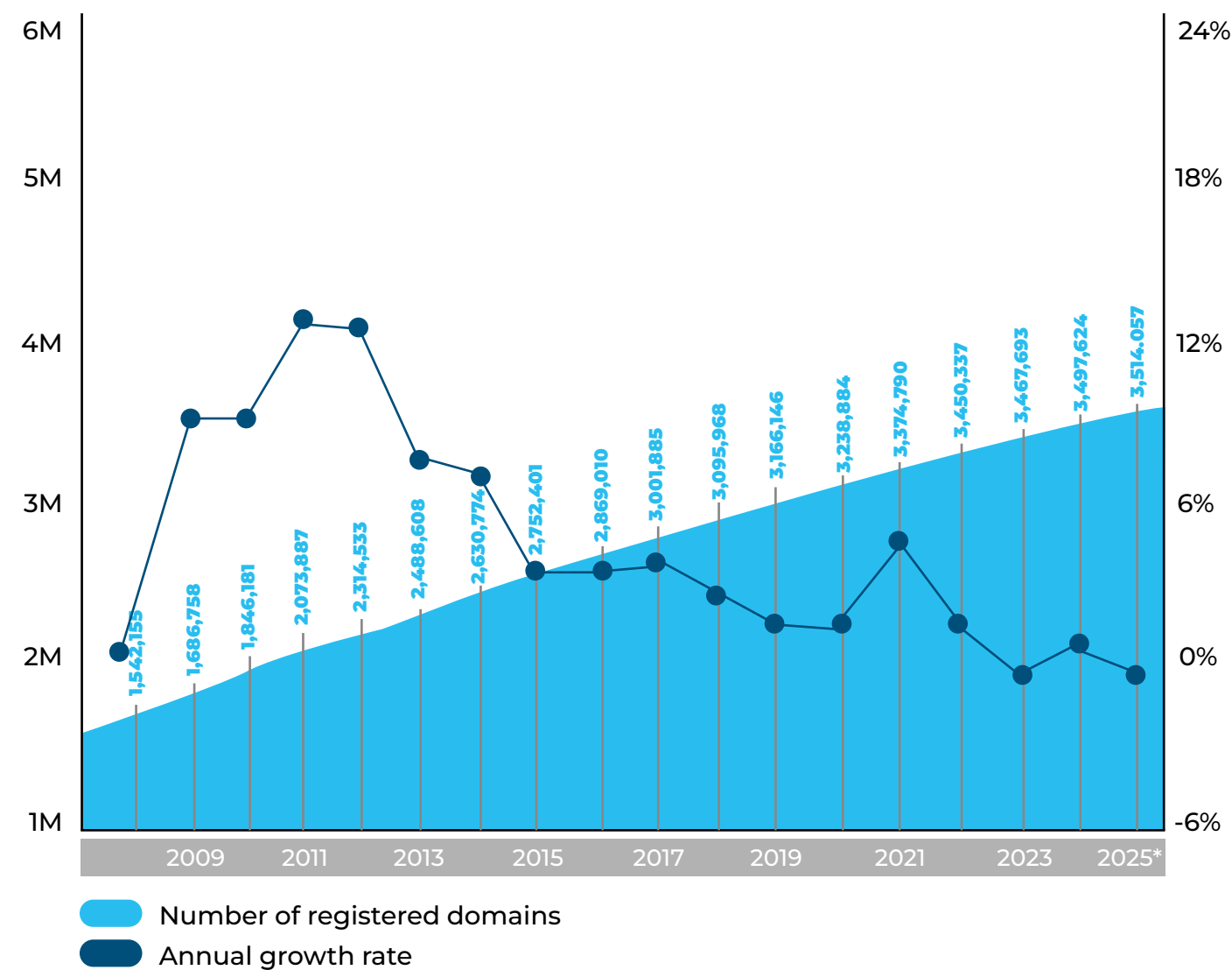
02

QUARTER

Annual growth
of .it

At the end of the first four months of 2025, the total number of .it domains amounted to 3,514,057, with a growth rate of 0.54 per cent (+19,023 domains), compared to the end of 2024.

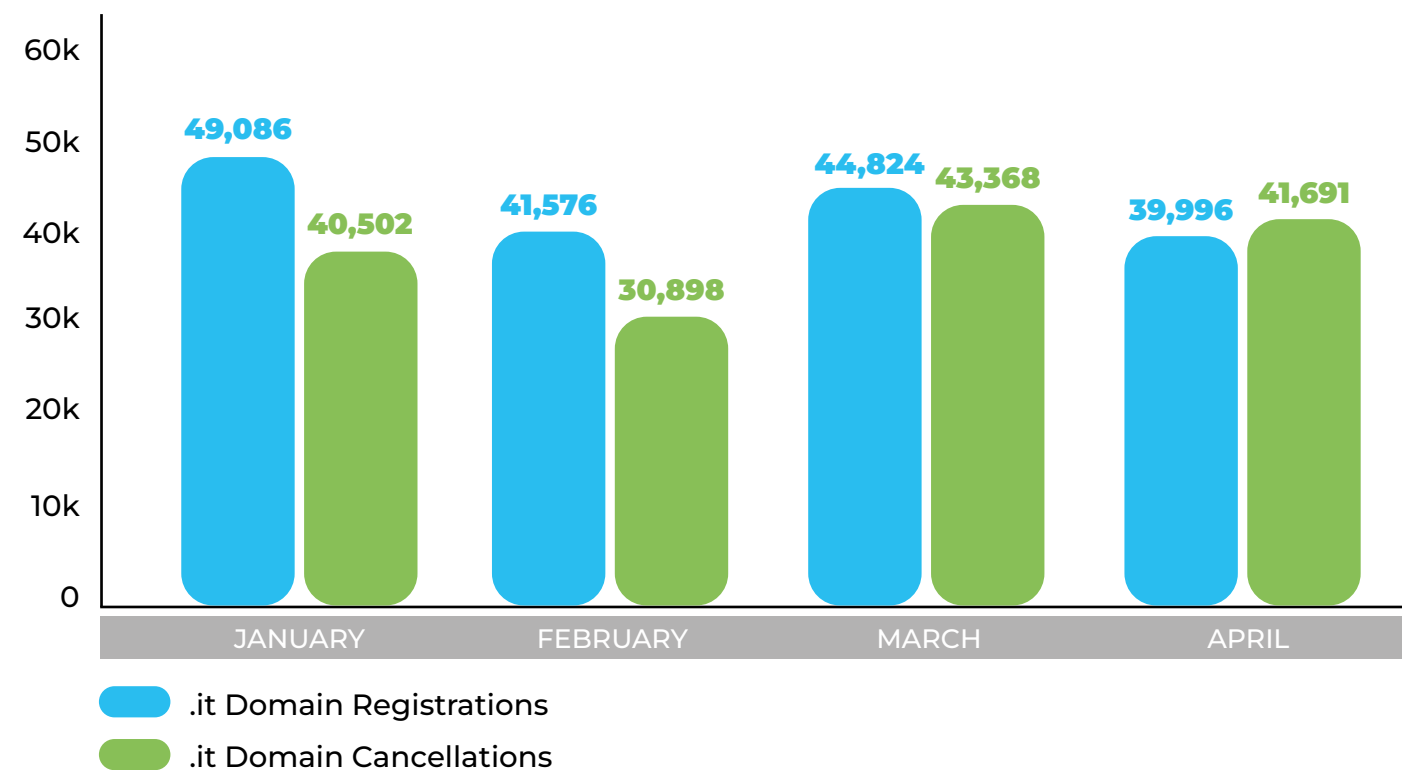
This rate, compared to that of the first four months of the previous year (0.01 per cent, corresponding to +339 domains, compared to the end of 2023), is significantly higher.



* These data are based on the January-April 2025 four-months period

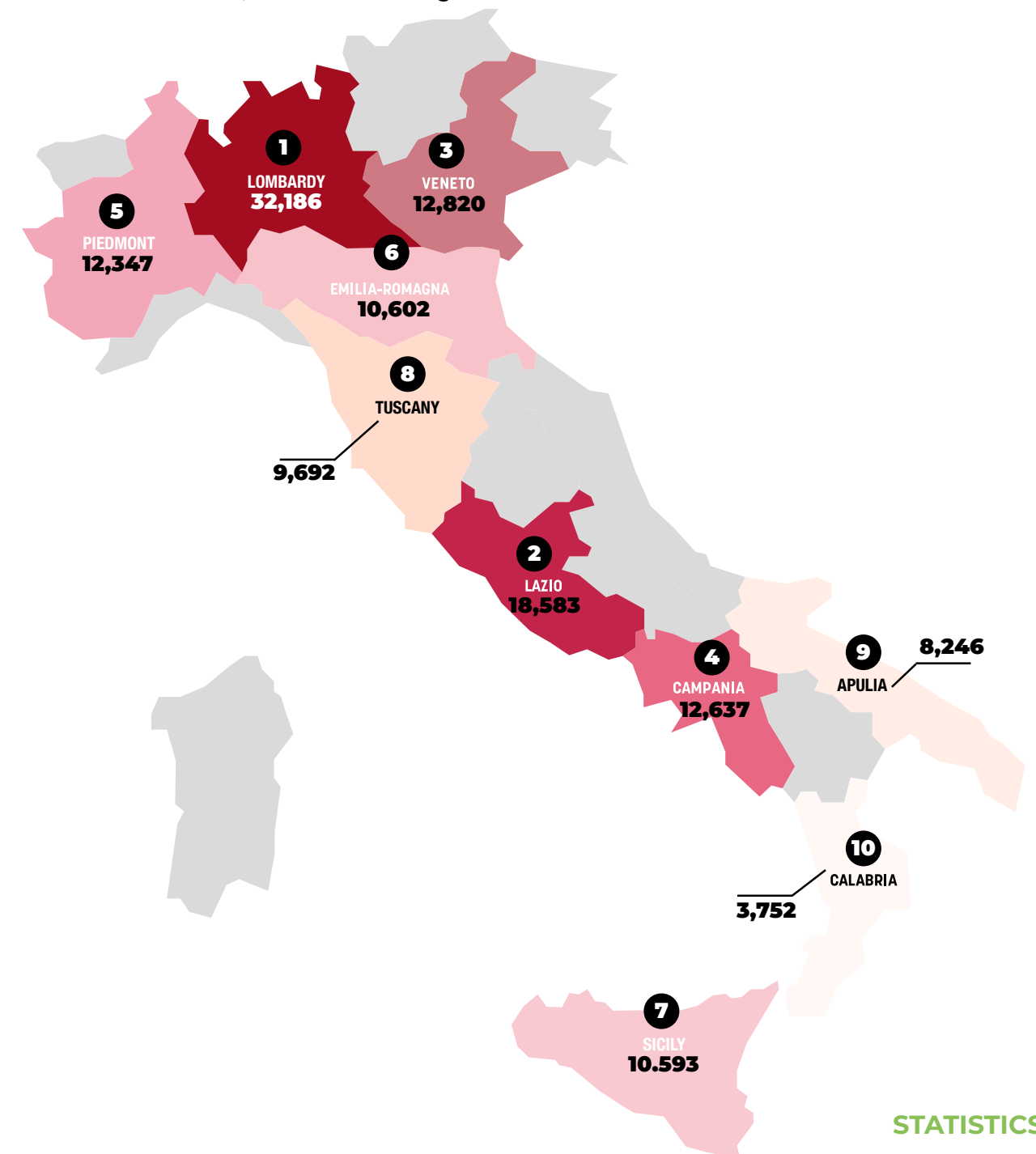
Four-month growth of .it

The trend in registrations of .it names in the first four months of 2025 shows that, in general, new domains exceed cancellations, with a significant difference in February. The total difference, in this first quarter of the year, is over 19,000 domains, significantly more than in the equivalent four-month period last year (the difference amounted to only 339 domains). The trend shows that these first four months saw an increase in new registrations and a decrease in cancellations, compared to the same period in 2024. In April alone, the number of cancellations exceeded the number of new registrations by almost 1,700 domains.



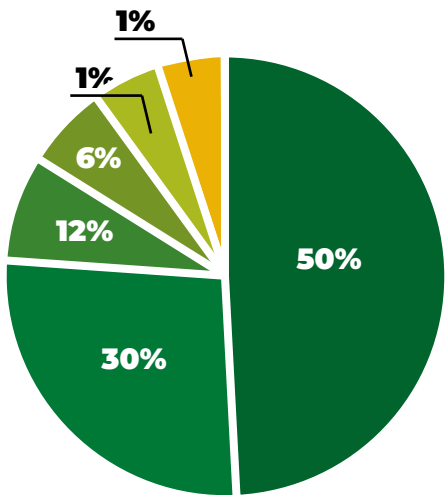
The top 10 regions with the highest number of .it domains

In the first four months of 2025, Lombardy remained the undisputed leader of the ranking, and the percentage of new registrations remained unchanged at 21%, compared to the same period last year. In second place, we once again find Lazio, although its percentage of new .it domains fell by one point and settles at 12%. Veneto, on the other hand, performed well, rising to third place, while Campania, like Lazio, lost a percentage point, reaching 8% and placing fourth in the ranking. The percentages of Piedmont and Emilia-Romagna, on the other hand, compared to the first months of 2024, remain unchanged.



Types of .it domain assignees

Compared to the first four months of 2024, at the beginning of 2025, the percentage of new .it domains assigned to natural persons increased by three points, to 50%, at the expense, however, of businesses, which lost as many, settling at 30%. The percentage of freelancers remains unchanged at 12%.



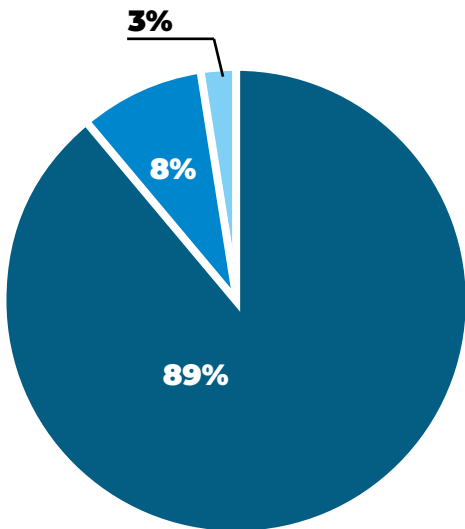
Registration

JANUARY APRIL 2025

- Natural persons
- Companies
- Freelancers
- Foreign subjects
- Non-profit organisations
- Others

Reasons for Oppositions

In this first four-month period of 2025, infringement of the company's distinctive signs accounted for 89% of the activations of opposition procedures: as in 2024 the figure was around 82%, there is therefore a 7% increase in infringements. At the beginning of this year, first names and surnames accounted for 8% of the opponents' requests, whereas in 2024 they accounted for 10%: there was therefore a decrease of 2%. Finally, oppositions involving 'various grounds' accounted for 3%, whereas in 2024 they were 8%, a decrease of 5% within the category.



