ICANN 72
VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL

Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team

Working Session

26 October 2021

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. High level overview of workplan
3. Open microphone
4. Confirm action items & next meeting

Current Accuracy Requirements & GDPR

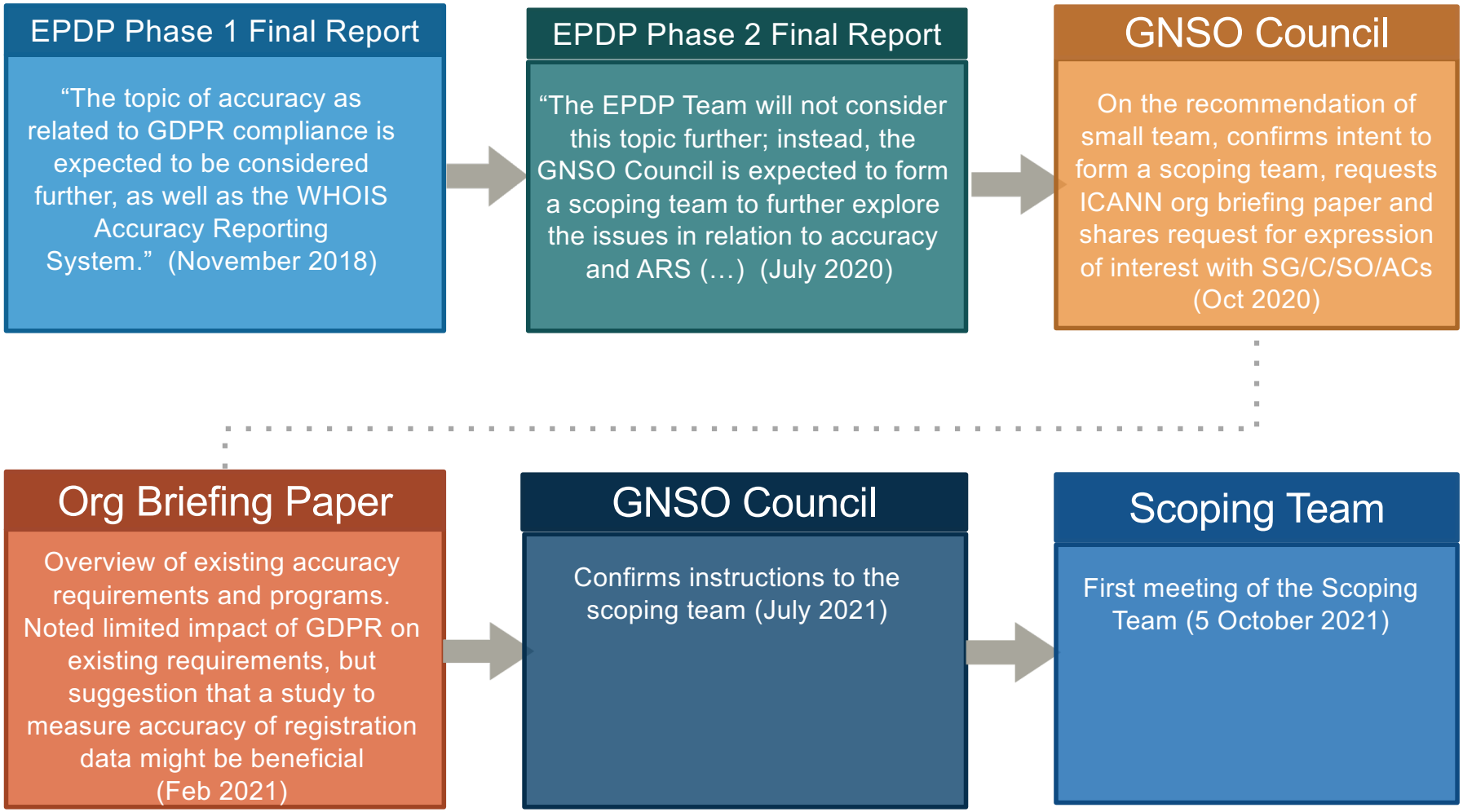
The 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement requires registrars to enter into registration agreements with Registered Name Holders that include, at minimum, three specific provisions concerning registration data accuracy.

The WHOIS Accuracy Specification (part of the RAA) has specific requirements for validation and verification of registration data as well as for taking steps to investigate allegations of inaccuracies.

Since the adoption of the Temporary Specification in May 2018, the number of WHOIS inaccuracy complaints has substantially decreased. ICANN Contractual Compliance attributes the decrease in the number of valid complaints to the unavailability of public contact information associated with a domain name in registrars' respective Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS).

