

Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team ASP Sub-Track

Meeting #12

Applicant Support Program

30 January 2024, 15:00-16:30 UTC



Objectives & Agenda

Objectives: share further research conducting by ICANN org re: ASP evaluation criteria; review comments and confirm redline changes in preparation for bringing ASP Handbook to the IRT.

Agenda:

- Present research findings re: potential evaluation indicators for “underserved” and “developing economy”
- Walk-through and accept agreed redline edits to the ASP Handbook

ICANN org further research on evaluation indicators

Agenda Item 1

ICANN org further research on criteria indicators

Following the ASP-IRT Sub-track meetings, ICANN org took an action item to conduct further research on potential evaluation indicators for assessing whether an applicant is from an “underserved” region or a subnational level developing economy.

Research Findings re: “underserved” indicators

ASP-IRT suggestion to explore domain name registrations by country; ccTLD registrations; and Registrars by country

Findings

Number of registrations per country.

- This data is not currently available to ICANN.
 - Previous reporting of registrations per country relied on registration data available through WHOIS.
 - ccTLD administrators have no obligation to report registration numbers to ICANN.

ccTLD registrations.

- ccTLD registrations are not officially reported to ICANN; availability and validity of numbers depends on ccTLD registry and registrar voluntary reporting.
 - [List of leading ccTLDs](#) (by # of registrations) includes both developed economies and developing or least developed economies.

[Registrars by country.](#)

- Some developed economies have 1-2 Registrars; some developing economies have more.

Question for ASP-IRT: Is there a country that, in your view, does not have a well-developed DNS industry that is not already classified as a lesser-developed economy?

Research findings re: subnational developing economy

Global subnational development indicators.

- No adequate global dataset containing subnational development indicators at the second administrative level (i.e., metropolitan or county level) was found.
- Subnational development indicators at the first administrative level (i.e., state or provincial level) are available through the World Bank's *Subnational Poverty and Inequality Database* or the UN's *Subnational Human Development Index*
 - First administrative level data allows us to identify less developed states or provinces within developed countries but does not offer the granularity to identify less developed cities or counties within developed provinces in developed countries.

Other options considered

Identifying globally available proxy indicators where data at the metropolitan or county level is available.

- Infant mortality and under-5 mortality rates were explored in the research.
 - Benefits
 - Discrete, objective indicator.
 - Limitations
 - This option expands the scope of the ASP to consider social factors that are not directly related to the objectives of the ASP or the New gTLD Program.

Other options considered

Complementing the list of developing economies by using an additional indicator to determine eligibility for applicants from developed economies.

- An indicator could be identified based on economic data that is available in developed economies at the metropolitan or county level.
 - Limitations:
 - ICANN would need to determine a threshold for what is considered a developing metropolitan area or county within a developed economy.
 - The geographic constraints may limit the residence of key members of an applicant organization to a very small area.

Other options considered

To more closely align ASP criteria to the GAC's definition of "underserved" to focus on areas with an underserved DNS industry, it may be possible to complement the list of developing economies with what we know about internet access and connectivity.

One example explored, could be expanding the eligibility criteria to include those applicants whose principal place of business is in rural areas within developed economies.

- Benefits:
 - Discrete indicator (rural vs urban)
 - Ability to rely on internationally agreed upon definitions of "rural." For example, the OECD defines a rural community as one whose "population density is below 150 inhabitants per km² (500 inhabitants for Japan to account for the fact that its national population exceeds 300 inhabitants per km²)"
- Limitations:
 - Access and connectivity may not be indicators of DNS industry development.