Distinctive signs

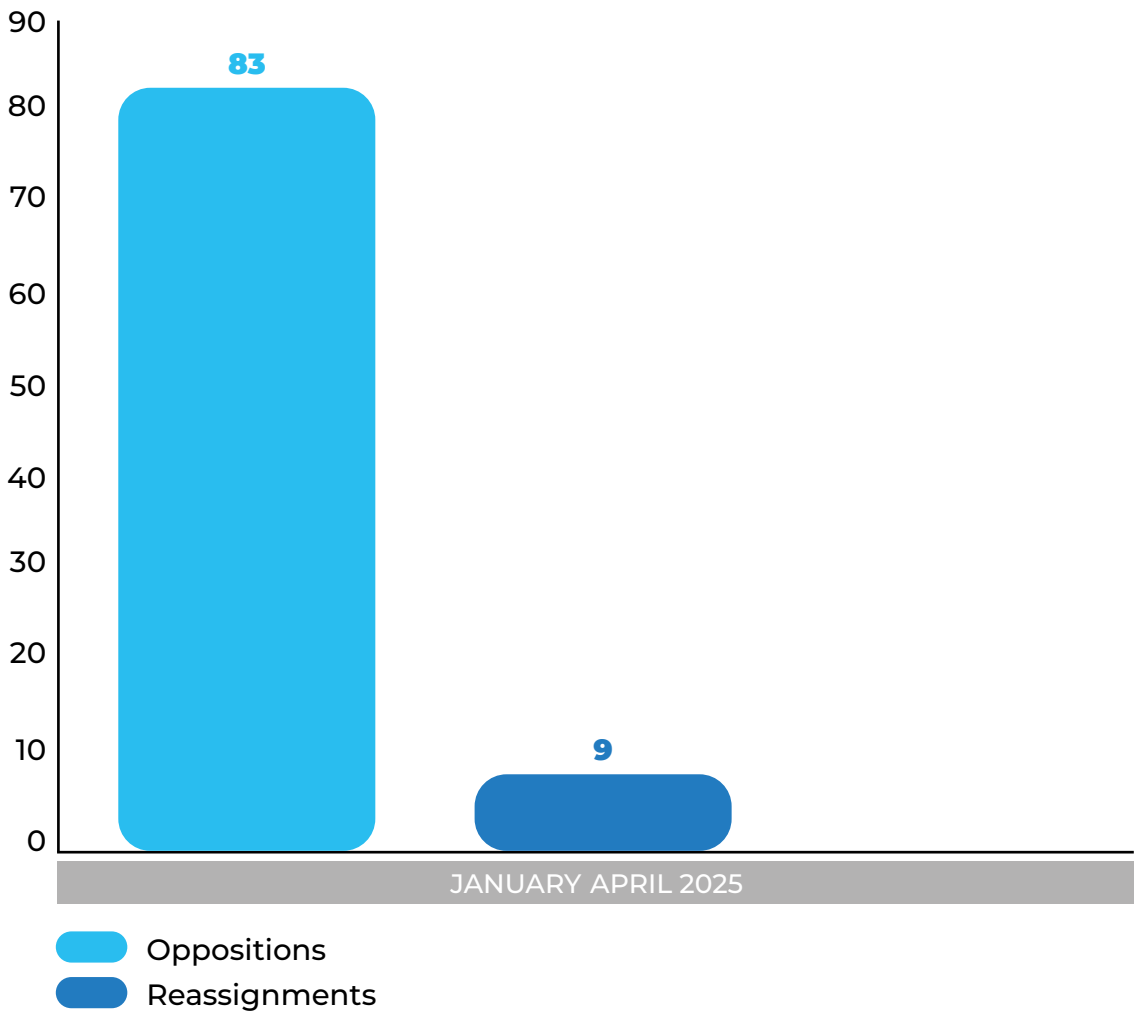
JANUARY APRIL 2025

- Distinctive signs
- Names and Surnames
- Others

Trend of Oppositions - Reassignments

The number of oppositions activated at the beginning of the year is 83, with an average of 21 per month. February and March saw the highest number of activations, 23 (+2 from the average), while April recorded 19 (-2 from the average) and January 18 (-3 from the average). Of the 83 oppositions activated, 51 were brought by Italian subjects, either as assignees or opponents. Specifically, 32 assignees reside or are based in Northern Italy, 5 in the Centre and, finally, 14 in the South.

As far as the opposing side is concerned, 30 reside or are based in Northern Italy, 6 in the Centre and 15 in Southern Italy. There are 22 foreign assignees who have had their domain name challenged by national subjects. In 6 cases, a foreign opponent had recourse to opposition, involving Italian assignees and there were 4 oppositions involving foreign subjects in the dual role of assignee and opponents. With regard to reassignments, 9 were introduced at the PSRDs. Almost all of them (8) involved Italian subjects, both as assignee/respondent and as opponent/complainant. Only one procedure was brought by a foreign subject, opponent/complainant, against a fellow countryman assignee/respondent.

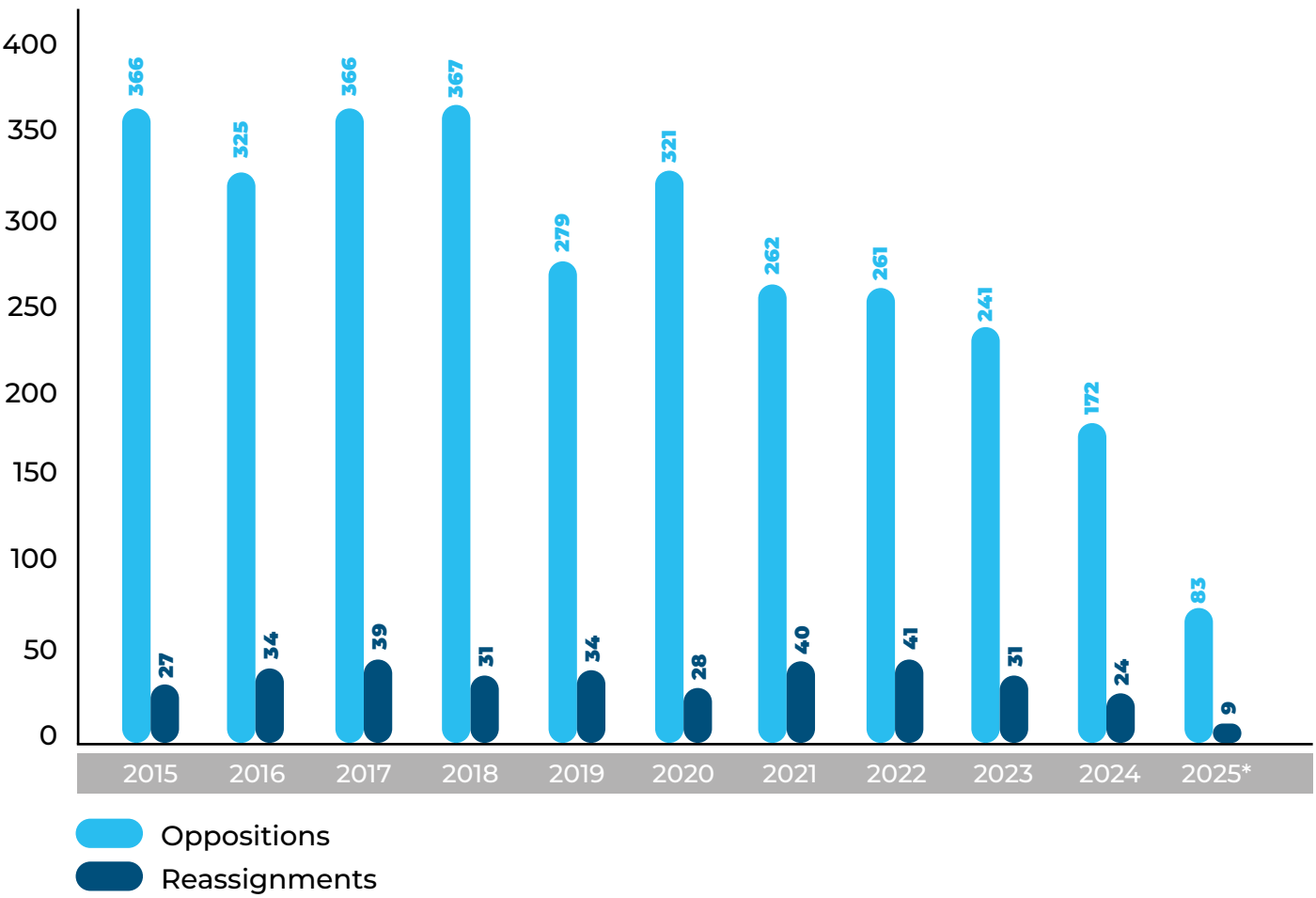


Annual Trend of Oppositions - Reassignments

The first four months of 2025 saw an increase in oppositions (+20), which amounted to 83 compared to 63 the previous year.

Despite the fact that 18 objections were activated in January compared to 25 in 2024 (-7), the following months show a positive sign: in February, 23 objections were activated compared to 18 in 2024 (+5); in March, we find just as many (23) activations compared to 11 in the same month in 2024 (+12) and in April, 19 in 2025 and 9 in 2024 (+10).

As for reassignment procedures (9), the figure remains the same as in 2024. The Board upheld 3 appeals filed by the respective opponents/complainants, ordering the transfer of the domain name in their favour. In 3 cases, the claimants had their appeals rejected and, consequently, the domain names remained assigned to the assignee/respondent. Finally, 3 procedures are still pending before the Board.

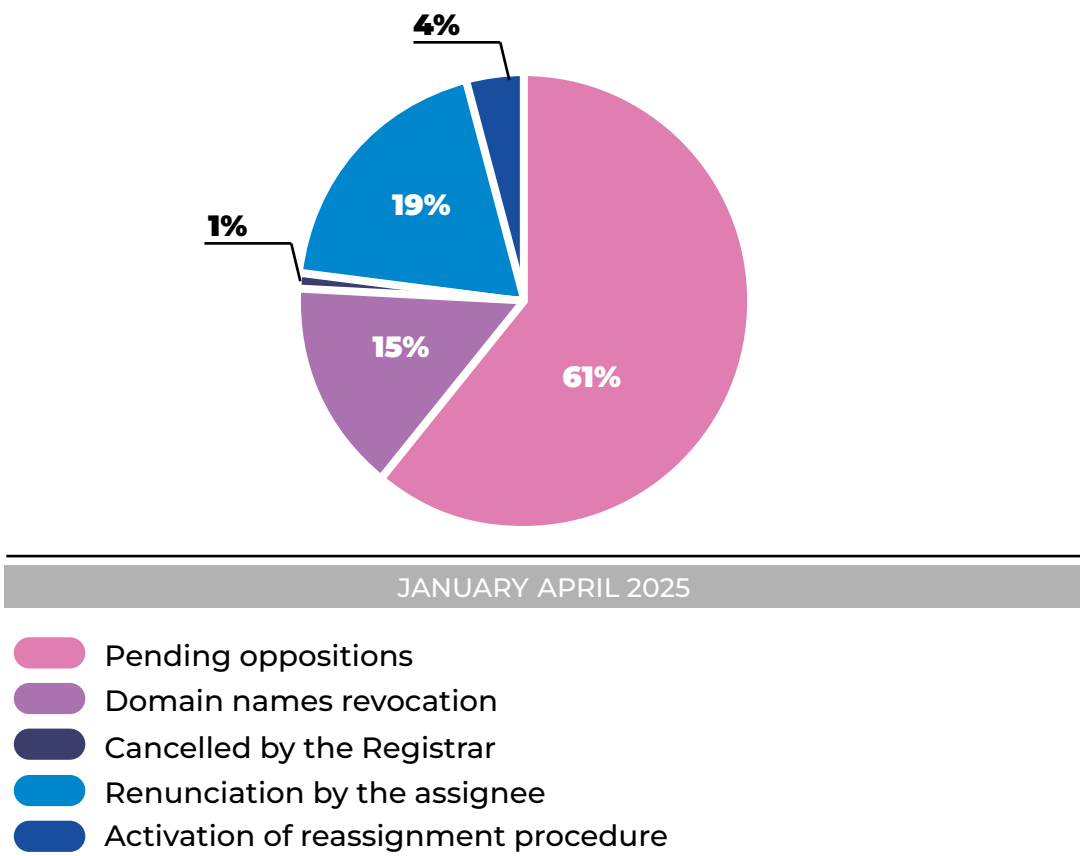


* These data are based on the January-April 2025 four-months period

Resolution of Oppositions

Of the 83 activated oppositions, 61% are still in progress. 19% are resolved, as the assignees of the domain names have requested the Registro .it to proceed with cancellation. 15% of the resolutions led to the revocation of the opposed domain names at the end of the subjective requirements verification procedure. 4% of the opponents turned to a PSRD to initiate a reassignment procedure. Finally, 1% of domains were cancelled by the Registrar.

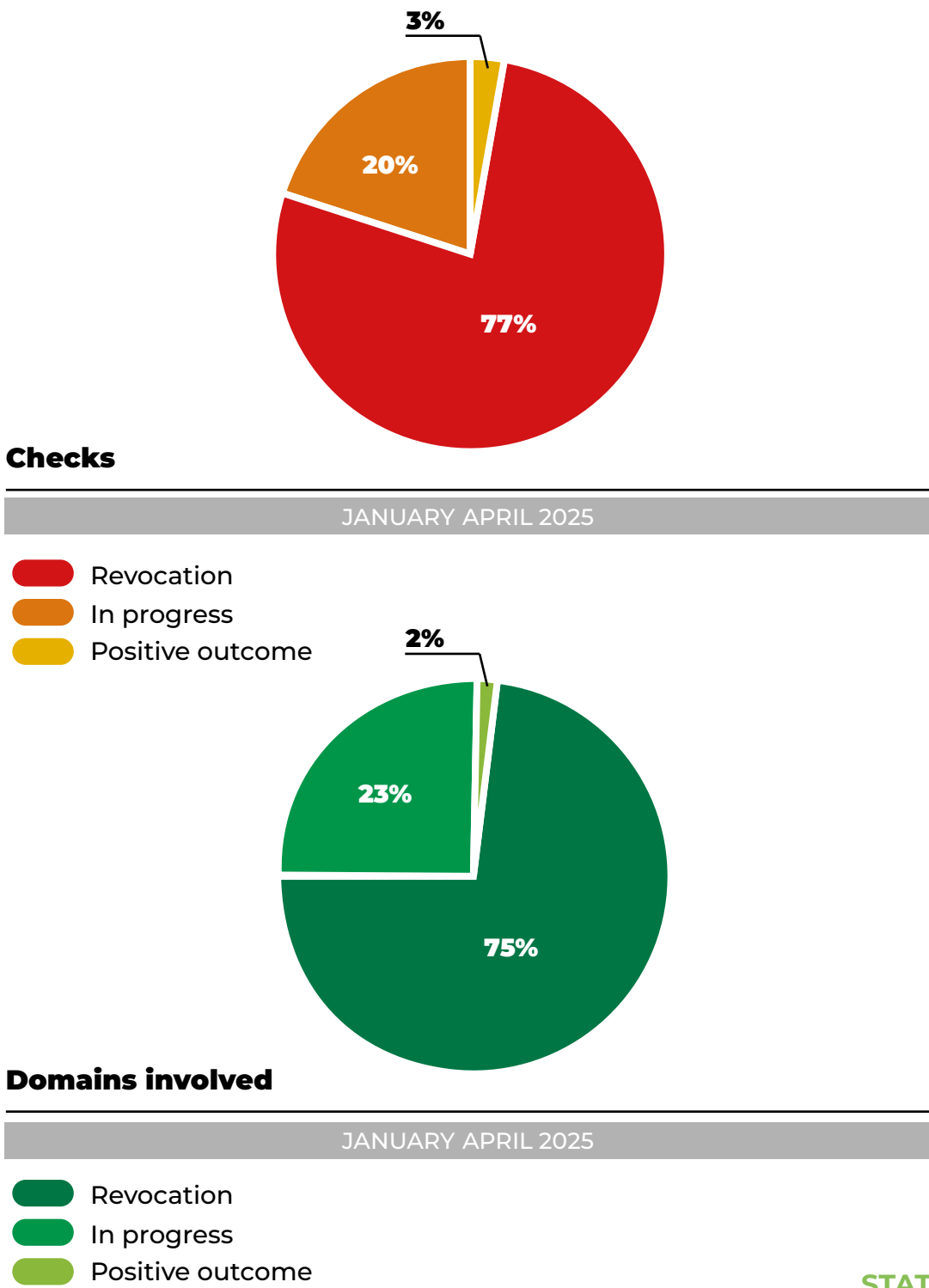
In this quarter, as in the next, we will not find the resolution due to the forfeiture of the opposition due to the non-renewal of the opposition by the opposing party, since the opposition, once activated, remains pending 180 business days, and therefore we will only find it again in the last quarter.



