Quarter

Year 12
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L'anagrafe dei domini .it

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HEAD OF REGISTRO .IT
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Quarter in short

Awaiting the news of 2025, here's how 2024 ends

The year 2024 came to an end with a fluctuating trend for .it names between registrations and cancellations, with the latter often prevailing. Indeed, in the last four months of 2024 there was a general increase in cancellations, compared to the same period in 2023. The total difference, during the last four months of 2024, is almost 14 thousand domains, lower than the equivalent four-month period of last year (16 thousand domains).

The Registro will be committed to new initiatives aimed at enhancing the .it name and promoting its use, starting in Bari at the end of February, at the BTM (BTM - Business Tourism Management) Italia 2025 trade fair, where there will be a Registro stand available to Registrars who join the initiative. BTM is the privileged place to talk about 'digital tourism' and meet businesses in the tourism sector. It will be an unmissable opportunity, also for Registrars, to meet with SMEs and experts in the sector, and convince them that that journey that began on the Internet can be made with .it, under the banner of Italianness, seizing the opportunity that the Internet and the .it offer.

Among the outstanding news of this beginning of the year was the publication of the new technical guidelines of the Registro .it, an essential part of the 'Regulation for the assignment and management of domain names in the ccTLD .it', which came into force on 13 January 2025. These technical documents describe in detail all technical aspects relating to the registration and maintenance of domain names. Over the years, the Guidelines have been adapted to changes in the Regulation and to facilitate the operations of Registrars.

Joining three task forces of Centr (Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries) by the Systems and Technological Development Unit of the Registro .it is yet another noteworthy innovation listed in this publication ('address check', 'web classification', 'web crawling'). Task forces, in general, are a new system of collaboration between registries, created to support Centr and its community.

The dissemination and responsible use of the Internet is one of the primary objectives of the Registro .it, which - through the Ludoteca, the protagonist of many events - aims at educating the youth on the correct use of digital tools and the opportunities of the Net, without neglecting the risks that might astonish those with less experience and learning how to avoid them, by developing basic IT security rules.

In conclusion, a look at the European panorama was a must, with an in-depth look at Geographical Indications (GIs), which establish intellectual property rights for specific products whose qualities are specifically linked to the production area. The aim of the article is to understand the current European legislation and its impact on domain names.

For more information, we invite you to read the latest 2024 issue of the Quarter.it.
Have a good read!



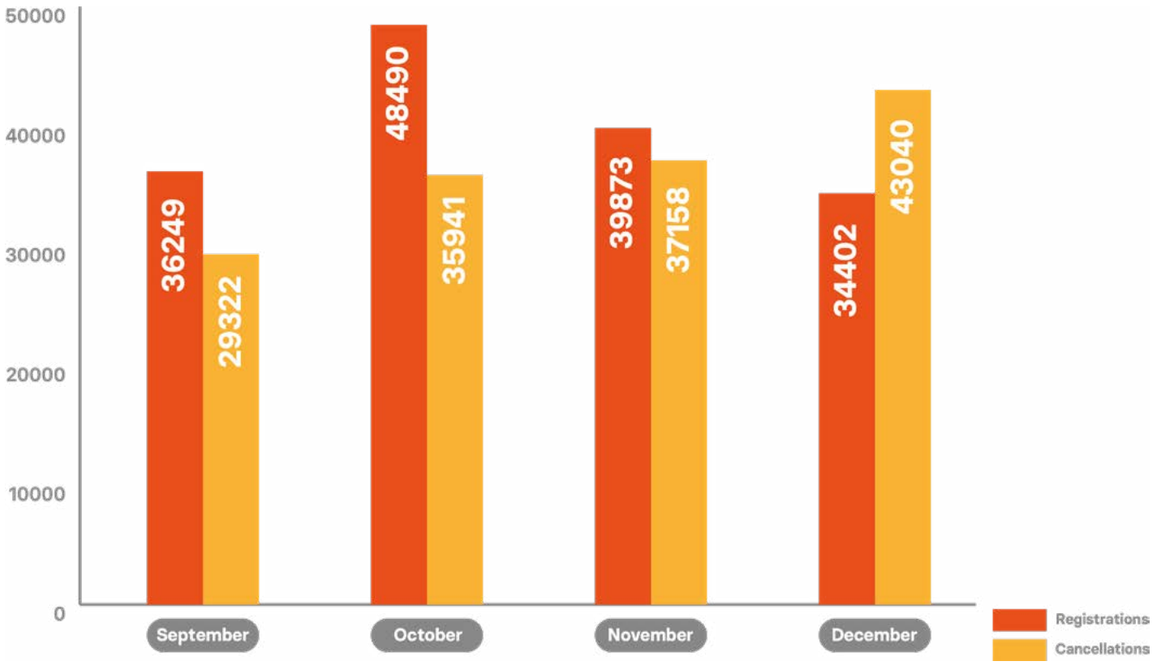
Statistics

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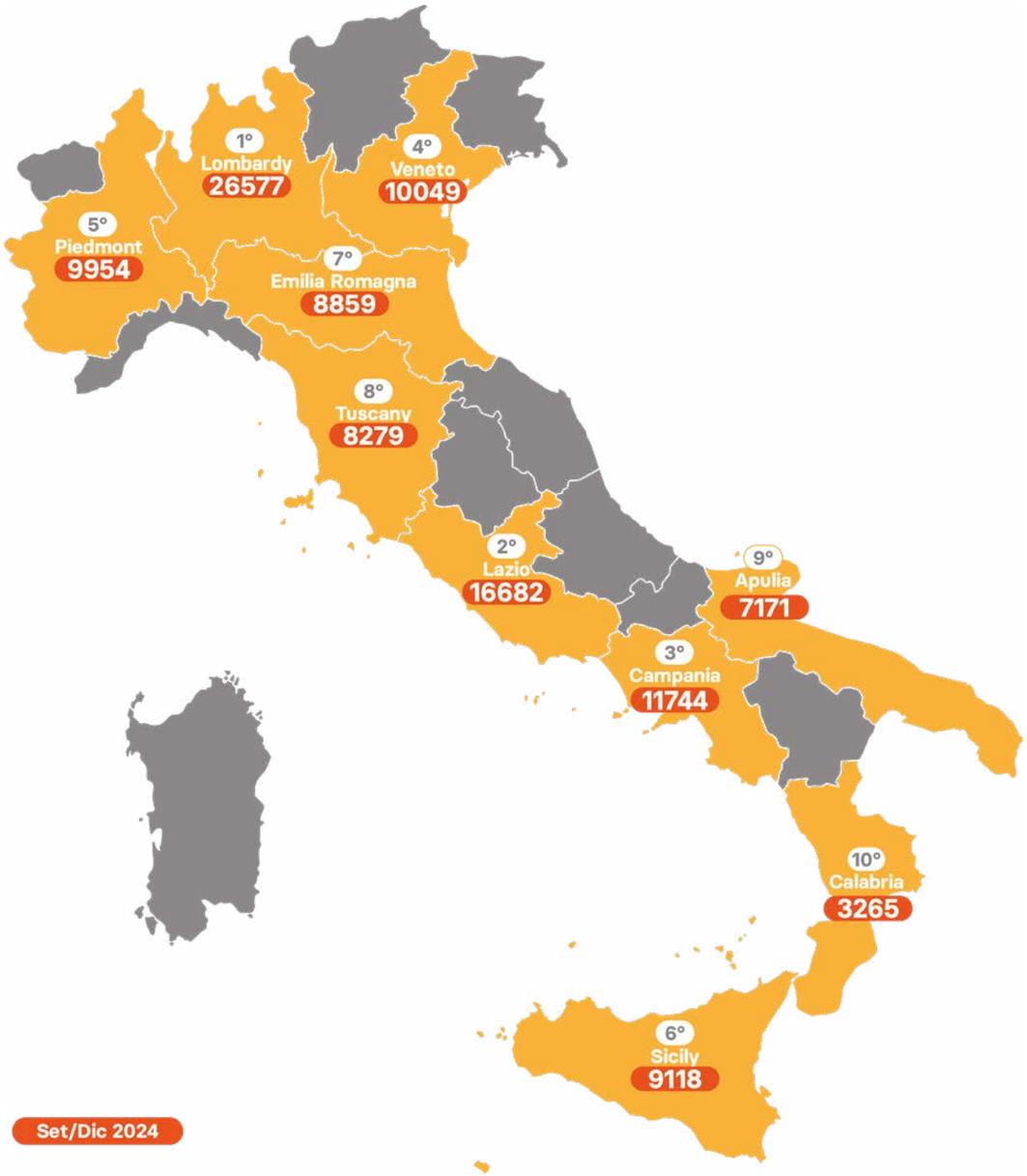
Growth of the New Registrations

