Quarter

Front Page

3 million and half of ".it"

.it News

News, events, projects and
numbers about the Registro .it

From the World

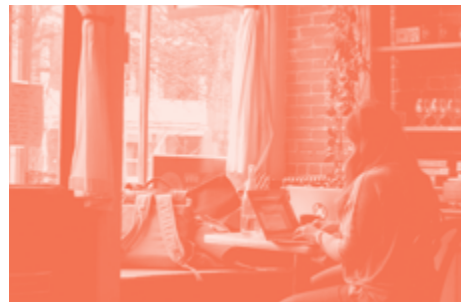News from the world
of ccTLD and the Network

Quarter

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L'anagrafe dei domini .it

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Quarter in short

Identity, opportunity and digital culture: 2023 confirmed the three key words of .it (and closed with a record of registered names)

by Francesca Nicolini

In October 2023, seven years after the last important milestone (3 million .it names in 2016), the Registro added another round figure number, 3 and a half million names, to the abacus of the domain growth, positioning itself thus with .it in the seventh place in Europe and ninth in the global ccTLD ranking (although in a ranking that does not take .tv/tuvalu and .cn/cina into consideration).

The growth rate of .it domains, at the end of 2023, is 0.86%, compared to the end of 2022. From the trend of registrations and cancellations in recent years, it can be deduced that the .it market is stabilising and is remaining stable over time: it is a more mature market, which contrasts with the years of the .it boom. At that time the assignment of a domain was requested without necessarily thinking about its use, or sometimes an attempt at profit or bad faith was hidden in the assignment of a given name.

Today .it also grew in security, considering the new authentication policies of the Registro .it, in order to improve the security of access to applications reserved for Registrars.

Looking at the numbers (1,300, between teenagers and children), the awareness among very young people on the correct use of the Internet is also growing, thanks also to the digital education undertaken by the Ludoteca of Registro .it. This also occurred through ad hoc laboratories, "gamification", and rules to defend yourself against computer fraud, learning to recognise the dangers with notions of cybersecurity. In addition to IT security, digital education continues with the dissemination of educational themes and games of the Ludoteca through many events in which its staff participated, with lessons in schools, in specific contexts and new videos of the "Carpe Digital" project.

In November, the usual annual Registro-Registrar Meeting was held. The meeting was an opportunity to learn about all the activities carried out in 2023, but above all to learn about the forecast for 2024 activities and the future of the Registro.

The usual news arrived from the world of the Internet: we discovered that artificial intelligence is becoming the protagonist and is coming into play in the service of domain name registries. Two agreements have been launched by the Council of the EU, on the proposal that regulates the protection of geographical indications (GI) for wine, spirits in general and agricultural products, and on the regulation of the EUID (European Unique Identifier) code for universal access for people and businesses to secure and reliable electronic identification and authentication.

Enjoy the reading!