Domain verification by the Registro

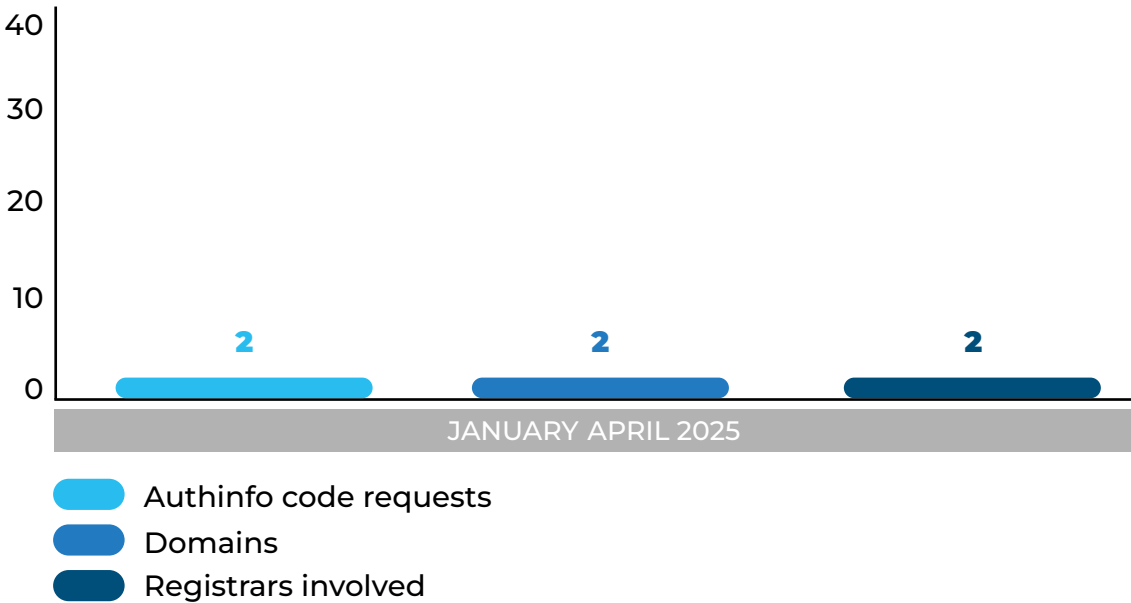
The number of verification requests activated in the first four months was 101 and involved 203 domain names: 152 of these were withdrawn and only four had a positive outcome. For 47 domain names, verifications are still in progress.

The verification of domain names is a procedure that may be requested by third parties or activated directly by the Registro .it itself whenever it deems it necessary, with the aim of verifying the veracity of Registrants' data in the Whois Database.



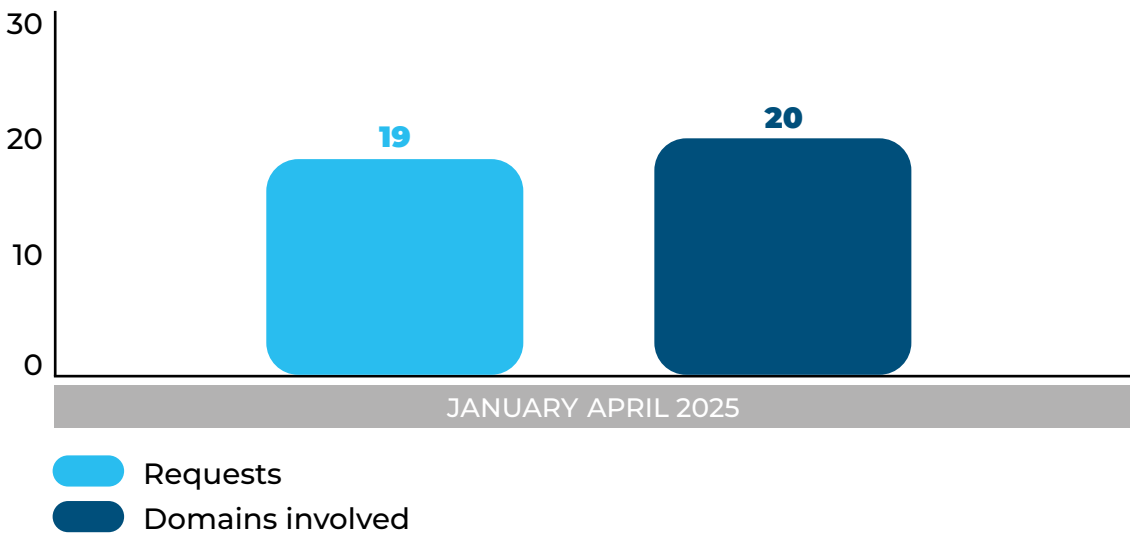
Authinfo requests

In the first quarter, 2 Authinfo codes maintained by 2 different Registrars were issued. The Authinfo code is an alphanumeric code associated with the domain name and is used to validate operations, thus guaranteeing greater security for the Registrant. The Registro .it issues the Authinfo code, after conducting a verification investigation, in the event that the Registrar no longer has an active contract or does not fulfil its obligations.



Requests by competent Authorities

In the first four months of this year, there were 19 requests concerning 20 domain names. These are requests received directly from various Competent Authorities that, in compliance with legal prerogatives, request information on the assignees of domain names registered in the ccTLD .it.



Reserved names

The number of registrations of reserved names in this first four-month period is 50. The region with the most registrations of .it domain names is, as always, Sardinia, which has undergone a major reorganisation of its provinces in recent years. The total names registered all relate to municipalities: the exception again is Sardinia, which in the first months of the year also added two domains reserved for provincial authorities.

In general, another fact to note is that among the reserved domains, only two have the province indicated in full in their names (Rome and Ancona).



JANUARY APRIL 2025

2024: the data of the dissemination of .it in Italy

The analysis of diffusion and Digital Divide in Italy, using as an indicator the number of domains under the .it ccTLD (country code Top level Domain), shows that, in general, in Italy, as of 31/12/2024, 337.60 .it domains are registered for every 10000 adults (in the analysis, the index is called 'Penetration Rate').

The North is the most digital macro-area in Italy with a Penetration Rate (PR) of 389.10 registered .it domains per 10000 adult residents (inhabitants). Immediately after, quite close, there is Central Italy, where there are 379.15 registrations per 10 thousand inhabitants. The most worrying figure concerns Southern Italy, which sees a Penetration Rate of only 240.72 domain registrations per 10 thousand inhabitants, much lower than that of Northern and Central Italy. In fact, none of the Southern Italy regions is among the top ten regions with the highest Penetration Rate, with Trentino Alto Adige in first position (with 477.46 registrants per 10 thousand inhabitants), Lombardy in second position (413.30 registrants per 10 thousand inhabitants) and Aosta Valley in third position (407.80 registrants per 10 thousand inhabitants). Dead last is Calabria with 204.79 registrants per 10 thousand inhabitants which is undoubtedly below the Penetration Rate at national level (337,60). At the provincial level, Milan is the province with the highest Penetration Rate equal to 560.53 .it domains every 10,000 inhabitants, followed by Bolzano (PR 503.55 every 10,000 inhabitants), Florence (PR 464.55 every 10,000 inhabitants), Trento (PR 452.39 every 10,000 inhabitants) and Rimini (PR 447.54 every 10,000 inhabitants).

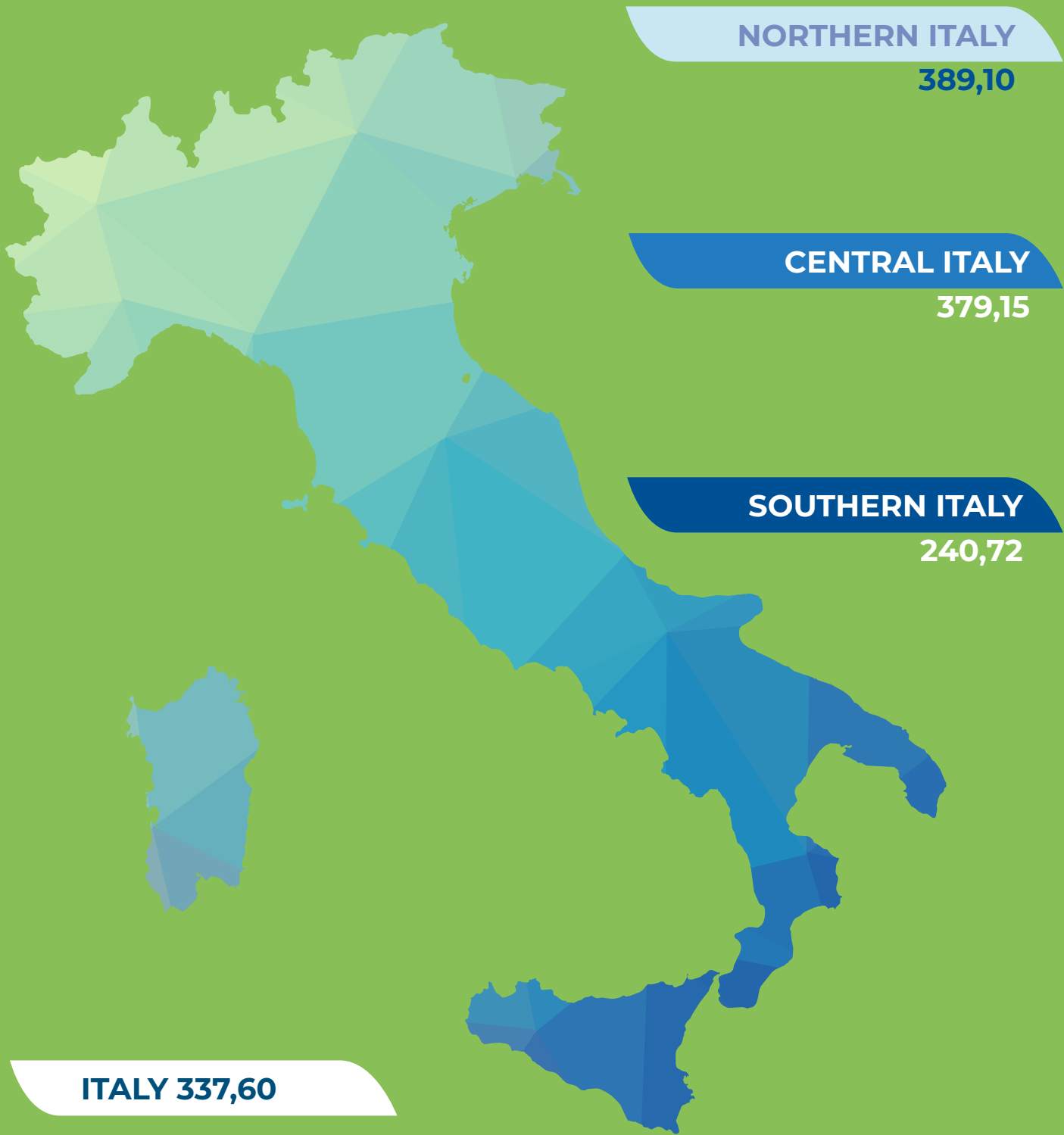
In Italy, at the end of 2024, the majority of the domains are still registered by men (75% of the registrants). The Penetration Rate is 170.66 per 10,000 males and 53.44 per 10,000 females. Men are most active in the 50-57 age group (21.53%), while records among women are most active in the 42-49 age group (22.02%).

With regard to the regional ranking by total number of registrants, at the end of 2024, Lombardy achieved the top spot with the highest percentage of registrants at 21%. In second position we find Lazio with a percentage of 11%. In third and fourth position we find Veneto and Emilia-Romagna with 10% and 8% respectively.

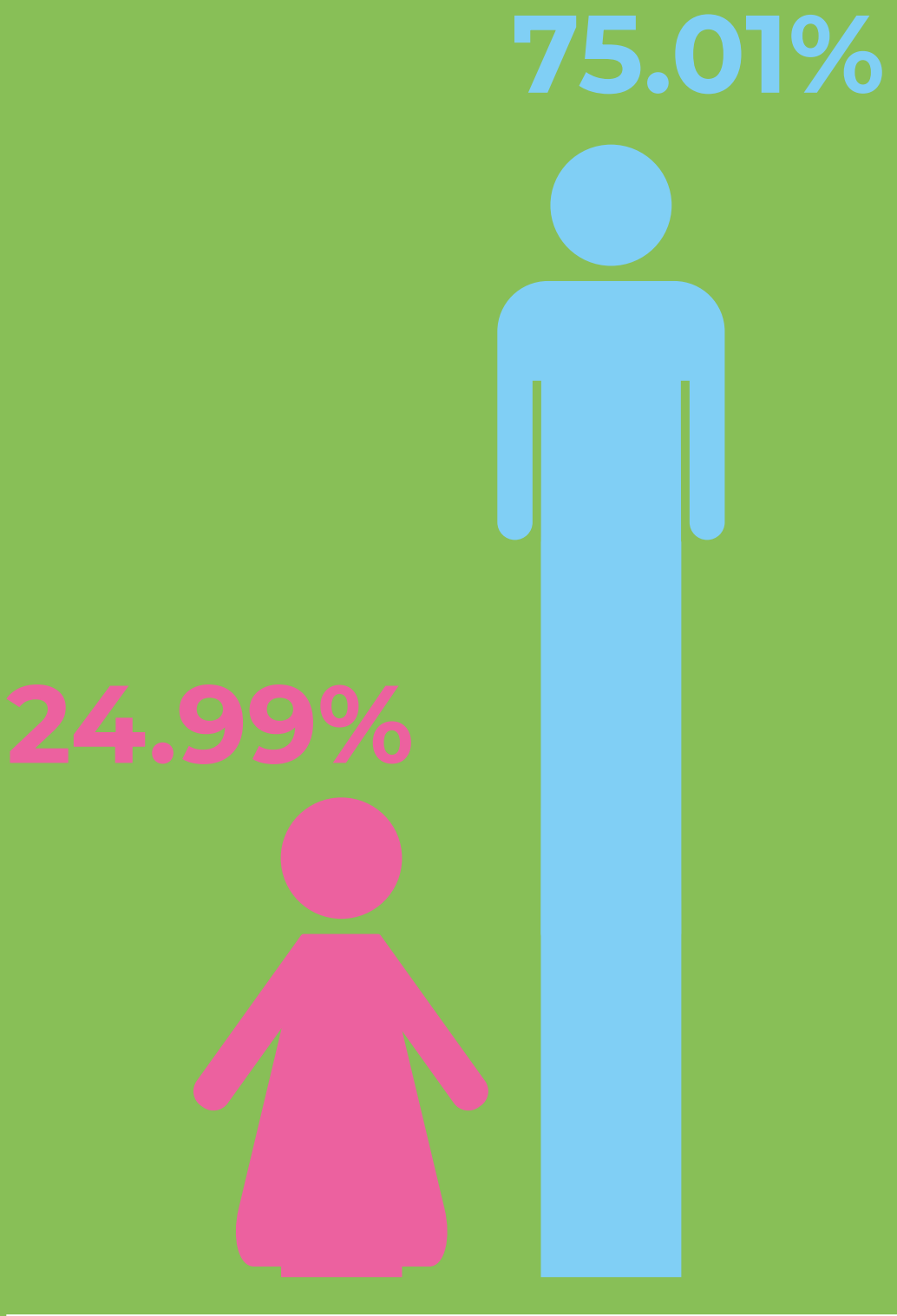
At the provincial level, in the top ten, we find the province of Milan with the highest number of registrants (the percentage is equal to 9.11%). Following is the province of Rome, quite close, which is in second position with 8.87%. Finally, in third position we find the province of Turin with 4.17%.