The trend of registrations of .it names shows that, generally speaking, new domains outnumber cancellations, with a significant peak in the month of October. The total difference in the last four months of 2024 is almost 14,000 domains, lower than the equivalent four-month period last year (the difference amounted to almost 16,000 domains). The trend shows that the last months of 2024 saw an increase in cancellations, compared to the same period in 2023: in December alone, the number of cancellations exceeded the number of new registrations by more than 8,000 domains



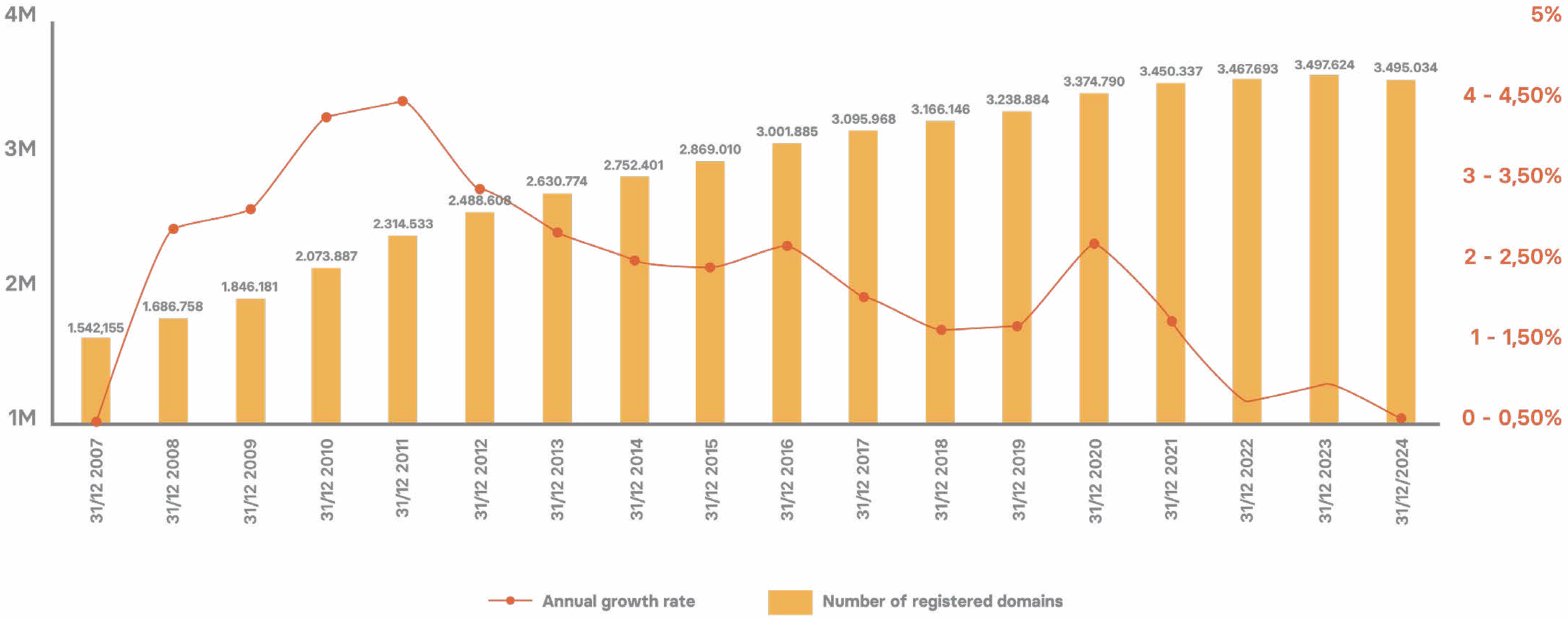
Registrations - Top 10 Regions

During the last four months of 2024, Lombardia, Lazio and Campania, in terms of new registrations, reconfirmed their first, second and third positions respectively, increasing their percentage by one point, compared to the corresponding four-month period of 2023. Veneto also performed well, rising one place in the regional ranking, compared to the same four-month period last year, increasing its percentage by one point to 8%.