Editorial
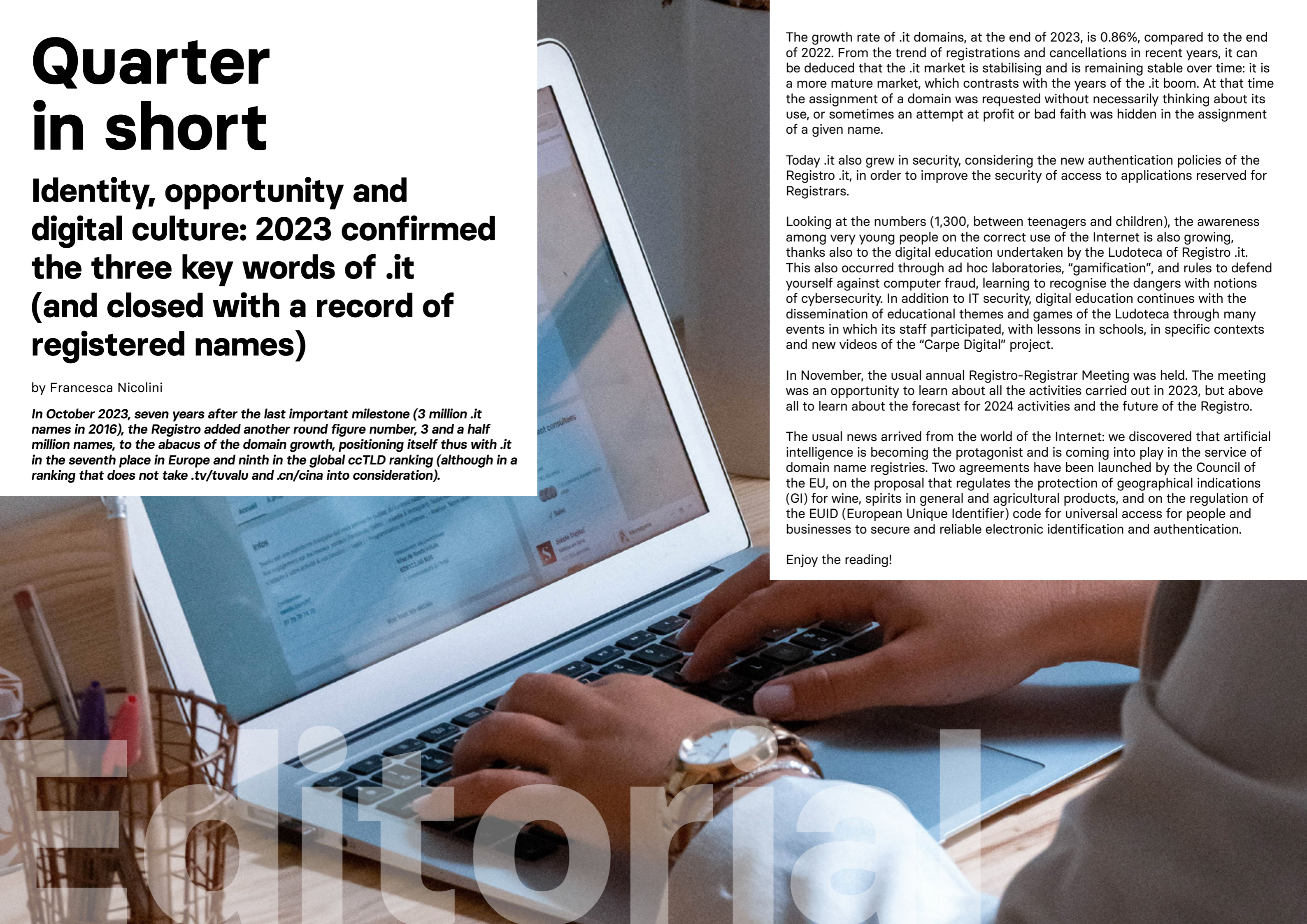
3 million and a half of ".it"

by Francesca Nicolini

Front Page

The growth of .it is not stopping, and in October 2023 the Italian domain made a new step forward, achieving the coveted goal of 3 million and a half. The new record marked an important stage, after the pandemic, the resulting economic crisis and the uncertainty of companies and freelancers, who discovered new and renewed opportunities online.

This marks another crucial moment in a story that began 36 years ago, on 23 December 1987, with the first Italian internet domain, cnuce.cnr.it, which also effectively marked the birth of the Registro .it. Since then, no one would have ever imagined the boom at the end of the last century and the beginning of the 2000s. Today we can affirm that there are many factors that led to the explosion of .it and the growth of the Italian domain market, from the exponential growth of Web to the speeding up of the registration system with the introduction of the synchronous system (2009), from the need for a greater digital identity to the opportunities for success of one's business.

Today .it names are continuing to grow, although in a greater amount of time than in past years: 1 million domains reached in 2005 doubled in 2010, 5 years later, and with a regular rhythm of 500 thousand domains every three years the .it reached 3 million in 2016 (passing through 2 million 500 thousand domains in 2013).
It took 7 years to reach the figure of 3.5 million in 2023, but this is not necessarily a negative factor: on the contrary, constant but slower growth may indicate that the market for .it names has stabilised and that it's more mature. This can be attributed to various factors, both of a general nature, which also concern the other European ccTLDs and which can be linked, for example, to the economic crisis, and more closely linked to the settlement of the renewed domains, maintained by the assignees year after year and not cancelled anymore.

In 2023, .it domains ranked seventh in Europe and ninth in the world (albeit in a ranking that does not see the advancement of .tv/tuvalu and .cn/Cina). The .it has been among the top ten of the most registered ccTLDs for years.
Also thanks to its constant work to raise awareness in the use of domain names, the Registro is continuing to actively contribute to the socioeconomic growth of our country, promoting the value of made in Italy, digital identity, online business, and also digital culture and the correct use of the Internet among very young people.