¹ In order to avoid an overestimation of the prevalence in the analysis, only one domain per registrant was considered.

Italian penetration rate per 10,000 inhabitants

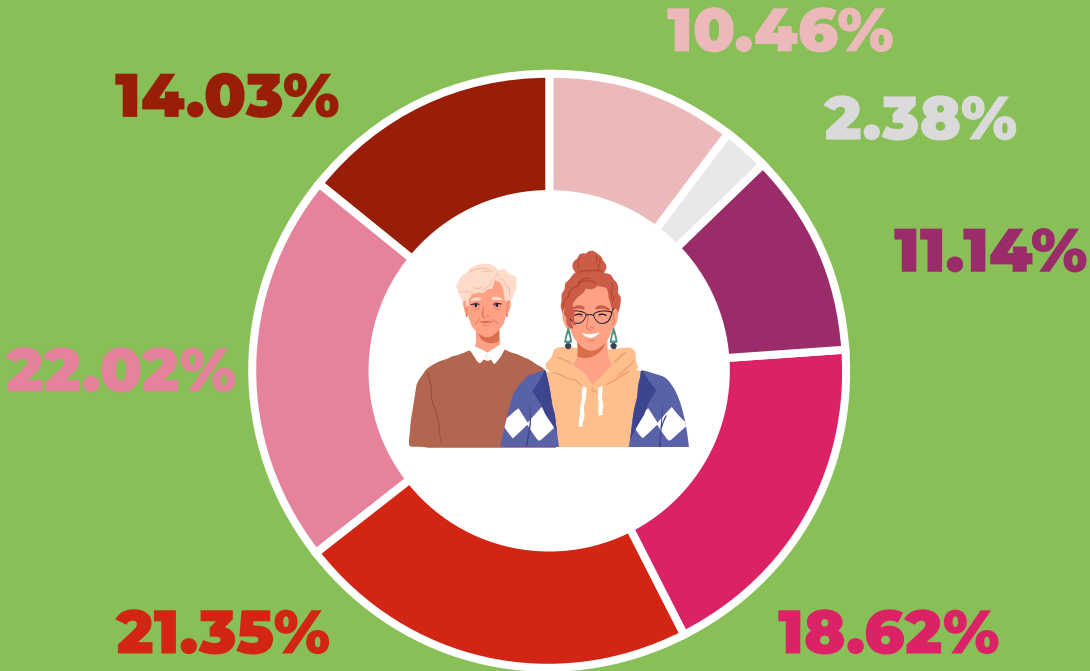


Registrants genre



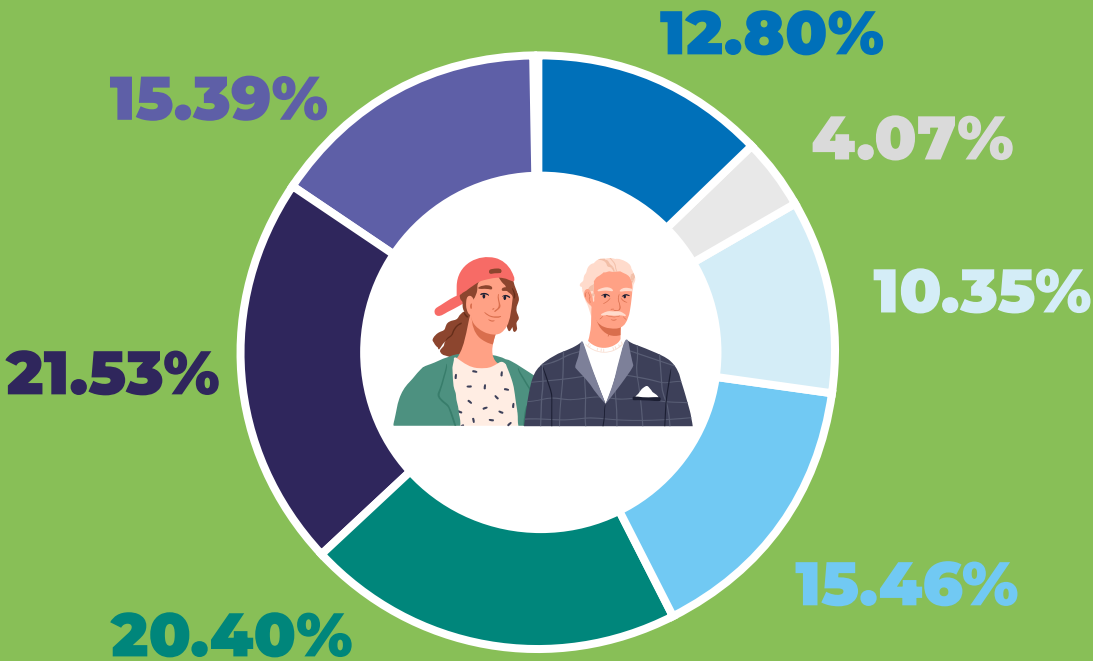
Registrants gender/age

Registrants
gender/age



% female registrants

- | | |
|--|--|
| > 65 years | 42-49 years |
| 18-25 years | 50-57 years |
| 26-33 years | 58-65 years |
| 34-41 years | |



% male registrants

- | | |
|--|--|
| > 65 years | 42-49 years |
| 18-25 years | 50-57 years |
| 26-33 years | 58-65 years |
| 34-41 years | |

Registrants by region

| | | |
|----|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Lombardy | 20.69% |
| 2 | Lazio | 10.76% |
| 3 | Veneto | 9.67% |
| 4 | Emilia-Romagna | 8.42% |
| 5 | Piedmont | 7.50% |
| 6 | Tuscany | 7.37% |
| 7 | Campania | 7.01% |
| 8 | Sicily | 5.37% |
| 9 | Apulia | 4.62% |
| 10 | Marche | 2.76% |
| 11 | Liguria | 2.56% |
| 12 | Trentino-Alto Adige | 2.53% |
| 13 | Friuli-Venezia Giulia | 2.17% |
| 14 | Abruzzo | 1.97% |
| 15 | Sardinia | 1.97% |
| 16 | Calabria | 1.88% |
| 17 | Umbria | 1.53% |
| 19 | Basilicata | 0.62% |
| 20 | Molise | 0.35% |
| 21 | Aosta Valley | 0.25% |



Registrants by province



Milan 9.11%



Rome 8.87%



Turin 4.17%



Naples 3.83%



Brescia 2.39%



Florence 2.33%



Bologna 2.27%



Padua 2.07%

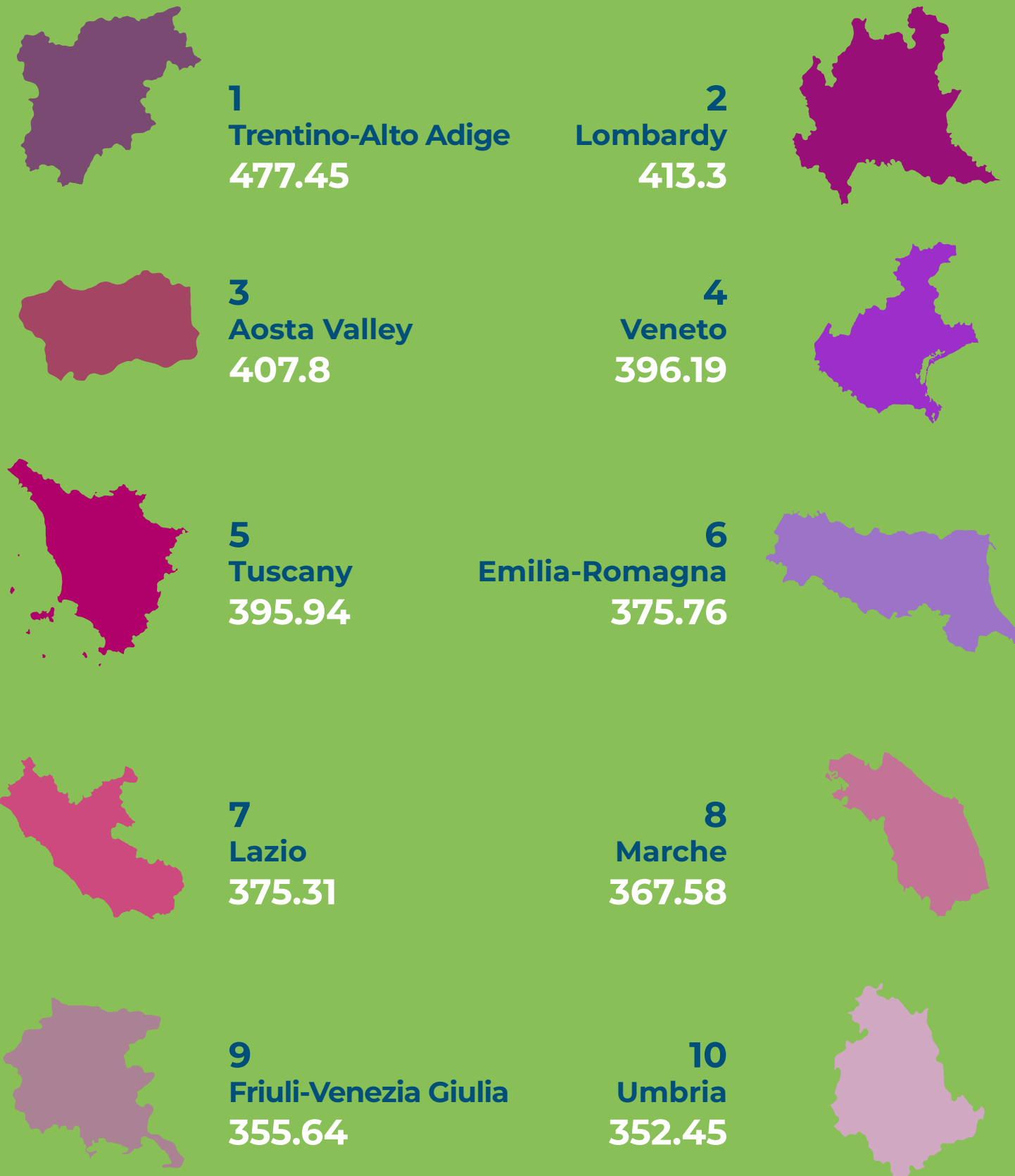


Bergamo 1.97%



Verona 1.9%

Region penetration rate per 10,000 inhabitants



Province penetration rate per 10,000 inhabitants



03

QUARTER

The Registro .it at WMF 2025



From 4 to 6 June, Registro .it took part in the 2025th edition of We Make Future (WMF), an international trade fair on Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Digital, which hosted more than 100 events including training, business and entertainment, confirming its role as an accelerator of culture and innovation. The event was an ideal setting to talk about digital transformation and understand how to deal with changes related to artificial intelligence and their impact on online marketing and business.

Registro .it took part to the BolognaFiere event with a dedicated stand and a talk entitled “Websites (and SEO) are not dead: how to survive the AI and instant answers era”.

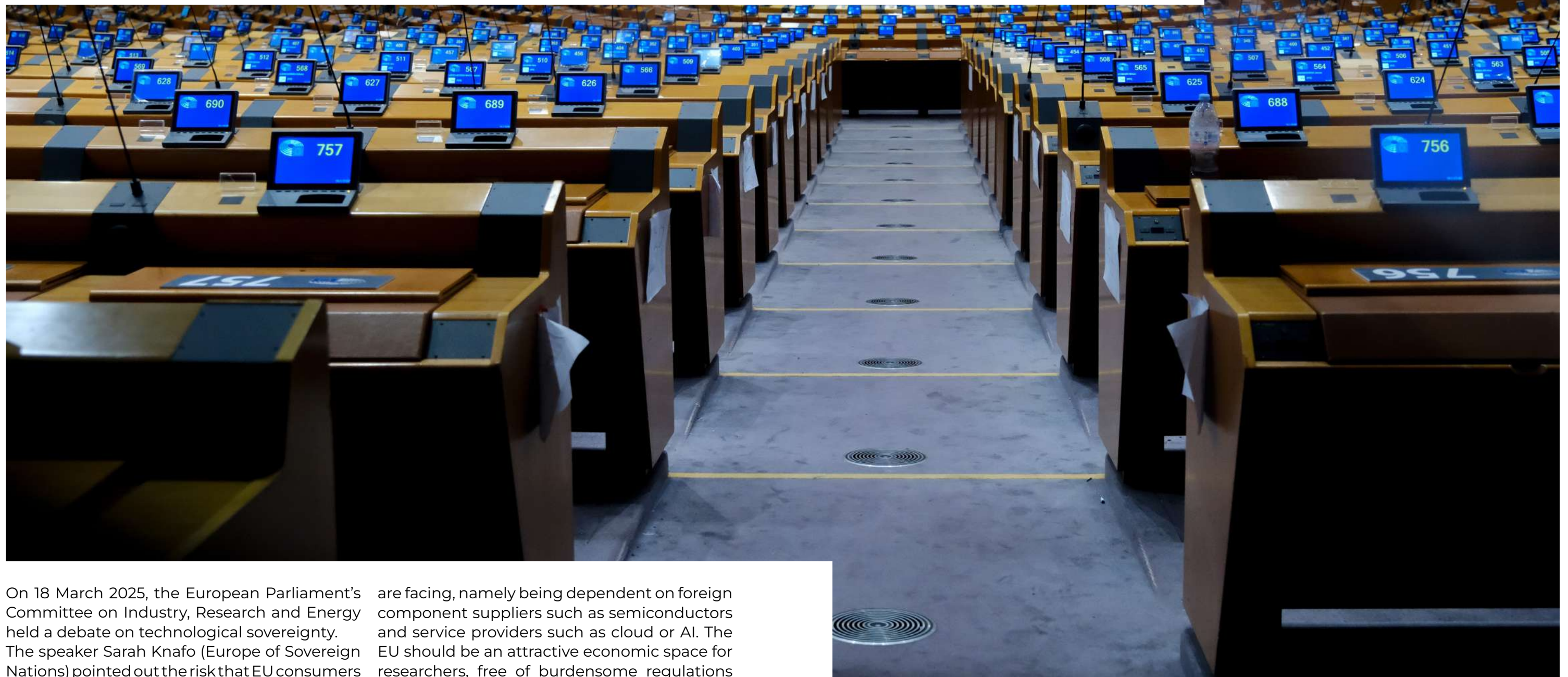
The stand was a meeting point where Registrars, web agencies and marketers discussed about strategic topics such as domain names, brand awareness and digital marketing strategies. The comparison also allowed Registrars to

reaffirm the strategic choice of an .it name: a real business card, the digital “Made in Italy” mark, an unmistakable symbol of uniqueness, authenticity and reliability in the global market. The talk that took place on 5 June was hosted by Massimo Fellini (journalist, content manager, expert on innovation and artificial intelligence), with the participation of experts on the Internet, AI and digital marketing such as Mirko Bruni (CEO of The Fool) and Luca Bove (Local Strategy). Participants had the opportunity to ask questions on a hot and constantly evolving topic: how interaction with the web is changing in the age of AI and what it means to rethink SEO and websites from a marketing perspective today.