Registrations - Yearly growth

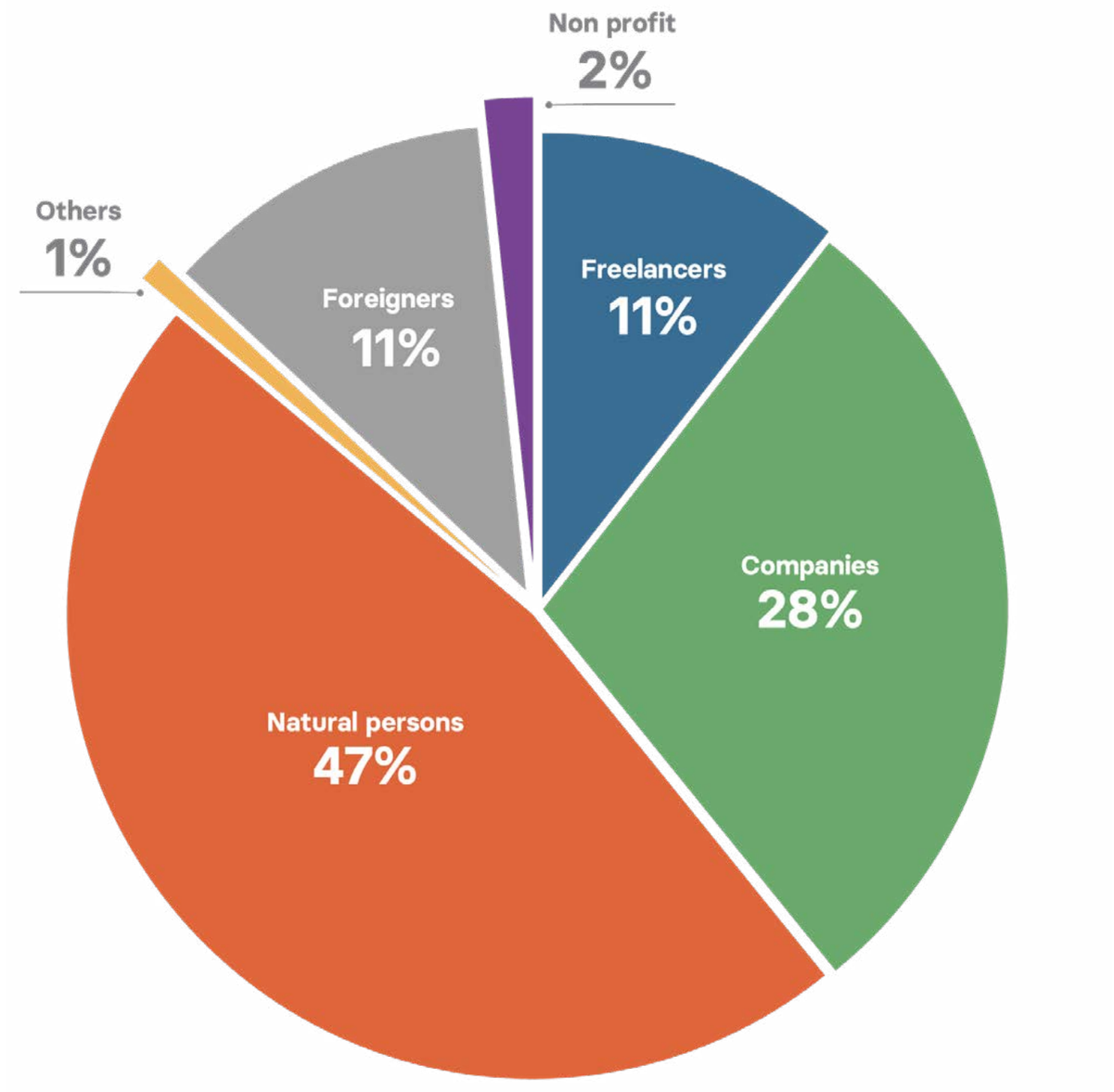
At the end of the third four-month period of 2024, the total number of .it domains amounted to 3,495,034, with a decrease rate of -0.07% (-2,590 domains), compared to the end of 2023. This rate, compared to that of the same period in 2023 (+0.86%, corresponding to +29,931 domains, compared to the end of 2022), is significantly lower but in line with the trend recorded in the previous four-month period of 2024.



Registrations - Entity Types

Compared to the last four months of 2023, the percentage of natural persons remains unchanged (47%), while the percentage of companies decreases by 6 points to 28%. By contrast, the percentage of freelancers increases by one point to 11%.

September/December 2024

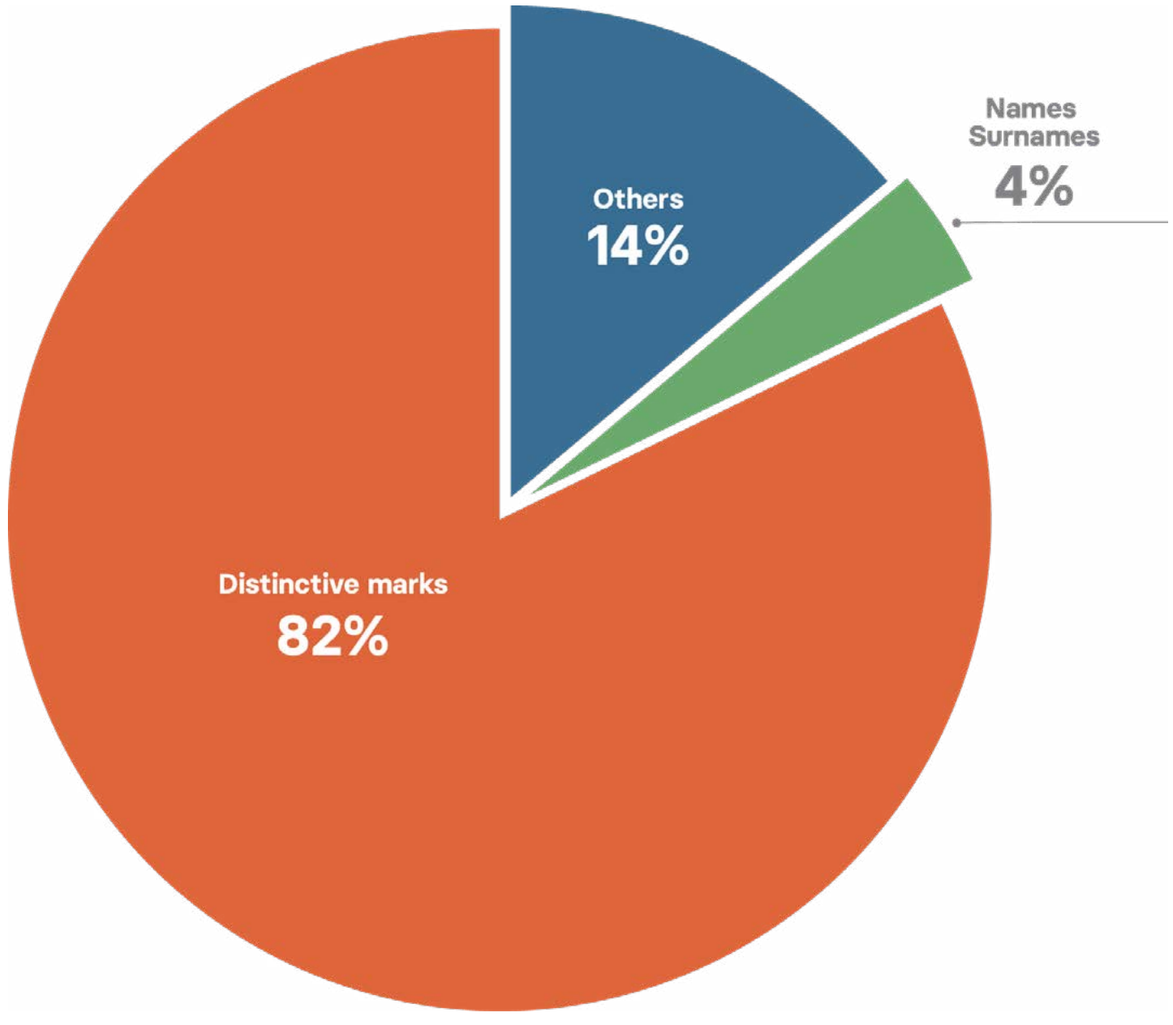


Reasons for Oppositions

In this four-month period ending the year, 82% of oppositions related to infringement of distinctive signs, down 13% of instances compared to the same period in 2023 (95%). The remaining 18% see 14% activated on the basis of various reasons (3% in 2023) and 4% activated on first and last name rights (1% in 2023).

In total in the calendar year: distinctive company signs accounted for 87% of oppositions, (91% in 2023) and therefore a 4% decrease in 2024; 7% various rights (5% in 2023, + 2% in 2024); 5% rights referring to first names/surnames (4% in 2023, +1% in 2024). Finally, 1% petitions proposed by Public administrations, while none in this area were filed in 2023.

