

# IDNs EPDP Update



GNSO Council Meeting | 20 October 2022

## Overall Progress

- **Charter contains 47 questions** - 28 related to top-level IDN variant management and 19 related to second-level
  - Completed deliberation on 65% of top-level related charter questions
  - Has not started deliberation on second-level related charter questions
- **Project behind schedule** - likely not able to meet key milestone dates (publish Initial Report in Dec 2022, submit Final Report in Apr 2023)

## Key Challenges

- **Diversity and Complexity of IDN Issues**
  - Charter includes diverse and complicated issues related to IDNs
  - Significant preparation and study are required to understand most charter questions
  - Example: String Similarity Review related questions required 13 weeks of deliberations by a dedicated small group and additional discussion by full EPDP Team
- **Additional Data Collection Needs for Second-Level Deliberations**
  - Deliberation on second-level charter questions depends on analysis of additional data from contracted parties
  - Explore appropriate venues and approaches to collect data, including consultation with CPH TechOps group
- **Non-Existing SubPro IRT**
  - Many charter questions require coordination with SubPro IRT to address overlapping topics
  - Has to make assumptions about SubPro implementation in order to address those charter questions

# Two-Phased Proposal

## Proposal to Complete EPDP in Two Phases

**Phase 1:** Covers charter questions and recommendations related to **top-level** IDN variant management

**Phase 2:** Covers charter questions and recommendations related to **second-level** IDN variant management

### Rationale

- **No Known Interdependency Between Top-Level and Second-Level Charter Questions**
  - Top-level labels and second-level labels are distinct from each other in the DNS
  - Recommendations pertaining to second-level should not impact or change recommendations pertaining to top-level
- **Facilitating SubPro Implementation Planning**
  - EPDP recommendations on top-level have direct impact on New gTLD Program and are closely linked to SubPro outputs
  - Does not remove interaction of second-level work by EPDP Team with SubPro implementation
- **Breaking Workload into Manageable Chunks**
  - Helps make recommendations more digestible by the ICANN community and ICANN Board
  - Helps GNSO Council better monitor progress against milestones

# Potential Timeline Extension

## Conservative Projection of Key Milestone Dates

### Phase 1 *(projection with more confidence)*

- Publish Phase 1 Initial Report for Public Comment by **Apr 2023**
- Submit Phase 1 Final Report to GNSO Council by **Nov 2023**

### Phase 2 *(projection with more uncertainty)*

- Publish Phase 2 Initial Report for Public Comment by **Apr 2025**
- Submit Phase 2 Final Report to GNSO Council by **Nov 2025**

## Rationale

- **Extended duration for deliberating on remaining charter questions**
  - **Three (3) weeks** to deliberate on each character question (on average)
- **Time period for additional data gathering efforts**
  - **Eight (8) months** to collect data (pending CPH TechOps group's feedback during Contracted Parties Summit)
  - This effort will take place concurrently with Phase 1 work and should complete before start of Phase 2
- **Front load review of ICANN org input for draft recommendations**
  - **Ten (10) weeks** to review ICANN org input in each phase, ensuring that the Initial Report has already taken operational considerations into account
- **Public comment review and Final Report completion**
  - **Six (6) week** to review of public comments received for Initial Report in each phase
  - **Twelve (12) weeks** to finalize recommendations in each phase (additional topics may arise as a result of public comment)

# Impact of Change

**Scope:** Not changed, but charter includes catch-all questions to potentially include additional issues for deliberations. EPDP Team has already identified additional issues

**Timeline:** An additional 31-month extension to the overall project completion from the original project plan. While the requested extension seems long, the remaining workload is significant

**Resourcing:** Additional community volunteer time is needed, as well as commitment from staff and liaisons. IDN subject expertise is concentrated on a limited number of individuals

**Other Considerations:**

- GNSO Council may consider impact on potential new work to be launched in 2023-2025
- ICANN community and ICANN Board may consider impact on SubPro implementation

**EPDP Team welcomes GNSO Council suggestions and guidance to ensure that the EPDP adheres to updated project plan and new target delivery date**

- Two meetings per week?
- Dedicated face-to-face meeting?
- Dedicated remote event?
- Other ideas?