An aperitif concluded the afternoon of the event, offering an informal networking moment between agencies, experts and Registrars: an opportunity to share experiences, ask questions and imagine future scenarios together.

The subject of technological sovereignty reaches the European Parliament

and an ideal place to foster private investment: the use of public procurement should be the leverage to support European businesses. With Sarah Knafo, Elena Sancho Murillo (Socialists and Democrats) sided, advocating the use of public procurement to strengthen the autonomy of European companies, but she also supported the strengthening of the public cloud system in Europe. Furthermore, Murillo has stressed that any deregulation should not undermine the rights of European citizens. Jörgen Warborn (European people's Party) also participated in the debate, and noted that sovereignty should not be misused as a justification for protectionism, but welcomed the European Commission's forthcoming digital package, which should simplify the obligations imposed on companies.



On 18 March 2025, the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy held a debate on technological sovereignty. The speaker Sarah Knafo (Europe of Sovereign Nations) pointed out the risk that EU consumers

are facing, namely being dependent on foreign component suppliers such as semiconductors and service providers such as cloud or AI. The EU should be an attractive economic space for researchers, free of burdensome regulations

04

QUARTER

Meeting of the Registro 2025: it's the year of NIS2

by Stefania Fabbri e Francesca Nicolini



DR. ANDREA PASSARELLA AND DR. POLINA MALAJA

The traditional annual meeting of the Registro .it took place on 4 April. This year it was well attended, both in person and online, and was characterised by the lively involvement of the Registrar's community.

The undisputed protagonist of the 2025 edition was the NIS2 Directive, which poses new challenges and responsibilities for all players in the European digital ecosystem, including domain managers and Registrars. During the meeting, the transposition process of the European NIS2 Directive (Network and Information Security, version 2) in Italy and its repercussions on the .it domain name management ecosystem were examined from multiple perspectives, both at a technical and operational level and at a legal and management level.

The event, which was officially opened by Andrea Passarella, Director of CNR-IIT and Head of the Registro .it, represented, as usual, a moment of stocktaking with a point of view on the activities carried out in the previous year and a future projection with forecasts for 2025.

THE REGISTRO-REGISTRAR MEETING, AN ENGAGEMENT ALMOST 30 YEARS IN THE MAKING

The annual meeting between the Registro and Registrars dates back to the time when registration of domain names under the ccTLD .it (Country Code Top Level Domain .it) was still a free service, when Registrars were called "Maintainers" and when the Registro was called the "Registration Authority".

With the exponential increase in requests for registration and the need to support the service operationally, in October 1997 a first meeting was held - still at an embryonic stage, not a real Registro meeting - by an informal group composed mainly of ISPs (Internet Service Providers), where they began to talk about costs and tariffs, rules and operating methods.

In the years that followed, these meetings went from being simple operational meetings to increasingly broader moments of confrontation, in which not only technical and procedural aspects were discussed, but also issues related to the growth of the market, the evolution of the rules, and the promotion of .it domain names.

Over time, with almost thirty years of meetings under its belt, the annual meeting has witnessed



all the major milestones in the history of the Registro: from the liberalisation of domain names, to the introduction of the synchronous system, up to today, the implementation of NIS2 and the consequent implementation of new functionalities and services to make the system increasingly resilient. The annual meeting has become a key opportunity to consolidate the relationship between the Registro and the network of Registrars: an ideal and eagerly awaited moment to share data, gather suggestions and present new initiatives. Over the years, while maintaining a practical focus, linked to the Registro's annual activities - past and anticipated with future projections - the meeting has embraced the changes in the industry and adapted to the growing complexity of the digital environment.

THE NIS2 DIRECTIVE, A NEW EUROPEAN CYBERSECURITY STANDARD

At the centre of the 2025 meeting of the Registro .it was the European NIS2 directive, which came into force on 16 October 2024 (with Italian Legislative Decree No. 138 of 4 September 2024): in an increasingly complex digital landscape, where cyber threats, new regulatory obligations and technological innovations are seamlessly intertwined, the meeting offered a very important space for reflection and comparison. The new regulation aims to strengthen the level of IT security of the production system and Public Administrations, with a view to harmonisation among all EU Member States. Compared to the previous version, NIS2 - implemented in Italy by Legislative Decree 138/2024 - significantly extends its scope, including 18 strategic sectors, including energy, transport, health, digital infrastructure and public administration.

Not only is the number of recipients extended, but also the scope of application, which now involves the entire ICT infrastructure of organisations, classified into two categories: 'essential' and 'important' actors, depending on the criticality of the activities carried out and the sector of reference for the functioning of society and the national and European economy.

NIS2 also introduces a more structured framework for incident management, strengthening supervision and enforcement mechanisms. This is a major breakthrough in the European cybersecurity landscape and



will transform the approach to the protection of critical infrastructures and sensitive data. In such a scenario, it becomes crucial to ensure continuous training for security practitioners, in order to deal effectively with the everyday threats and complexities of the digital environment.

CYBERSECURITY AND DOMAIN NAMES: THE IMPACT OF NIS2

For the Registro .it and the network of Italian Registrars, NIS2 represents a significant turning point, as it is also set to have a significant impact on the domain name system in Europe. The management of the DNS (Domain Name System), Whois data and registration platforms is of strategic importance: for the so-called 'critical entities' - such as TLD (Top Level Domain) Registries, Registrars, resellers and DNS service providers - the regulation introduces new IT security measures, in particular with regard to the management and processing of domain

registration data. The aim is also to strengthen the security and resilience of the entire network infrastructure: a secure, reliable and resilient DNS is in fact a fundamental pillar for ensuring the integrity and proper functioning of the Internet. In her speech at the meeting, Dr. Polina Malaja, Policy Director of CENTR (Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries), illustrated the application of NIS2 from the point of view of its transposition at European level. One of the key aspects that emerged is the importance of data accuracy, with a focus on a certain identification of registrants. However, as Dr. Malaja pointed out, the directive's implementation path is still uneven among the member States: to date, only nine countries - including Italy - have completed transposition within the timeframe set by the European Commission.

THE ROLE OF ACN AND MIMIT

Successful implementation of the NIS2 Directive

will largely depend on the ability of institutions, industry players and the technical community to work together. Finding a sustainable balance between raising the level of cybersecurity and reducing regulatory fragmentation and operational burdens will be crucial.

In this scenario, a central role is played by the National Cybersecurity Agency (Agenzia per la Cybersicurezza Nazionale, ACN), represented at the meeting by Prefect Milena Rizzi, Head of Regulatory Services, and Eng. Claudio Ciccotelli, Head of National Cybersecurity Perimeter Division (Perimetro di Sicurezza Nazionale Cibernetica, PSNC). In particular, the Prefect outlined the roadmap for the implementation of the directive in Italy, with a special focus on the .it domain name registration sector. In addition, the Prefect highlighted the importance of an integrated strategy between ACN, the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT), the Registro .it and Registrars, while respecting the roles and competences of each, emphasising that "synergy is the key word: ACN, alongside

the Registro .it, can bring the entire population within the scope of the NIS to goal and raise the level of security of Italian and European networks and information systems".

Eng. Ciccotelli, illustrated the more technical and operational aspects of the ACN strategy, anticipating the forthcoming directives that will regulate in detail the application of the NIS2 for those involved, according to the level of criticality of their infrastructures.

Concluding the institutional overview, Eng. Alessandro Paci, from MIMIT's Institute of Information Technology, highlighted the dual role of the Ministry: to protect the national production fabric and, at the same time, to promote the adoption of the directive in the corporate environment, in collaboration with ACN. To this end, MIMIT will organise sector tables to receive critical elements from below in the various business areas and bring them to the attention of ACN.

ACTIVITIES 2024 AND FORECASTS 2025 OF THE REGISTRO .IT: BALANCES AND NEW CHALLENGES

The Head of the Registro .it, Andrea Passarella, together with the heads of the units, illustrated the activities carried out and future plans. Passarella also provided an overview of the state of registrations, which remained stable, with over 3.5 million registered domains and a renewal rate of over 80%.

Looking ahead to 2025, attention will focus in particular on the implementation of the NIS2 Directive: the actions planned will transversally touch the technological, operational, management and control areas, with the aim of ensuring full compliance with the regulations. News is also coming on the training front: activities aimed at both internal Registro staff and Registrars will be stepped up, with the aim of strengthening skills and fostering greater awareness of the new regulatory and security challenges.

As for the External Relations, Media, Communication and Marketing Unit - currently under the *ad interim* responsibility of Passarella - activities in 2025 will focus on three main lines: firstly, a review of the content and communication strategy is planned, with a strengthened focus on social platforms; secondly, joint initiatives with Registrars will continue, aimed at promoting and enhancing



the .it domain among small and medium-sized enterprises, also as a symbol of Made in Italy; finally, the educational project 'Ludoteca' will be integrated into the chain of training activities of the Cybersecurity Lab of the CINI (National Interuniversity Consortium for Informatics), strengthening the commitment of the Registro .it also on the front of raising awareness of cybersecurity.

Valentina Amenta, Head of the Legal Aspects and Litigation Unit and the Registrar Operations and Services Unit, emphasised the positive impact of the projects undertaken in recent years by the Registro .it on data accuracy. These initiatives have facilitated a more timely and direct correction of data entered in the DBNA (the Database of Assigned Names), with a significant reduction in opposition procedures. This has made .it an increasingly secure and certified digital space, reducing the economic and operational burdens on stakeholders. Amenta also framed the NIS2 Directive within a broader regulatory framework aimed at strengthening the quality and resilience of the international domain name registration system. With this in mind, the priorities for 2025 will be the continuation of data accuracy control activities and the adoption of legal and operational compliance measures required by the regulations.

On the technical side, the Registro took as many significant steps: Maurizio Martinelli, Head of the Systems and Technology Development Unit, presented the main innovations introduced during 2024, such as, among others, the system for checking data accuracy (Reads and Darwin platforms), the introduction of centralised authentication and 2FA for Registrars, and the new RAIN portal.

By 2025, the technology area will also be strongly geared towards NIS2 compliance. The main planned activities include the construction of the new Registro Data Centre, the continuation of Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing and Secure Coding activities, and the design and development of new REST services for Registrars.

THE REGISTRO STEERING COMMITTEE (COMITATO DI INDIRIZZO DEL REGISTRO, CIR): CHAIRMAN'S PRESENTATION

The meeting concluded with a speech by Dr. Donato Molino, President of the CIR and the sector association AssoTLD, who presented the members of the Steering Committee and its advisory role in support of the Registro .it. Molino outlined activities in 2024, including preparing for the adoption of NIS2, drafting the new Registrar contract, and updating the Darwin (Data Accuracy Registrar Web Interface) system. Looking ahead, the Committee's priorities for 2025 will be the concrete implementation of NIS2 and the implementation of the necessary measures for its compliance.

CONCLUSION: SECURITY FIRST

The Registro .it meeting concluded with a clear message: security is no longer an option, but a collective path involving institutions, technicians, companies and users. On this occasion, the Registro .it reaffirmed its commitment to building a resilient, transparent and reliable Italian and European digital ecosystem, as well as one that complies with new European regulations, in support of the entire community of Registrars and end users.

QUARTER

NIS2 - The New Frontier of Cybersecurity in the European Union

by **Mario Loffredo e Maurizio Martinelli**

In the context of a constantly evolving cyber threat, the European Union adopted Directive (EU) 2022/2555, better known as NIS2 (Network and Information Security 2), as a regulatory response to the need for greater resilience of digital and critical infrastructures.

NIS2 extends and strengthens the scope of the NIS Directive of 2016 with the aim of standardising security levels among the Member States and ensuring a collective response to cyber incidents.

This directive was implemented by the Italian government with Italian Legislative Decree No. 138 of 4 September 2024 (hereinafter the NIS Decree).

NIS2 is supplemented by EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR), Italian Legislative Decree No. 134 of 4 September 2024 implementing EU Directive 2022/2557 (CER Directive - Critical Entities Resilience) and Italian Legislative Decree No. 105 of 21 September 2019 (National Cyber Security Perimeter). The approach is intended to be synergetic in order to avoid duplication and promote simplification.

The body designated by the Italian government to coordinate cybersecurity activities and the implementation of the NIS2 Directive is ACN (Agenzia per la Cybersecurity Nazionale, National Cybersecurity Agency), which

constitutes the NIS Competent National Authority.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NIS2 DIRECTIVE

The main objectives of the NIS2 Directive can be summarised as follows:

- a) strengthen the cyber resilience of critical infrastructures and essential services;
- b) ensure a harmonised approach to cybersecurity in the different Member States;
- c) extend the scope of application to more sectors and organisations than the NIS;
- d) improve cooperation between national authorities on network and information system security.

SCOPE OF APPLICATION

Compared to the NIS, NIS2 broadens the scope, introduces more stringent risk management requirements, detailed reporting obligations, a strengthened penalty regime, and extends the regulation to many more organisations.

It regulates, in fact, certain obligations and fulfilments for types of entities operating in the sectors related to digital infrastructures or services and the management of ICT services, due to their particular relevance in the

information society.
The regulations generally apply to medium and large-sized companies. However, due to their particular relevance in the information society, certain types of entities fall within the scope of the NIS Regulation regardless of their size, and thus also in the case of small companies.
Article 3 of the NIS Decree, in fact, makes it clear that the regulation applies, regardless of size, also to:

- ♦ subjects identified as “critical” under the CER Directive;
- ♦ providers of public electronic communications networks or publicly available electronic communications services;
- ♦ trust service providers;
- ♦ TLD registry operators and domain name system service providers;
- ♦ providers of domain name registration services;
- ♦ companies connected to an NIS actor, if those companies are responsible for the IT security decisions, the management of information and network systems, or the management of the IT security activities of the actor concerned.

A summary of the main differences between NIS and NIS2 is given below:

The sectors involved, as identified in Annex A of Italian Legislative Decree No. 138 of 4 September 2024 are divided, on the basis of their degree of criticality, into essential and important:

a. Essential sectors

- ♦ Energy (electricity, district heating, oil, gas, hydrogen).
- ♦ Transport (air, rail, sea, road).
- ♦ Banking and finance.
- ♦ Healthcare (hospitals, laboratories, drug and

- medical device manufacturers).
- ♦ Drinking water and waste water.
 - ♦ Digital infrastructures (IXPs, top-level domain name Registries (TLDs), DNS service providers, cloud service providers, data centres, public electronic communication networks and Internet services).
 - ♦ Management of ICT services (B2B).
 - ♦ Space.

b. Important sectors

- ♦ Postal services.
- ♦ Waste management.
- ♦ Manufacture, production and distribution of chemicals.
- ♦ Manufacturing (computers, electronics, electrical equipment, machinery, motor vehicles and other transport equipment).
- ♦ Food production, processing and distribution.
- ♦ Digital service providers (domain name registration services, search engines, social networks and online marketplaces).
- ♦ Research.