September/December 2025

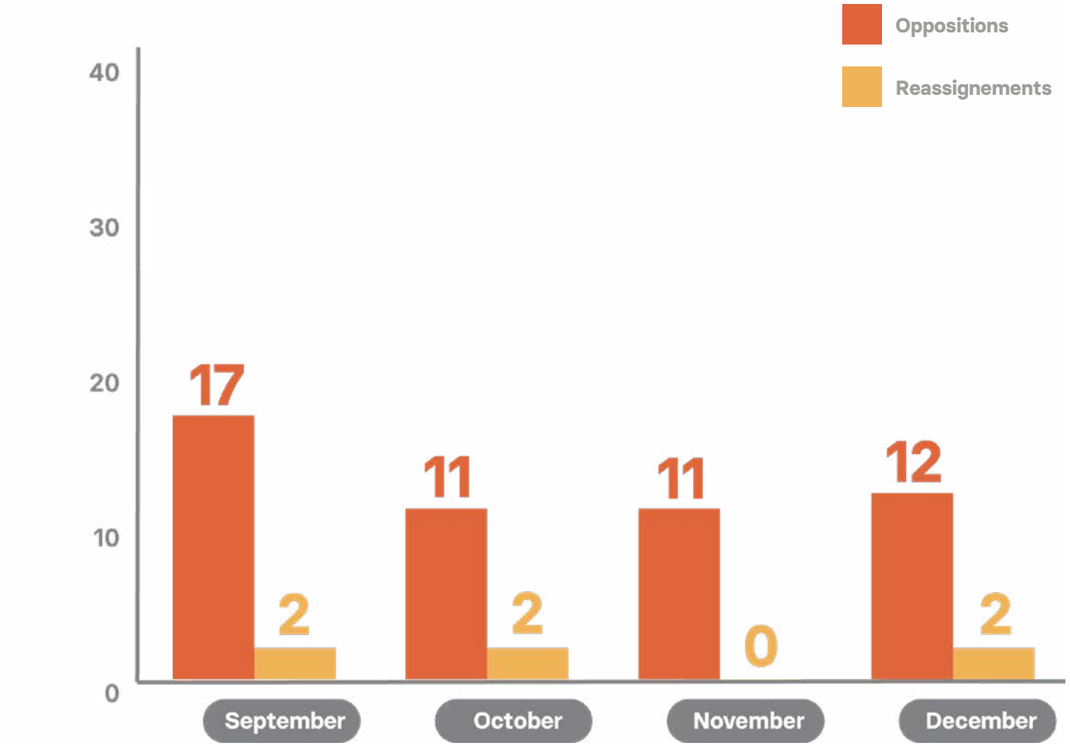


Trend of Oppositions - Reassignments

In the reporting period, a total of 51 oppositions were activated (70 in the same period in 2023, then -19 in 2024), for an average of about 13 activations per month. In September there were 17 oppositions (+4 above average), the highest figure for the four-month period, while the lowest was recorded in both October and November with 11 activations (-2), and finally 12 (-1) in December.

Of the 51 oppositions examined, 33 were initiated by Italian subjects, either as assignee or opponent: 16 assignees have residence or registered office in Northern Italy, 9 in Central Italy and, finally, 8 in Southern Italy. As for the opponents, 24 have residence or registered office in Northern Italy, 3 in Central Italy and 6 in Southern Italy.
There are 13 foreign assignees involved in the opposition procedure by Italian subjects. There are 2 oppositions filed by foreign opponents against Italian assignees. Finally, there are 3 where only foreign subjects are opposing.

As for reassignments, at the PSRDs, 6 were undertaken, 5 of which by Italian subjects, both as assignees/respondents and as opponents/complainants. In only one case the subjects involved were foreigners, both as assignees/respondents and as opponents/complainants.

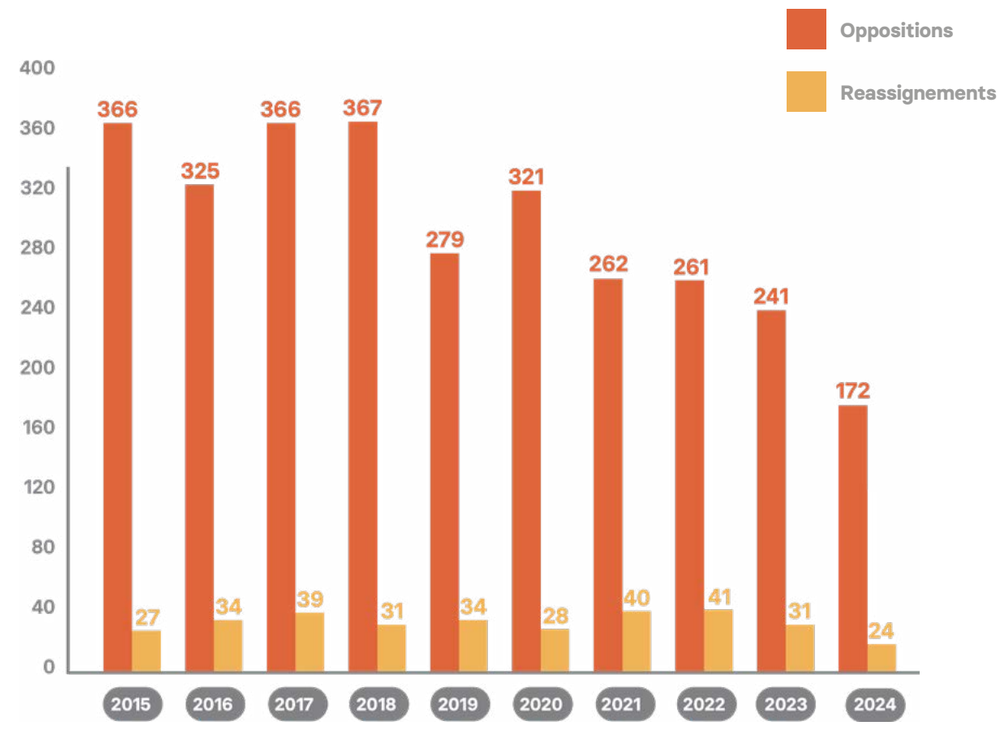


Annual trend of Oppositions - Reassignments

The decrease in the number of oppositions is also observed in this last four-month period of the year: from 70 in 2023 to the current 51, i.e. a negative balance of 19. This figure is the result of a general decrease in the last period of 2024, i.e. in September 2024 there were 17 objections, in October and November 11, and in December 12 respectively. Compared to the same quarter of 2023, there was a monthly decrease in objections of -6, -1, -10, and -2, respectively.

Of the 172 total oppositions in 2024, 110 involve Italian subjects both as assignees and opponents: as assignees, 52 are resident or based in Northern Italy, 23 in Central Italy and, finally, 35 in Southern Italy. As for the opponents, 80 have residence or registered office in Northern Italy, 19 in Central Italy and 11 in Southern Italy.
The foreign opponents-initiated proceedings against Italian assignees are 32. There are 17 procedures involving Italian assignees and foreign parties as opponents. Finally, in 13 procedures both parties are foreigners. With regard to reassignments, these also decreased: there were 6 in 2024 against 13 in the same period in 2023 (-7). Of these, in only one procedure did the complainant have his rights recognised, in 2 cases the panel ruled rejecting the appeal, 3 are still awaiting a decision by the Board.

