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ccNSO Council Member

European Region



You took your seat as on the ccNSO Council at the end of ICANN64 in Kobe. Could you tell us a bit more about your experience to date as member of the ccNSO Council?

“It’s still very early days of course, but it’s already clear to me that there is a huge range of issues that come before the Council. I’m one of the three Councillors on the ‘triage committee’ which carry out an initial review of all incoming requests. There are typically several of these each week, some just routine community announcements and requests for input on areas which aren’t that relevant to ccTLDs, but other very much are and require some serious reading and thought about what the Council’s next steps should be. I’ve also learned a lot about areas in ccTLDs which I haven’t had any exposure to previously, like the IDN ccTLDs. It’s when you start to appreciate the complexity and difficulty of questions that arise from quite simple issues such as whether an IDN ccTLD should also have some voting rights (in addition to the ASCII standard ccTLD) that you realise how much there is that you don’t know. Very humbling!”

In your view, what is the importance of the ccNSO for ccTLDs?

“The ccNSO is vitally important for ccTLDs. When you look at the fundamental things like the IANA service on which we all rely for our very existence, then the ability of the ccNSO to

monitor the IANA service functions, should be a critical strategic matter for any responsible ccTLD. In addition, through our role as part of ICANN’s Empowered Community, we operate one of the key accountability mechanisms through which capricious or unreasonable ICANN Board and staff actions can be reviewed or even reversed. “

What do you see as the major challenges and work items for the ccNSO council the next months or perhaps even years ahead?

“A major challenge is certainly the work load and sheer amount of time commitment which is required. There is also the travel, jet lag and unsociable hours that come with the job (I have a 6am call tomorrow morning as I write this at 7pm).

I think it’s also fair to say that one of the biggest risks I see is very lengthy and complex policy processes. When you have multi-year processes then I worry that the key personnel involved will change (or even retire!) before the end of the process, plus also that the objectives and assumptions that made sense at the beginning are superseded by events. A couple of examples of these would be the work on checks and balances for the use of geographic terms as new gTLDs, and the policy for retirement of a ccTLD once its ISO 3166 code no longer exists as an active identifier for a country or territory. “

How can ccTLDs contribute to the work of the ccNSO?

“We are always looking for more volunteers! There’s no better way than to start as an observer to an area that looks interesting and work up from there. “

Anything else you prefer to mention?

“I have really been struck by the strong community ethos and support networks that there are in and between the ccTLDs. I really can’t think of any area where such a diverse and interesting group of people meet to work together, and this has led to deep and enduring friendships which I will always treasure.”