NIS COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

The National Cybersecurity Agency (Agenzia per la Cybersicurezza Nazionale, ACN) is the competent national authority for the implementation of the NIS legislation and, as such:

- a) oversees the implementation and enforcement of NIS2;
- b) prepares the measures necessary for its implementation;
- c) performs regulatory functions and activities, including by adopting guidelines, recommendations and non-binding guidance;
- d) identifies essential and important subjects;
- e) participates in the NIS Cooperation Group

| | NIS (2016) | NIS2 (2022) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sectors covered | Restricted to essential sectors | It also includes important sectors |
| Sanctions | Less incisive | Up to € 10M or 2% of turnover |
| Supply Chain | Not very considerate | Strong focus on the supply chain |
| Notification obligations | Not well defined | Detailed timing and modalities |

and in forums and initiatives promoted at European level.
It also monitors and assesses the compliance of essential and important players with the obligations laid down in the regulations, as well as their effects on the security of information and network systems, by carrying out supervisory activities through:

- a) monitoring, analysis and support to essential and important actors;
- b) verification and periodic inspections;
- c) application of sanctions.

Finally, the NIS Competent National Authority ensures that the above-mentioned supervisory activities are effective, proportionate and dissuasive.

**IMPACTS OF NIS2 ON THE DOMAIN NAME SECTOR
ESSENTIAL AND IMPORTANT SUBJECTS**

The NIS2 Directive classifies Top Level Domain (TLDs) Name Registries and DNS service providers as essential players, and those who only provide domain name registration services (Registrars) as important players. Belonging to the above-mentioned categories determines which specific IT security and data management constraints and obligations must be fulfilled and implemented. According to the regulation, these subjects are defined as follows:

| SUBJECT | DEFINITION | CATEGORY |
|---|--|-----------|
| Domain Name System (DNS) service provider | Entity providing alternatively: 1) publicly accessible recursive domain name resolution services for Internet end users; 2) authoritative domain name resolution services for use by third parties, with the exception of root name servers (so-called root nameserver). | Essential |
| Top Level Domain (TLD) Registro Manager | Entity to which a specific TLD has been delegated and which is responsible for the administration of that domain, including the registration of domain names under that TLD and its technical operation, the operation of name servers (DNS), the maintenance of databases and the distribution of TLD zone files among name servers, regardless of whether any of these operations are carried out by the entity itself or are outsourced, but excluding situations where TLD names are used by a registry exclusively for its own use. | Essential |
| Domain name registration service provider | A Registrar, or an agent acting on behalf of the Registrar, such as a provider or reseller of privacy registration or proxy services. | Important |

REGISTRATION AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Article 27 of the European NIS2 Directive requires the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) to create and maintain a European registry of all NIS actors that provide digital services or ICT managed services for B2B, or operate digital infrastructures, such as TLD Registry operators, DNS service providers, domain name registration, cloud computing, data centre or CDN (Content Delivery Network) providers.

To this end, the directive required Member States to conduct a census of these entities by requiring them to submit their information to the competent national NIS authorities by 17 January 2025.

The national transposition of the European directive also requires that, from 15 April to 31 May, those who have been included among the essential or important entities provide, via ACN's digital platform, additional information such as the public address space used, the domain names in use or available to the entity and, where applicable, the list of the Member States in which they provide services that fall within the scope of the regulation.



SECTOR AUTHORITIES

In order to ensure the effective implementation of regulation at sector level, a number of NIS sector authorities have been identified to support and collaborate with ACN. With regard to the “Digital Infrastructure” sector - sector 8 Annex I - and the “Digital Service Providers” sector - sector 6 Annex II, which include all essential and important players in the domain name sector, the competent NIS sector Authority is the Italian Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT).

DOMAIN NAME REGISTRATION DATABASE

In order to contribute to the security, stability and resilience of the Domain Name System (DNS), Article 28 of the NIS2 Directive requires entities operating as *Top Level Domain Name (TLDs) Registries* and/or as *providers of domain name registration services* to collect and maintain accurate and complete domain name registration data in a database, with due diligence and in accordance with the GDPR.

Article 29 of the NIS Decree, in implementing this requirement, reiterates that the domain name registration database must contain the information necessary to identify and contact the holders of domain names registered in the TLD Registry.

Such information includes, at least:

- ♦ the domain name;
- ♦ the registration date;
- ♦ the name, e-mail address and telephone number of the Registrant;
- ♦ the e-mail address and telephone number of the contact person administering the domain name (if different from the Registrant).

TLD Registries and domain name registration service providers must also:

- ♦ prepare and make public procedures to ensure the accuracy and completeness of information;
- ♦ make publicly and immediately available, following registration of a domain name, registration data that are not personal data;
- ♦ provide access to specific registration data, upon reasoned request of the entitled parties, responding without undue delay and, in any case, within 72 hours of receipt of the request;

- ♦ disclose policies and procedures regarding the disclosure of such data;

- ♦ identify ways to cooperate on the collection and maintenance of registration data to avoid duplication.

SAFETY POLICIES AND INCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Organisations must implement security policies that cover aspects such as: defining and assessing the organisational structure of the subject, identifying and managing assets, periodic risk assessment and management, systems monitoring and vulnerability management, network segmentation and access control, supply chain assessment and management, incident response procedures, and implementing and testing business continuity and disaster recovery plans through exercises, simulations and Penetration Test/Intrusion Detection activities.

The NIS Decree also provides for a structured governance with clear roles and the implementation of an Incident Response Plan (IRP), with a corresponding obligation to notify CSIRT Italy if an incident is considered “significant”, i.e. if:

- a) has caused or may cause serious disruption or financial loss to the person concerned;
- b) has had or may have repercussions on other natural or legal persons causing considerable tangible or intangible losses.

In such a case, from the moment of knowledge of the accident, the notification obligation provides:

- ♦ within 24 hours: initial reporting of the incident (pre-notification);
- ♦ within 72 hours: notification of the incident with updated information and initial assessment;
- ♦ after 72 hours and at the request of CSIRT: interim report on the progress of incident management activities;
- ♦ within 1 month: final report with detailed analysis of the incident, the countermeasures taken and, if known, its possible transboundary impact.

The governance bodies are required to provide training in cybersecurity and promote regular refresher training in cybersecurity to their

employees, in order to foster the acquisition of knowledge and skills useful for the provision of a reliable and secure service.

CONCLUSIONS

The NIS2 Directive represents a substantial evolution in the European Union's strategy to deal with cyber threats, significantly broadening the scope and introducing more stringent obligations for a wide range of public and private actors. The transposition in Italy through Italian Legislative Decree No. 138 of 4 September 2024 confirms our country's commitment to strengthening digital resilience and ensuring a coordinated and proactive approach to cybersecurity.

In particular, the domain name sector now faces a major challenge, having to adapt to new standards in security, transparency and data management. The obligation to maintain accurate information, the implementation of structured incident response procedures and the involvement of actors such as ACN and MIMIT outline a new operational paradigm that requires preparation, awareness and collaboration.

The effectiveness of NIS2 will ultimately depend on the ability of the actors involved to integrate its principles into their technological and organisational governance, promoting a security culture capable of adapting to a constantly evolving digital environment.



QUARTER

Registrar Contract 2025-2026: a “bridge” to the implementation of NIS2

by Valentina Amenta

The legal framework within which the Registrar's new contract is framed can be found in the profound and rapid evolution of modern technologies that pervade every sphere of daily life, revolutionising every system and sector. In fact, the increasingly massive use of information technology in everyday life and the exponential growth of cyber-attacks, has led to the emergence at European level, the need to cooperate in order to define and harmonise a legal framework of rules to strengthen cybersecurity and provide support to companies and citizens by enriching their skills and reducing the gap.

The NIS 2 Directive (2055/2022 - Network and Information Systems Directive) represents an important step towards the protection of critical infrastructure in the European Union. The minimum regulatory requirements that those involved must guarantee concern, mainly include:

- ♦ analysing and assessing the security risks of information systems both through rapid identification of vulnerabilities to assess the level of exposure to risk (vulnerability assessment), and through simulation tests of cyber-attacks (penetration tests) that exploit those very same vulnerabilities to verify their robustness;
- ♦ manage IT security incidents with a plan and activity for continuous monitoring and incident response;

- ♦ have a business continuity and crisis management plan in place;
- ♦ regularly test the security of the ICT infrastructure and the effectiveness of risk management measures.

The security measures proposed by the Directive cannot stop at individual information systems level, but must be part of a coordinated and integrated protection network, creating an effective and robust security system. Within this overall framework, Registrars and the Registro .it play a fundamental and essential role in the management of national .it domains.

In light of the new regulatory developments, the Registro-Registrar contract is configured as a “bridge” contract with a duration of 18 months, i.e. 1 May 2025 - 31 October 2026, which is the appropriate timeframe, in order for Italy to complete the NIS 2 regulation compliance status through further side decrees to Italian Legislative Decree 138/2024 that will determine specific areas provided for by the directive first and the transposition decree later. In addition, the regulatory adaptation of the individual European States to the NIS 2 Directive is awaited in this period.

NIS 2 represents a major challenge for the Registro .it and the Registrars, and close cooperation between these entities will be crucial to ensure compliance with regulatory obligations and guarantee the security of .it domains. Effective cooperation between

Registro and Registrars can help to better understand the risks and take appropriate security measures, as well as act as a stimulus for a cultural change towards greater awareness and responsibility, to make the .it DBNA (Database of Assigned Names) resilient from the point of view not only of security, but also of data accuracy.

Although the adaptation to NIS2 requires a significant initial investment in terms of resources (personnel, technology, training, processes), it represents an opportunity that one must seize in order to strengthen one's IT security and increase one's competitiveness.

The benefits of complying with NIS 2 include:

- ♦ the ability to withstand cyber-attacks and to recover from incidents;
 - ♦ the possibility of avoiding high penalties for non-compliance;
 - ♦ the growth of a more cybersecurity-aware corporate culture;
 - ♦ demonstrating a commitment to security and data protection, thereby strengthening the trust of customers and stakeholders.
- Adaptation to NIS 2 also aligns with other European cybersecurity regulations, simplifying compliance management. The issue of data accuracy, for instance, which the Registro .it

has already started to address with the previous contract - in a specially dedicated section - is a fundamental element of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), reinforced by NIS2, which extends it to information system security, as well as personal data. The GDPR is recalled because in the European digital scenario in which we are living, the protection of personal data on the one hand and the security of critical infrastructures on the other have become two inescapable objectives to ensure the functioning of services, economic and social stability and the growth of the country. In addition to GDPR, there are other regulations

in the European cybersecurity framework that will support NIS2 and directly or indirectly affect the activities of the Registro .it and Registrars. Among the regulations mentioned are:

- ♦ the DORA Regulation, aimed essentially at the financial sector;
- ♦ the Cyber Resilience Act, which aims to create a single European market for cybersecurity products and services;
- ♦ the Act AI, which aims to ensure that AI systems are secure, transparent and respectful of fundamental rights;
- ♦ eIDAS 2, which aims to strengthen the concept of digital identity protection.



Tourism and the web: the Registro at BTM 2025 to promote digital Made in Italy

by Francesca Nicolini e Chiara Spinelli



For the first time, the Registro .it - the registry of Italian Internet domains managed by the CNR Institute for Informatics and Telematics - participated in BTM (Business Tourism Management) Italia 2025, which took place in Bari from 26 to 28 February, with a stand

dedicated to the promotion of .it and an event on digital tourism. The Apulian event, which focused on the future of tourism, digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence, was the perfect setting to explore the connection between digital tourism, digital identity and Made in Italy.

WHY BTM?

BTM is the Fiera del Levante (Levante Fair), the southern Italian event dedicated to tourism that for years has been bringing together companies, administrations, public and private entities in Apulia to create a moment of encounter and exchange of knowledge among operators in the tourism sector.

The primary objective of the fair is to enhance the promotion of the Italian territory towards buyers and the respective national and international markets, to contribute to the construction of 'tourism products' - shown in particular in wine and food, art and culture, sport and nature -, to stimulate local communities and visitors to carry out the action of pro-territorial word-of-mouth, to create engagement and landing towards the online channels of the Apulia brand.

be present at the 2025 edition with its own stand and a workshop on the theme of digital tourism.

THE '.IT' DOMAIN, A STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ITALIAN TOURISM

The participation of the Registro .it at BTM with a stand dedicated to the valorisation of .it represented a concrete action to support Italian companies and, in particular, those operating in the tourism sector, to accompany them on their path to digitalisation and strengthening their online identity.

In today's context, where digital presence is a determining factor for competitiveness, the .it domain represents much more than a simple web address: it is a symbol of quality, reliability

BTM has recorded exponential growth in attendance in recent years, and the 2024 edition counted 250 exhibitors, 48,700 attendees, and 430 companies, including municipalities and trade associations: precisely because of these numbers, last February the Registro chose to

and authenticity. Having a site with the .it extension means immediately communicating a strong link with the territory, culture, art and the unmistakable food and wine products of the Italian territories. It is a choice that speaks to the heart of those seeking authentic and

meaningful experiences - a key value especially for tourists, who are increasingly attentive to the provenance and credibility of the realities with which they interact online.

The .it is, therefore, a strategic asset for small and medium-sized Italian companies that want to assert their uniqueness in the global digital landscape. In a world where online visibility is often dominated by international platforms, the .it domain becomes a tool for enhancing local identity and building the loyalty of audiences, both nationally and internationally. The massive return of foreign tourists in 2023 - back to representing the majority of visitors compared to Italians, as before the pandemic (Source ISTAT 2023) - shows how Italy continues to be a popular destination on the world tourism scene. In this scenario, the conscious adoption of the national domain by tourism companies not only favours their recognisability, but also contributes to strengthening the overall image of 'Made in Italy' also in the digital sphere. Promoting the adoption of the .it domain means, therefore, contributing to building a solid, authentic and competitive digital ecosystem, capable of supporting the growth of companies and freelancers in general, and of making the most of Italian excellence in the world.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS (WITH .IT) BEFORE YOU LEAVE

During the trade fair, the Registro .it organised the event 'Your journey starts with .it - Digital tourism in Italy: themes, numbers and trends', an opportunity to analyse the evolution of the sector, which sees the start of every journey well before departure. This is what is known as digital tourism, the use of digital tools that support the tourist experience in planning and booking a trip: an approach that integrates websites, apps, social media, review platforms and emerging technologies such as AI, augmented and virtual reality.

Each stage of this virtual journey allows travellers to explore tourist destinations, compare offers and build customised itineraries. This preliminary 'before-the-journey' phase is now a well-established habit and has turned the web into a guide to keep at hand at all times, a map that allows us to explore endless possibilities and choose the destinations and experiences

we love most. And the digital journey then continues in parallel with the physical one, thanks to digital maps, mobility apps, virtual tour guides and AI assistants that allow for better experiences. Upon return, the journey continues and always ends online, with the sharing of photos, experiences on social media, online reviews and feedback platforms.

The workshop of the Registro .it explored precisely the phenomenon of digital tourism and how .it represents a growth opportunity for Italian companies in the sector, which can derive enormous commercial advantages, first and foremost guaranteeing authenticity and reliability, making the most of consumers' digital habits, improving their online visibility and offering personalised and engaging experiences. A proprietary online presence is essential to have a privileged point of contact with travellers and a safe harbour when navigating between social networks and OTAs (Online Tourism Agencies), in search of the perfect experience, as well as a 'seal of quality', certainly attractive to foreigners.