Briefly, in 2024 there were 24 reassignments, 13 of which saw the transfer, of the domain name following the recognition of the rights of the assignees/respondents. In 6 cases the domain name remained assigned to the assignee/respondent. The extinction of the reassignment procedure was pronounced by the Board in 2 cases. There are 3 procedures pending pronouncement by the Board.
Reallocations also decreased from 32 in 2023 to 24 in 2024 with a negative balance of 8.

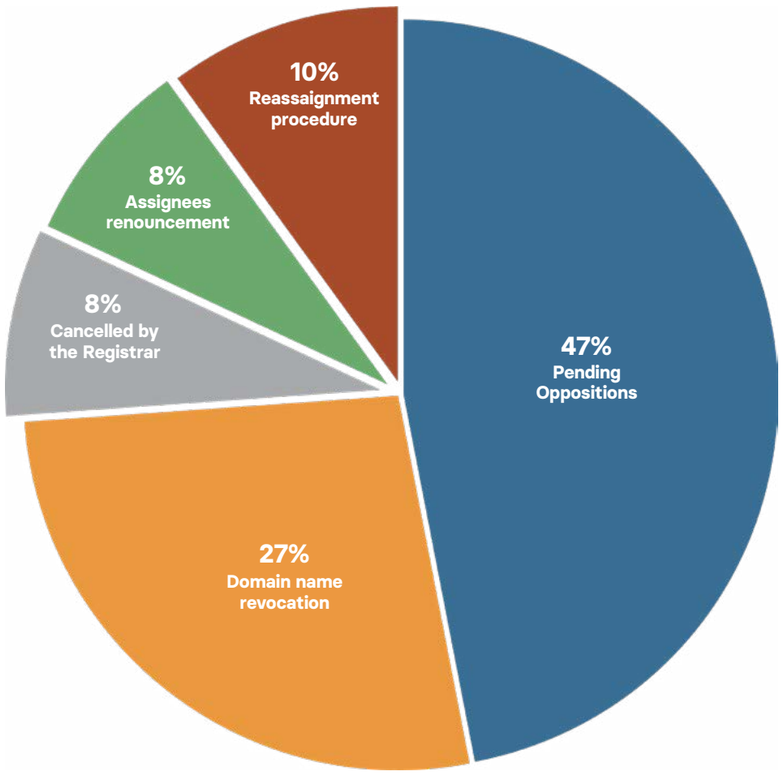


Resolution of Oppositions

Of the 51 oppositions activated this last four-month period, 47% are still pending. The reasons for termination are: 27% were revoked following the verification of the subjective requirements of the domain name; 8% concerned the cancellation of the domain in opposition either by the Registrar or the Registro; 10% of the opponents started a reassignment procedure with PSRD. In the same period in 2023: out of 70 oppositions, 7% are still pending as the opponents have taken advantage of the possibility to renew their opposition up to 2 times. 29% had their domain name revoked after the subjective requirements had been verified; 17% of the assignees of the name in opposition requested cancellation from the Registro .it; 13% of the objectors did not renew their opposition; 11% of the domains were cancelled by the Registrar; 6% of the opponents renounced their opposition; 14% of the opponents appealed to a PSRD for reassignment proceedings; and finally, 3% of the proceedings ended following a court order.

For 2024, 30% of the objections are pending, as there is the possibility of renewing the procedure up to two times, and some opponents have taken advantage of this possibility. 23% of the domain names were revoked at the end of the subjective requirements check; 13% of the domain names were deleted by the Registrar, while 12% of the assignees requested the Registro to delete the domain name; again 12% of the opponents resorted to a PSRD to carry out the reassignment procedure; 5% of the objectors had their opposition revoked; 3% concerned the opponent's abandonment of the opposition; and finally, 2% were resolved following a court order.