The Accuracy Reporting System was intended to proactively identify potentially inaccurate gTLD WHOIS contact data and inform Registrars for investigation and follow up. Because of the implementation of the GDPR and the adoption of the Temporary Specification and Interim Policy, ICANN org has not released any reports since June 2018.

Background / Recent History



Scoping Team Assignments

#1 Enforcement and reporting: Assess the measures, including proactive measures, used by ICANN Compliance to monitor, measure, enforce and report on the accuracy obligations as specified in the Registry Agreements (RAs) and Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA).

#2 Measurement of accuracy: Provide recommendations for how accuracy levels can be determined and measured, including, but not limited to, whether the WHOIS ARS needs a revamp to make it fit for purpose or whether there are other ways in which accuracy levels can/should be measured.

#3 Effectiveness*:* Undertake an analysis of the accuracy levels measured to assess whether the contractual data accuracy obligations are effective at ensuring that Registered Name Holders provide "accurate and reliable" contact information.

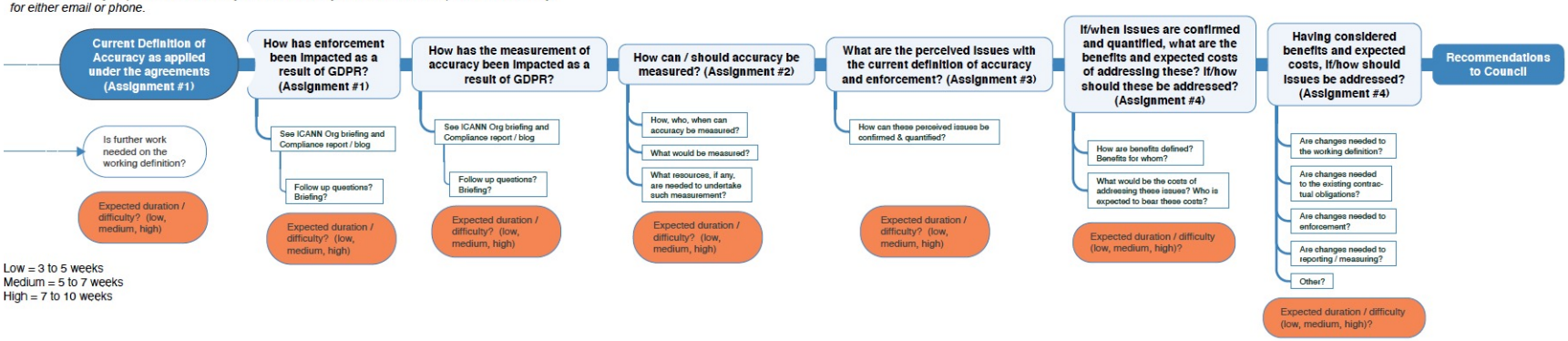
#4 Impact and Improvements: Taking into account estimates of benefits and costs, assess whether any changes are recommended to improve accuracy levels, and if so, recommend to the GNSO Council how and by whom these changes would need to be developed.

For clarity, the Scoping Team's task is to scope the issue, it is not to develop or propose changes to existing requirements. Any such changes can only be achieved through a PDP or contractual negotiations.

High Level overview of Work Plan

Mind Map – Working Draft

Accuracy shall be strictly defined as syntactical accuracy of the registration data elements provided by the Registered Name Holder as well as the operational accuracy of either the telephone number or the email address."
*To be determined to be **syntactically accurate**, the contact must satisfy all requirements for validity (see Whois Accuracy Program Specification Sections 1b-d). E.g. for email addresses, all characters must be permissible, the "@" symbol is required, there must be characters before the "@" symbol (the "local" component), there must be a valid top-level domain at the end, and there must be a valid domain after the "@" symbol, but before a "." and the valid top-level domain.*
*To be determined to be **operably accurate**, the contact must be operable as defined in the Whois Accuracy Program Specification Section f; in other words, the email must be deliverable, the telephone number has to connect without an error message such as that the number is invalid or disconnected, and the postal address must be mailable.*
The RAA currently requires validation of syntactical accuracy and verification of operational accuracy for either email or phone.



Low = 3 to 5 weeks
Medium = 5 to 7 weeks
High = 7 to 10 weeks

Open Microphone

Any questions or comments?

Note, the scoping team also has a dedicated mailbox that can be used by those that have ideas or suggestions that the Scoping Team should consider. For further info, please see: [include link]

Confirm action items & next meeting

Next meeting & action items

- Thursday 4 November at 13.00 UTC