The panel was an opportunity to dialogue with industry experts on how the web represents a key resource for tourists, to discover services, plan and book. Edoardo Colombo, Advisor of Innovation & Trends and President of Turismi.AI, and Rodolfo Baggio, lecturer in Tourism Analytics and Digital Strategies for Tourism at Bocconi University, made their contribution by delving into the importance of an online presence for companies and the digital transformations in tourism, also thanks to the use of innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence. Colombo, in particular, pointed out that 'if before the search engines, in response to a query, gave us a list of sites to consult, today with Artificial Intelligence we will have very personalised answers'.

Baggio, at the same time, commented how 'the real heart of a company is the website, that's where the game is played: having a website is fundamental, although the main feature must be to have a recognisable and rational name, and not a fanciful one.'

DATA FROM THE OBSERVATORY ON TOURISM 'TOURISM IN THE NET' (TINE) OF THE REGISTRO .IT

During the workshop 'Your journey starts with

.it', Maurizio Martinelli, head of the Systems Unit and Technological Development Section of the Registro .it, presented the data of the Observatory on Tourism of the Registro .it 'Tourism in the Net' (TINE), relating to the online presence of Italian companies working in the sector in Italy, thanks to the analysis conducted on the database of domain name registrations. According to the results of the analysis, **12% of all .it sites belong to the tourism sector**, with over **160,000 total sites** registered. Moreover, the data obtained from the .it sites dedicated to the tourism sector show similarly high values at the European level, when compared with other registries, in particular the Belgian, Irish, Dutch and German registries. In detail, **analyses conducted in Italy** say that:

- ♦ **54%** of the total are sites belonging to the 'accommodations' category, with **56%** (over 66,000) of the companies in the sector having a .it site

- ♦ **29%** belongs to the 'food service' sector, with **30%** (35,422) of the companies involved

- ♦ **7%** (over 9,000 companies) concerns the 'tour operators and transport' section, with **8%** of companies active online under .it domain.

Equally interesting are the **data** on the tourism sector emerging from **Apulia region** that hosted us:

- ♦ the 'accommodations' sector accounts for **60%** of the .it sites compared to the total, with **61%** (almost 3,700) of companies involved

- ♦ the 'food service' sector accounts for **23%**, with **25%** (over 1,500) of companies in this field having a .it domain

- ♦ the 'tour operators and transport' sector has **8%** of .it domains, with the equivalent **8%** of companies (almost 500) present online in this field with the Italian symbol.

REGISTRARS AT BTM TOGETHER WITH THE REGISTRO .IT

Some Registrars, Internet service providers with a contract with the Registro .it, took the stage at the panel 'Your journey starts with .it', to share their experience and the strategic role of .it domains in online visibility: among them, Gianni Buonsante (Founder and Ceo of Ingenia Direct srl) and Salvatore Malvaso (Web Marketing and Communication, Intendo srl)

brought insights and reflections on the digital sector and .it domains.

In particular, at BTM, Buonsante emphasised how 'the domain market, especially the .it market, is becoming increasingly strategic from the point of view of hospitality and tourism, since the strategy always starts from giving value to the brand and promoting Made in Italy'. Malvaso, on the other hand, highlighted the evolution of the domain market, 'driven particularly by the growing digitalisation of companies, and in this context, the .it domain represents an asset for companies because it represents Made in Italy'.

Buonsante and Malvaso, together with Gianpaolo Chiarella (Founder of Teseo.it srl), also ensured their presence at the Registro's stand, to talk to professionals and companies about the competitive advantage of an Italian domain for digital identity.

NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSIONS

BTM was only the first stage organised by the Registro .it to meet companies, freelancers and Registrars: in June it will be the turn of WMF (We Make Future) and in November of SMAU, a journey that started in Southern Italy, will reach the Centre and close in the North, to embrace, albeit symbolically, the whole of Italy.

A .it domain is a valuable ally for growing one's business, not only for tourism companies, but also for sectors of Italian excellence such as fashion, design and food and wine. For this reason, the Registro .it will continue to be at the side of SMEs, which represent the engine of the national economy, supporting their digitisation and promoting the .it as a symbol of Italian digital identity.



Cybersecurity and Stem for all: How the Ludoteca educates digitally and fosters gender equality

by Giorgia Bassi

In the early months of 2025, the Ludoteca continued its activities in the field of digital education with commitment, through workshops in classrooms and participation in events and conferences.

In addition to papers, seminars and workshops, in the past few months, the Ludoteca has also set up awareness-raising initiatives regarding the orientation of the very young to Stem (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines in secondary schools, with a focus on the field of computer science. This is a topic of particular interest on which the Ludoteca project is focusing more and more in order to contribute to overcoming the gender gap, in favour of the male one, and to help disseminate the importance of these disciplines and to overcome the gender gap.

EVENTS DEDICATED TO CYBERSECURITY IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 2025

On 20 January, the Ludoteca, by invitation, took part in the 'National Day of Respect dedicated to the prevention of bullying and cyberbullying', with a lesson on the main cyber

threats to the primary school pupils of the I.C. Galilei in Pisa.

Once again this year, on the occasion of Safer Internet Day (11 February), the world day of online safety (established in 2004 by the European Union), the Ludoteca demonstrated its commitment to the prevention of risky behaviour on the Net, by proposing a play and learning workshop aimed at the primary classes of the 'G. Gereschi' school in Pisa.

Participation in the workshop 'Cyber Education for social impact' (3 February), within the

framework of the national cybersecurity conference Itasec 2025, on the other hand, was an opportunity to exchange views with other experts in the cybersecurity education sector, as was participation in Didamatica 2025 (3 April), during which the paper 'Educating cybersecurity through play' was presented in the session 'Digital Skills Education'.

In the packed calendar of events in which the Ludoteca took part, it is worth mentioning the seminar 'The SuperCyberKids platform', within the scientific programme of the new



edition of Didacta 2025 (13 February), whose main topic was the presentation of the 'game-based learning' web platform of the European Erasmus Plus project, with the aim of 'recruiting' potential teachers for the pilot phase, which is due to start in May.

Finally, the 'Internetopoli' web app and the 'Nabbovaldo' video game were among the protagonists at the Play Fair in Modena (3-6 April), an unmissable event for gaming enthusiasts.

STEM: THE GENDER GAP

It is important to encourage interest in Stem disciplines regardless of gender, breaking down entrenched stereotypes and promoting an open and curious mindset. However, data from the ISTAT 2024 survey, circulated by Save the Children on the occasion of the 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science', show that in Italy girls aged between 25 and 34 with a degree in Stem subjects are only 16.8%: less than half of boys, who come in at 37%.

The situation does not change if we move into the labour market: in the fields of IT, engineering and architecture, the female employment rate is 9.3 percentage points lower than the male rate.

A clear example of a 'gender gap', an expression that indicates an imbalance of opportunities between the genders, a phenomenon that is not limited to our country, so much so that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, signed by the governments of the 193 UN member states, has placed gender equality among its strategic objectives.

THE ROLE OF THE LUDOTECA IN CLOSING THE GENDER GAP WHEN IT COMES TO STEM

In an attempt to investigate the gender gap in Stem, the Ludoteca of Registro .it, in collaboration with the University of Florence, carried out a survey in 2023 on digital skills and attitudes related to these disciplines, and more specifically on cybersecurity, in a sample of 150 adolescents (males and females) aged 14 to 19. The research showed that males show more interest and propensity for IT and skills related to Stem and cybersecurity, combined with a higher self-esteem in their own abilities, also in

the sense of school performance.

The survey shows that, most probably, self-perception and the degree of self-esteem can also influence the propensity towards certain subjects and disciplines: this is the so-called socio-psychological 'Dunning Kruger' effect, a cognitive bias, an attitude whereby people with less competence in a given field tend to overestimate their abilities, while those with greater competence tend to underestimate their abilities.

With the aim of investigating this phenomenon, the University of Perugia launched the survey 'STEM Disciplines for the Development of the Apennines' in 2024, based on the questionnaires of the Ludoteca research. In particular, the questionnaires of the Ludoteca were administered at two moments, before and after specific learning seminars on STEM subjects, in order to further detect the possible presence of the 'Dunning-Kruger' effect.

The results showed that many students initially had a distorted perception of their competences (with males being more confident in their abilities and skills), but the learning activities helped to correct both knowledge and self-assessments, making them more accurate. In addition, a gender gap was found with regard to the orientation towards Stem disciplines, which is less in girls despite the fact that the results show that they are as capable or even better than boys in answering the skills questionnaires.

APRIL EVENTS IN THE STEM FIELD

So what can be done to motivate young people in general, and even more so girls, to undertake training and work in the field of Stem? Surely it is necessary to choose methods of communication and awareness-raising that aim to create an open and motivating dialogue and confrontation with boys and girls, also through moments of 'practice in the field', mediated by experts who convey not only a wealth of skills, but above all passion, enthusiasm and curiosity.

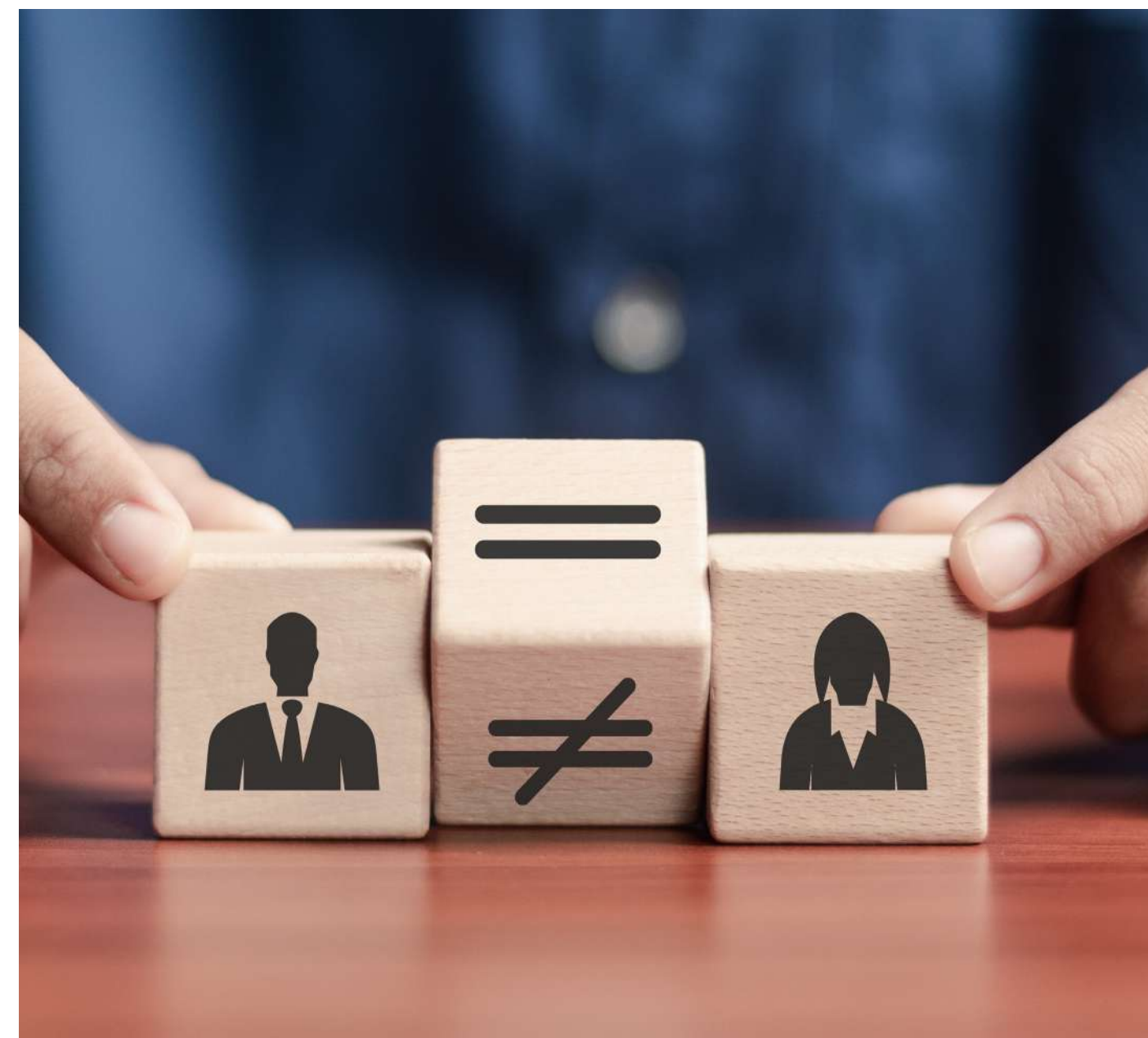
This is the approach with which the toy library proposed two workshops last April (9 and 16 April) for the 'Stem Orientation' project promoted by the 'G. Leopardi' secondary school in Vecchiano (PI). In the course of the two meetings, the experts from the Ludoteca

initially recounted their personal training and approach to Stem, and then brought the class's attention to the issue of the gender gap by viewing video clips entitled 'Women & Informatics', the series dedicated to important figures of women computer scientists, whose value as scientists is not always recognised.

Finally, during the second meeting, the researcher from the Institute of Informatics and Telematics (CNR-IIT) Ilaria Matteucci was invited to talk about her background as a mathematician and her work as a cybersecurity researcher, answering questions from both male and female students, who were very interested in learning more about some of the technical aspects of her research activities.

CONCLUSIONS

With its activities, the Ludoteca offers a concrete example of how digital skills and inclusion can be combined, working right from the start to reduce the gender gap and strengthen the culture of cybersecurity right from primary school. Investing in Stem orientation, especially with a focus on overcoming the gender gap, is above all a strategic challenge to build a more equal, competent and safe society. Keeping creating stimulating educational spaces, where every boy and girl can recognise their potential, is the direction to look towards for the future.



The Quality Management System at the Registro .it

by Gino Silvatici

The Registro .it has been ISO 9001 certified since 2004, thus boasting over 20 years of living with the most widespread certification for quality management system.

To date, around one million organisations worldwide hold the ISO 9001 certification, the specific regulation within the ISO 9000 series that provides the requirements for a quality management system for the organisation requesting it.

ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION

The regulation was first issued in 1987 and codified by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO); the international organisation responsible for issuing certifications in many areas. ISO 9001 is provided to organisations for the duration of three years by authorised entities that, are likewise recognised by accreditation bodies, which - in Italy - is Accredia.

The process consists of two main steps: in the first year the actual certification is issued following a third-party audit, while in the second and third year a surveillance activity is carried out by the certification body.

The certification requires the adoption of well-defined and controlled processes to ensure that products and services meet customer requirements and the guidelines identified by applicable standards and regulations.

According to ISO 9001, the term 'quality' identifies 'the degree to which a set of

inherent characteristics meet those specific requirements'.

THE "QUALITY" AND THE REGISTRO .IT

As far as the Registro .it is concerned, quality is linked to the organisation's ability to provide services that meet the needs and expectations of customers, in particular Registrars, as well as to comply with applicable legal, regulatory and contractual requirements.

The quality is therefore an organisational target, and for this reason - within the organisational chart of the Registro .it - the Quality System Manager must not only ensure that the objectives set forth in ISO 9001 are achieved, but he is also entrusted with the task of achieving the 'result of the correct planning and execution of all the activities that lead to its realisation, since the quality of the work is only obtained by those who perform it' (as stated in Service Order 03/2004 of 5 February 2004).