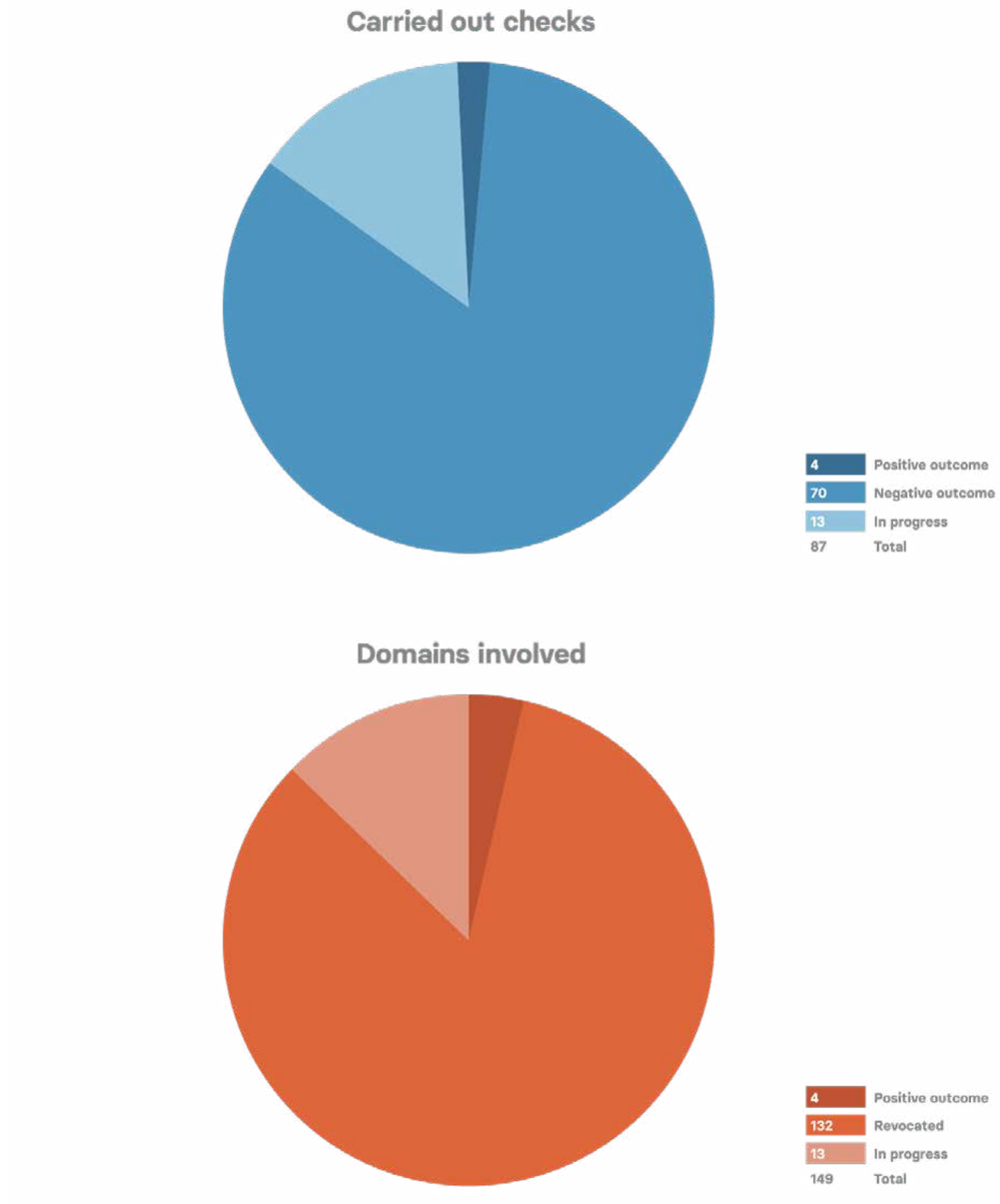
September/December 2024



Verification of domains by Registro

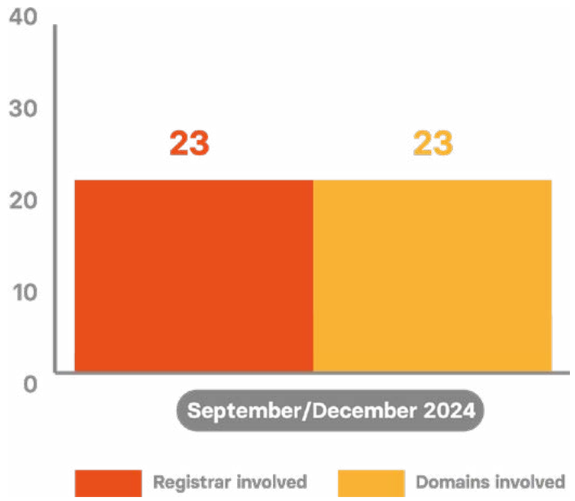
The Registro .it conducted 87 checks, involving 149 .it domain names: 132 of these were revoked, and only 4 domain names had a positive outcome. For 13 domain names, the checks are still ongoing

September/December 2024



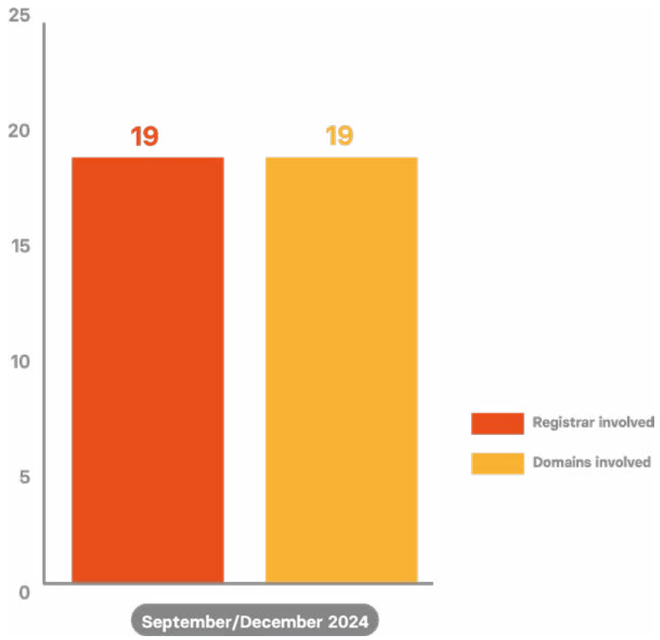
Authinfo requests

23 Authinfo codes were issued for domain names in the status of NoRegistrar, which is equivalent to domains without a Registrar with an active contract.



Requests from competent authorities

The requests by the competent authorities involved 19 domain names



Reserved names

In the last four months, there were 44 total registrations of reserved names for municipalities, with Sardinia registering the highest number (7). Sardinia continues to be the region with the most reserved names registered in 2024, having 36 new domains in total.



Registro .it at BTM 2025: digital tourism, Made in Italy and online business

.it News

Registro .it at BTM 2025: digital tourism, Made in Italy and online business

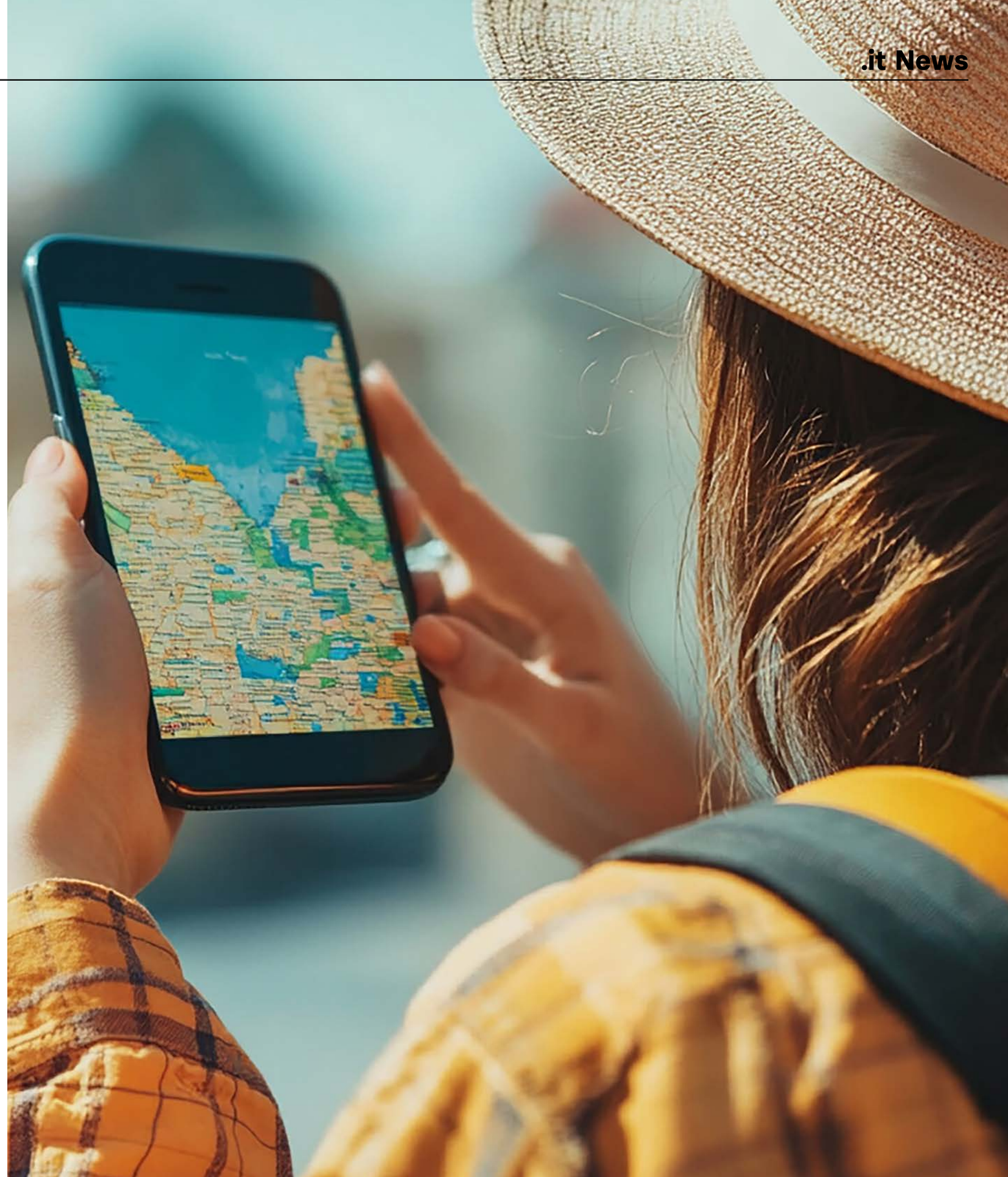
The digital identity of Italian businesses becomes stronger thanks to .it domains, a true expression of Made in Italy. This is the core of the 2025 strategy for the communication activities of Registro .it: the roadmap for this year provides for an intensification of communication activities to make the advantages of .it domains known to businesses, promoting this extension as synonymous with reliability, protection, and value for companies and professionals. A .it domain name is not just a web address, but an open door to new markets and a means of consolidating one's digital identity.

The participation of the Registro .it in the next edition of BTM - Borsa Turismo del Mediterraneo (Mediterranean Tourism Exchange), to be held in Bari from 26 to 28 February 2025, fits into this context. BTM is one of the most relevant appointments in the Italian trade fair panorama dedicated to tourism, attracting sector operators, experts and stakeholders from all over Italy and abroad. The fair stands out for its focus on new trends in the tourism market, digitalisation and technological innovation applied to the sector.

During the days of the event, Registro .it will be present with a dedicated stand, a meeting point for dialogue with tourism operators and professionals. The space will also be an opportunity for networking, hosting during the days of the fair some of Registrars who have applied to participate and who will be able to share experiences and solutions to promote the digitalisation of tourism businesses. The objective is to promote greater awareness of the importance of a proprietary online presence, with the .it domain as a distinctive symbol of Italian excellence.

On 26 February, the Registro .it will organise a workshop entitled 'Your journey starts from .it. Digital tourism in Italy: topics, numbers and trends'. Industry experts will talk about how the web represents a key resource for tourists to discover services, plan and book, and consequently a growth opportunity for Italian businesses in the sector, to which the .it guarantees a 'seal of quality', a brand of Italianness that is certainly also attractive to foreigners.

Those who will be in Bari from 26 to 28 February are invited to visit us at our stand to discover how the Registro .it can support the digital growth of Italian tourism businesses. We are also working to be present at other Italian fairs throughout 2025, from North to South, to offer Registrars opportunities for visibility and to propose the .it brand to companies attending these events as a true seal of quality for Made in Italy.



The Systems and Technology Development Unit of the Registro .it is involved in three task forces of Centr (Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries):

"address check": task force for checking postal addresses in order to create a software solution that performs successfully for European addresses and that can be used by the Centr community.

"web classification": task force to develop an AI system that can classify TLD websites and share data distributions.

"web crawling": task force to draw up a document containing specifications for the development of a state-of-the-art domain crawler that can be used by the Centr community.

On 13 January 2025, the new technical guidelines of the Registro .it came into force: the 'Guidelines for the management of domain name operations in the ccTLD .it' describe in detail the operations necessary for the registration and maintenance of .it domain names and are an essential part of the 'Regulations for the Assignment and Management of Domain Names in the ccTLD .it'.

On 20 November, the Centr General Assembly (GA 72) took place in Brussels. As usual, the Registro .it also took part in this meeting. During this end-of-year session, the Strategic Plan 2025, which includes additional ways for the Registries to work together, such as through task forces and amendments to the Articles of Association for the renewal of Board members, was approved. The GA approved by acclamation the application for associate membership of the Taiwan Registry (TWNIC) .tw.

Flash News

Cybersecurity, AI and gender gap: Tools and methodologies adopted by the Ludoteca of the Registro .it

by Giorgia Bassi

Over the years, the Ludoteca of the Registro .it, which was set up in 2011 with the aim of promoting digital culture among the younger generations, has tried to propose training courses to schools of all levels to stimulate classroom discussion on crucial issues related to the world of the Internet, such as, for example, the safe and responsible use of online resources.
The basic approach has always been to transmit the technical foundations of the Net (protocols, IP addresses, domain names), through a popularising style based on activities and game tools. It is clear, however, that knowledge alone is not enough, especially if the objective is to contribute to the spread of a digital culture.
In education today, the idea of 'competence-based teaching' prevails, the latter term being understood to mean all the knowledge, skills and attitudes applicable to a specific context. As far as digital competences are concerned, the theoretical reference is the European DigComp framework (now version 2.2), which identifies these five areas of interest: data literacy, communication and collaboration, digital content creation, security, problem solving. Within this theoretical framework, the activity of the Ludoteca covers, in part, the area of data literacy skills (how to navigate and manage information online) and

security. In order to teach children and young people, the future digital citizens, how to move within cyberspace and avoid risks, the Ludoteca has for years been offering training courses dedicated to the knowledge of risks but also to the acquisition of a 'know-how' or skills with which to recognise and counter them, developing an aptitude for prevention that is characteristic of so-called 'computer hygiene'.
Since 2018, the project has therefore expanded its training offerings with modules on computer security, in order to raise awareness, especially among secondary school students, of the dangers of personal data breaches, delving into the topic of malicious programmes, identity theft and cyber-attacks.
Launched in 2019, the video game *"Nabbovaldo and the blackmail from cyberspace"* is the main tool used to educate 10-13 years old, among the groups most exposed to cyber threats today, about cybersecurity. The video game, designed as a single player, made its debut in classrooms starting in the 2020/21 school year, involving around 800 students.

Nabbovaldo and all the resources of the Ludoteca on cybersecurity also converge in the European Erasmus Plus project 'SuperCyberKids!' (SCK), which starts at the end of 2022 and involves the participation of the CNR Institutes of Informatics and Telematics (CNR-IIT) and for educational technology (CNR-ITD), as well as five other international partners. The aim of the project is to develop and test a comprehensive educational framework, based on cybersecurity skills, through a game-based learning platform of educational resources for 8-13 years old and their teachers.
On 4 and 5 December, the project's Consortium Meeting was held in Brussels, where the guidelines were defined to start the pilot phases in the participating countries.
In Italy, this phase, which envisages the use of Nabbovaldo and other Ludoteca resources, will start shortly with a training session for teachers, to give them some safety basics and to acquire methodologies and tools for using the platform.
After all, with a view to sustainability and scalability, 'training the trainers' is one of the priorities of the Ludoteca project.
In this perspective, there is also the collaboration with the project 'EMDR for school well-being and the prevention of bullying and cyberbullying', promoted by the national EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing) association, which among its aims is also the prevention of the phenomenon of cyberbullying. In September (26) and November (19-20), the Ludoteca participated in the project with three training meetings, one for students and two for teachers at the Liceo Carducci in Pisa, introducing in both cases some cybersecurity concepts and illustrating the educational tools used in the classes. The aim of the training for students was to transmit the skills necessary to become, in turn, educators in first grade secondary schools' classes, according to the peer education model, one of the most effective cybersecurity education methodologies. The peers trained in this way took part, together with the staff of the Ludoteca, in the first edition of the 'Festival della Gentilezza' (Pisa, 4 October), an opportunity to reflect on the theme of responsibility and security, highlighting that, in addition to the technical aspects, it is essential to promote a culture of mutual respect also in the digital context.
Alongside the topic of computer security, in recent months the Ludoteca has tackled other topics that are currently much debated, such as the gender gap in STEM fields and artificial intelligence. The video feature 'Women in Computing' (see Quarter No. 2 year 2024) presents, in a popular style and with attractive graphics, the lives of five women who, throughout history, have distinguished themselves in the field of STEM and, in particular, computer science. The cycle was presented at Bright - La Notte dei Ricercatori (European Researchers' Night) (Pisa, 27 September), during the seminar 'Informatica al femminile', stimulating