Within the organisation, the specific tasks of the Quality System Manager, who independently and impartially reports directly to the Head of the Registro, include tasks such as ensuring and complying with the requirements of the Quality Manual, organising internal audits, updating the documentation for ISO 9001 certification, initiating proposals for improvement and raising personal awareness of quality. With regard to the latter task, it should be noted that the Quality System Manager proposed and held (on 27 March 2025) a compulsory internal

course on the quality management system for all the staff of the Registro, an opportunity to further raise awareness of 'quality' and to carry out a general review of the procedures put in place, as well as to illustrate the updates to ISO 9001 (Amendment No. 1 /2024) relating to the new 2025 version of the Quality Manual (the previous version was dated 2020).

KEY POINTS OF THE QUALITY MANUAL

The Quality Manual, which is available on the internal intranet for all the staff and sent to interested parties such as the supervising Ministries (e.g. MIMIT), shows how the Registro implements a precise organisation in order to meet the ISO 9001 standard and identifies objectives and processes suitable for the purpose.

The ISO 9001 certification provides for a number of key points to achieve the goal of 'quality', which are also indicated in the aforementioned Manual. These include, in addition to continuous improvement, evidence-based decision-making and relationship management:

♦ **Focus on customer needs (customer satisfaction)** - At the Registro, customer care is achieved through *customer satisfaction*, based on attention to complaints, reports of malfunctions or inefficiencies, and feedback in general from Registrars on any communication channel (traditional mail, email, telephone, pec, etc.), and on responses to evaluation questionnaires provided after participation in the specific training courses provided for in the contract;

♦ **Leadership** - Leadership is exercised by the Management Committee (MC) and the Head of the Registro, carrying out careful strategic planning in terms of analysing the internal and external context in which the Registro operates, through the careful risk assessment of each individual process, and by verifying the achievement of the objectives set annually. In particular, for the year 2024, the objectives set by the management review were all achieved. It should be emphasised that, at the same time as the targets are achieved, the objectives for the following year are also put on the table. In addition to strategy, leadership within the Registro is exercised through an optimal organisation of human and economic resources and data-driven decision-making;

♦ **Active Staff Participation** - At the Registro, the quality objective is achieved through the

contribution each employee makes to the facility, but also through the development of staff skills with internal training courses, which are periodically organised. Also an evaluation of the employee's working wellbeing is carried out, obtained through special surveys by the figures envisaged by the regulations on worker safety, namely the Prevention and Protection Service Manager (RSPP) and the competent doctor;

♦ **Process approach** - The Quality Manual, as provided for by the ISO 9001 standard, identifies processes into which the organisation is structured and which may be operational or support processes: - Operational processes at the Registro are mainly those that enable the provision of the service: the definition of contractual requirements, design and development, procurement and relations with suppliers, registration and management of domains, assistance and training to Registrars, communication and image, management of legal aspects and litigation;

♦ The management or support processes, on the other hand, concern strategic planning, documentation and resource management, internal audits, and the management of non-conformities and their corrective actions.

Each process must be analysed both through a risk assessment that generates a priority scale according to the risk detected on each process examined, for the purposes of any actions to be taken, and through an improvement approach in qualitative terms with respect to the previous year.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE IMPACTS: SYNERGIES FOR THE FUTURE

The aforementioned key points of the ISO 9001 certification were already present in the pre-2020 version of the Quality Manual, but in the amendment to the standard in 2024, it is understood that the Registro must also assess the impacts of the facility towards Climate Change, understood as environmental sustainability, but also with regard to the resilience of the facility in the face of adverse climatic events.

From this point of view, the result of the in-depth studies carried out within the Registro has made it possible to identify elements that perfectly meet the requirements of the fight against climate change.

The facility, in fact, has been equipped for a few years now with digital tools capable of limiting meetings or courses in presence, thus decreasing CO2 emissions related to the journeys required to reach the Registro's headquarters. Moreover, the new offices are located in an elevation, thus without further land consumption, with an APE in class A4, the maximum, which identifies a building 'with almost zero consumption', thanks to the highly eco-sustainable construction, equipped with electricity production with photovoltaic panels and home automation systems to reduce water and electricity waste.

And if this is not enough, the CNR, of which the Registro is a part, through subsidies to workers, encourages the purchase of green means of transport such as bicycles, push scooters, electric cars, train passes and public transport in general.

On the other hand, the Registro is also prepared to respond to the challenges of extreme

climate changes such as heat waves, floods, earthquakes, etc., through contingency and business continuity plans to make the service resilient in the face of events that may make its delivery difficult.

CONCLUSION

The Registro pays the utmost attention to the issue of the 'quality' of its services as an element of efficiency and effectiveness, not only with regard to Registrars and users, but - in general - with regard to the entire Country system, so that the Internet ecosystem, and in particular the domain name ecosystem, is adapted to the evolving needs of its stakeholders.

The role of the Quality System Manager is currently held by Dr. Gino Silvatici, appointed in November 2024, to replace Anna Vaccarelli, retired, who has held this position since 2004.

In the past, Mr Silvatici held the role of Quality Management System Assistant at the Registro and is Lead auditor for ISO 27001 standard.



QUARTER

Here comes the next round of new gTLDs

by Arianna Del Soldato e Adriana Lazzaroni

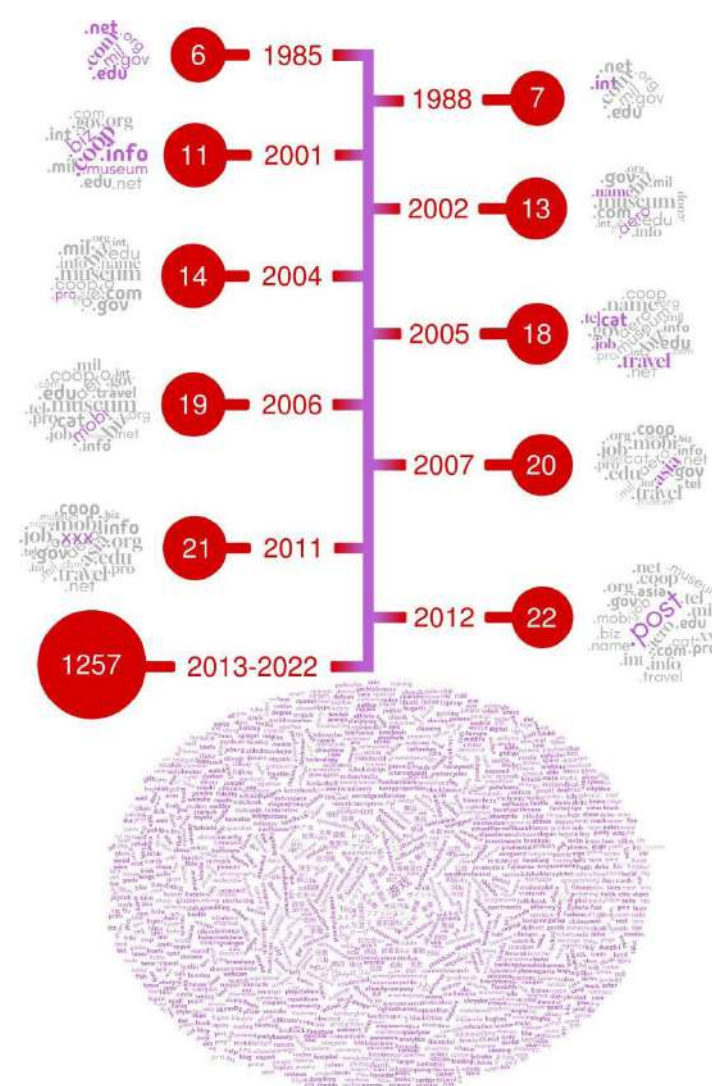
More than a decade after its historic opening in 2012, Icann (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is preparing to launch a new round of gTLDs (generic Top-Level Domains).

The initiative is part of Icann's mission to promote competition, innovation and choice in the domain name system to strengthen its online identity by offering businesses, communities, governments and other organisations the opportunity to apply for new top-level domains that can best reflect their online identity and the interests of their customers.

FROM 1985 TO THE BOOM OF 2012

The DNS system has undergone a progressive development that saw the registration of the first five gTLDs (.com, .org, .net, .edu and .gov) in 1985, followed by a gradual growth to 22 extensions in 2012.

The first round of registrations launched in 2012 marked a historic turning point by introducing 1,235 new gTLDs. Applications at that time were numerous, more than 1,900 in a window of about three months, but the process had several critical issues, including the high cost of participation (USD 185.000 USD per application) and the complexity of the evaluation process that saw the cycle of de-



legation of new gTLDs extend for almost a decade, from 23 October 2013 with the first 4 IDN domains delegated (فكشبش - Arabic 'network/web', .онлайн- 'online' Russian, .сайт 'site' Russian, .游戏 'game' Chinese) to 4 April 2022 when the last .kids domain was delegated. (<https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/delegated-strings>).

Among the applicants, there was strong interest from big brands (.google, .amazon, .booking, .blockbuster, .intel. etc.), interested in obtaining their own web presence and expanding in this market, from communities (.music, .gay, .travellers, .prof, etc.) and geographical extensions (.boston, .helsinki, .dubai, etc.).

There were also significant problems with the protection of intellectual property and geographically sensitive names, such as the case of the .amazon gTLD, which was one of the most controversial and longest-running in the history of new domain extensions, highlighting how domains can raise questions about sovereignty and cultural identity, creating tensions between global commercial interests and regional geopolitical interests.

A MORE EVOLVED AND PARTICIPATIVE SECOND ROUND

In the new round of gTLDs, characterised by maturity and inclusiveness, fewer but more qualified applications are expected, leading to an expansion of the DNS ecosystem with multilingual extensions targeting communities, brands, cities and vertical sectors such as sustainability (.green), emerging technologies (.ai, .blockchain) and smart cities.

The focus will be on the diversity and inclusiveness of the DNS and the *universal acceptance* of the new gTLDs. The launch of the new gTLDs, scheduled for the second quarter of 2026, will maintain a significant economic threshold

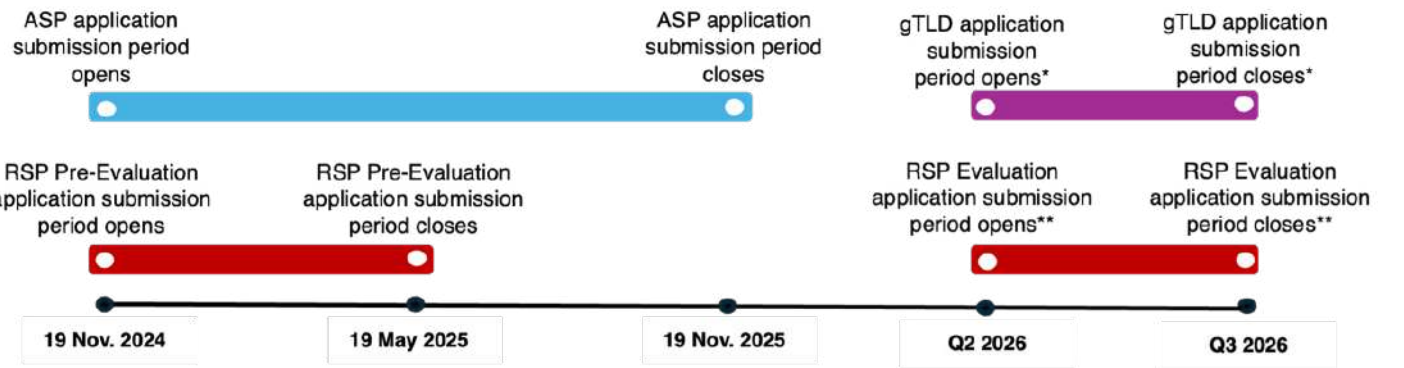
(USD 227,000) with the increase mainly attributed to inflation and the expansion of programme activities, providing for possible refunds in the event that Ican receives a large number of applications and is able to recover the costs of the programme.

Icann, however, has introduced in the new round procedural simplifications, technical and legal support tools for applicants, especially those from developing economies, as well as greater transparency in the evaluation and accountability criteria, the result of post-2012 reviews and the recommendations of the *Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group*. Particular attention is paid to linguistic and cultural diversity, with incentives for local communities and non-Latin character TLDs (IDNs - Internationalised Domain Names).

Opposition and dispute resolution mechanisms have also been improved, thanks to greater involvement of the communities concerned and a revision of policies on the protection of trademarks and geographical names.

Measures against DNS abuse, such as cybersquatting and phishing, have also been strengthened, as a result of the work of the DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) group, which - created in 2022 within the Country Code Names Supporting Organisation (ccNSO) and the Generic Names Supporting Organisation (GNSO) - has initiated important discussions to define further obligations for registries and registrars in the fight against *DNS abuse*.

The negotiations between Icann and the Contracted Parties House also led to significant changes in the contracts of registries and registrars: the Registry Agreement (RA) and the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA). The changes, which came into force on 5 April 2024, impose stricter obligations to tackle DNS misuse and strengthen the responsibilities of registries and registrars.



A MORE SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL SCENARIO

The new gTLD programme, unlike the first, also provides for a period of prevalence for applicant Registry Service Providers (RSPs), which began on 19 November 2024 and ends on 20 May 2025. This phase, together with a second one that will coincide with the opening of the application window for gTLDs, is intended to reduce the costs and time required for the overall evaluation by separating the evaluation phase of the technical aspects of operation from the label application. Parallel to the pre-assessment period, there is also a one-year Applicant Support Programme (ASP) for RSPs, developed specifically to make both the application for a new gTLD and the operation of a registry more accessible to applicants who would be unable to do so due to financial constraints and lack of resources. This timeline ensures that RSPs have sufficient time to apply for support.

CONCLUSIONS

The new round of gTLDs undoubtedly represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen the resilience, plurality and fairness of the DNS system, but at the same time a challenge for global Internet governance processes in today's evolving geopolitical context.

The active participation of stakeholders, including governments and local communities, will be crucial to ensure a successful and sustainable outcome. Compared to 2012, the process appears to be better structured and more mature, with tools and policies aimed at correcting previous weaknesses.

Icann is promoting a cyclical and predictable approach for future gTLD rounds, with the aim of enabling stable planning by applicants. The next rounds could take place on a regular basis (every 4-5 years), with further openings to public operators and civil society actors.



05

QUARTER

ICANN <https://www.icann.org/>
9 – 12 JUNE 2025: ICANN POLICY FORUM A PRAGA (CZECH REPUBLIC)
<https://meetings.icann.org/en/meetings/icann83/>

IETF <https://www.ietf.org/>
IETF 123 FROM 19 TO 25 JULY - MADRID (SPAIN)
<https://www.ietf.org/meeting/123/>

CENTR (FOR MEMBERS ONLY) www.centri.org
27TH CENTR - R&D WORKSHOP 1-2 OCTOBER A STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN)

60TH CENTR - BUSINESS & OPERATIONS WORKSHOP
9-10 OCTOBER A TALLINN (ESTONIA)

OTHER EVENTS

BALTIC DOMAIN
<https://www.internet.ee/eif/news-archive/save-the-date-baltic-domain-days-2025>
DAYS 7-8 OCTOBER A TALLINN (ESTONIA)

INTERNET FESTIVAL 2025 <https://www.internetfestival.it/>
9-12 OCTOBER - PISA (ITALY)

QUARTER

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