interaction with the public with a shared quiz that brought to attention some gender stereotypes linked to the world of science and informatics, starting from the past and arriving at the current situation.
Finally, the topic of artificial intelligence, which is extremely topical today because it is still in constant evolution and on which it is urgent to measure oneself, also in the educational sphere.
AI was the central theme of the event on 30 October, in which the Ludoteca of the Registro .it participated as part of the new edition of Comics & Science Palace, Lucca's comics science hub, a project by Roberto Natalini (director of the CNR's Institute for the Applications of Calculus - IAC) and Andrea Plazzi (translator, Italian editor and essayist), where every year scientists, cartoonists, scriptwriters and comics enthusiasts come together to talk, have fun and exchange ideas.
The event, curated by the Cnr's Comics&Science editorial office, with the curious title 'Nabbovaldo e la bufala promptata' (Nabbovaldo and the prompt hoax), took place according to the format of a 'free story': the creative flair of illustrator Gabriele Peddes (former creator of Nabbovaldo), gave life in real time to a new strip dedicated to artificial intelligence, built on the basis of feedback gathered from the public and the comments of expert Domenico Laforenza, Emeritus Associate Professor of the CNR. The new strip, starring once again the young handyman Nabbovaldo (an inhabitant of Internetopolis, the city of the Internet, who is passionate about the online world but naive and unaware of the possible risks), recounts, in a playful and imaginative way, the operating mechanisms and also the limits of generative artificial intelligence. An 'experiment' that is fully successful and highlights another vocation of the Ludoteca: the continuous search for original and creative dissemination tools with which to convey, in an engaging way, complex contents that are worth thinking about for future digital citizens.

Geographical Indications: what's new in European legislation with particular reference to domain names

by Gino Silvatici

Geographical Indications (GIs) are a key instrument for the protection and enhancement of agri-food products linked to specific European Union (EU) territories. Existing European GIs legislation aims to ensure the protection of product names that possess certain qualities, reputation or other characteristics attributable to their geographical origin. It has been the subject of updates and amendments, also to address and discuss the impact of the issue on domain names.

Currently, the regulation of Geographical Indications is mainly based on Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012, which covers quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, introducing the definitions of Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) and Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG). Other regulations concerning the protection of Geographical Indications are 1308/2013, which lays down specific provisions for the wine sector, and Regulation 110/2008, which governs the protection of GIs in the alcoholic beverages sector.

The purpose of the legislation is to ensure the protection of Geographical Indications at EU level and to facilitate mutual recognition with third countries through bilateral and multilateral agreements. The protection of GIs also has multiple objectives such as consumer protection to ensure transparency and reliability on the origin and quality of products and the enhancement of local traditions to promote the cultural and productive identity of European territories. Not to be underestimated are the impacts that the Geographical Indications legislation may have in terms of strengthening the position of European products on the global market.

The Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) is currently reviewing the GI legislation to address new challenges mainly related to digitalization and e-commerce, sustainability, administrative simplification and internationalisation. The growth of online sales has made the fight against counterfeiting and misuse of GIs more complex, and therefore a review is needed that also covers the defence of Geographical Indications through the protection of domain names.

Various proposals for the reform of this sector are being examined by the European institutions, such as the creation of a European central office for the management of GIs, the introduction of stricter mechanisms for the control and protection of GIs on digital platforms, greater involvement of producers and local communities in the monitoring and promotion of GIs, and incentives to favour sustainable production practices that comply with the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Italy is one of the main supporters at European and international level of the Geographical Indications (GI) protection system. This instrument is considered crucial to enhance and protect the excellence of Italian food and wine products, which represent an important part of the country's cultural and economic heritage.

Our country holds the European record for the number of products recognised as Protected Designation of Origin (PDO - Italian DOP), Protected Geographical Indication (PGI - Italian IGP) and Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG - Italian STG) such as - for example - the well-known PDO products of Parmigiano Reggiano, Prosciutto di Parma and Mozzarella di Bufala Campana, wines such as Barolo DOCG and Prosecco DOC (Controlled and Guaranteed



for consumers, but are also an economic pillar for many Italian regions. The Italian government is in favour of strengthening European regulations to improve the protection of GIs, especially in digital trade and online platforms, where counterfeit products are a growing threat. Italy is committed to promoting the protection of GIs in EU trade negotiations with third countries. The aim is to include clauses recognising and defending Italian GIs, countering practices such as 'parmesan' produced outside of Italy. Italy supports the inclusion of environmental and social criteria to strengthen the sustainability of production processes linked to GI products, in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal. Combating online counterfeiting and managing the protection of GIs on e-commerce platforms are priorities for the government, even though in free trade agreements, tensions often arise between the protection of GIs and the interests of other producing nations that do not recognise or protect geographical names.
In the regulation currently being discussed by the European Commission is Article 35 on the 'Protection of Geographical Indications in Domain Names', which establishes the recognition of GIs in ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) procedures by geographical Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs). The legislation authorises the European Commission to adopt an implementing regulation instructing the EUIPO (European Union Intellectual Property Office) to set up and manage a voluntary domain name information and alert system, and by 14 November 2025 an assessment of the necessity and feasibility of this system must be carried out.
As things stand in the last four months of 2024, according to the European Commission, the implementation of Article 35 has not made much progress. DG AGRI is still waiting for the results of the DG GROW (Directorate-General for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) study on the domain name alert system, which has been in preparation since 2023. Considering that DG GROW is responsible for the parallel regulation on geographical indications for handicrafts and products, DG AGRI first wanted to take on board the findings of the report before submitting a proposal, so as to avoid duplication of work. However, at the end of 2024, the results of DG GROW have not yet been published, not even for the purposes of DG AGRI's interest.
Furthermore, the EUIPO, which should be responsible for the management of the domain name information and alert system, has apparently not been very active: there seems to be some doubt about the technical implementation of this system. As far as domain names are concerned, the situation is at a standstill, which also leaves a big question mark for the evaluation of the necessity and feasibility of the Domain Name Information and Alert System, scheduled for November 2025.
The DG AGRI-EUIPO interinstitutional cooperation agreement will be amended in January 2025 to include the reference to domain names, which DG AGRI plans to introduce later on.
Among the measures envisaged for blocking domain names that violate GIs, 'geoblocking' is generically anticipated, which based on the European Commission's interpretation should be an action by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and not the suspension of domain names by individual ccTLD registries.
According to discussions with CENTR representatives on the regulation under discussion at the European Commission, the presence of a protected term in the name should not automatically render a domain in violation of the GIs.
Furthermore, the enforcement process on the domain name - in violation of the GIs - will follow a proportionate path provided by the Digital Services Act (DSA), without the creation of ad hoc measures for this sector.

Events

Upcoming international events on the digital world

IETF

March 15 - 21
IETF 122 - Bangkok (Thailand)

ICANN

March 8 -13
ICANN 82 - Seattle (USA)

CENTR (members only)

February 6-7
72nd Legal and Regulatory Workshop
Amsterdam (Netherlands)

February 20
26th CENTR R&D Workshop
Online

March 27
GA 73: 2025 Centr General Annual Meeting
Online

Other events

February 6-7
DNS OARC (Domain Name System Operations Analysis and Research center)
Atlanta (USA)

February 11-12
Domain Pulse 2025
Dresda (Germany)

February 27
Business Operations & Processes WG Tour de Table
Online

April 27-29
Nordic Domain Days
Stockholm (Sweden)

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