Statistics

Growth of the New Registrations

Yearly growth

Entity Types

Reasons for oppositions

Top Regions

Oppositions - Reassignements relationship

Monthly Trend of the Oppositions

Yearly trend of the Oppositions - Reassignements

Authinfo requests
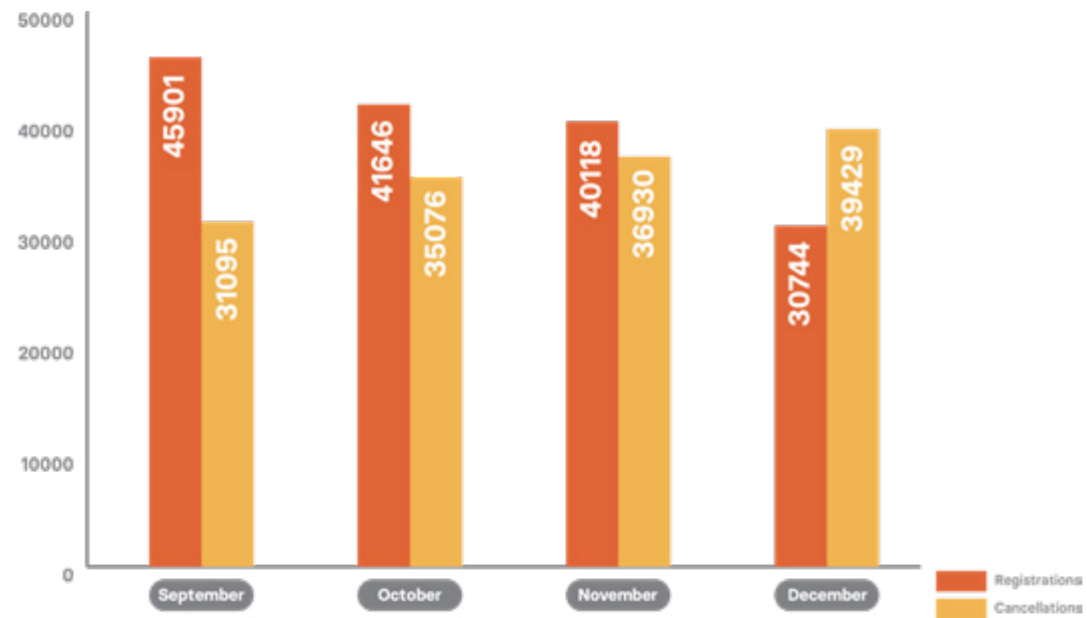
Requests from competent authorities

Reserved names

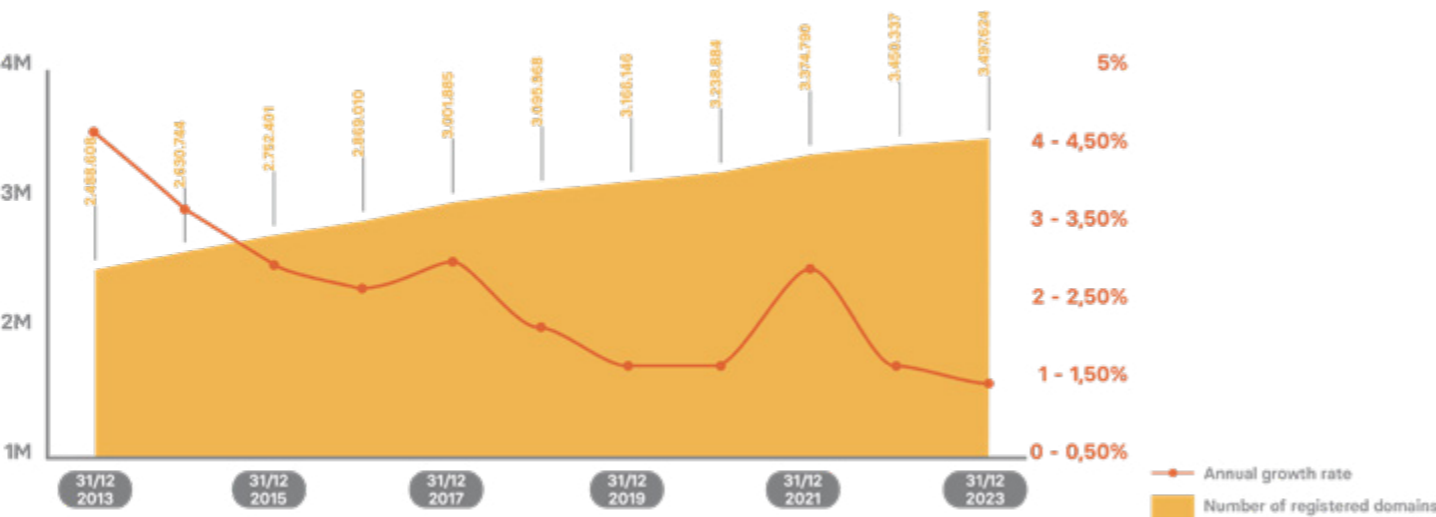Verification of domains by The Registro

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 September. The total difference, during the last quarter of 2023, is almost 16 thousand domains, lower than the equivalent quarter of last year. The trend highlights that in the last months of 2023 there was an increase in cancellations, compared to the same period of 2022. In fact, in the month of December alone, the number of cancellations exceeded that of new registrations by over 8 thousand

Top Regions

During the last quarter of 2023, Lombardy reconfirmed itself in first position in terms of registrations of new domains, however decreasing its percentage by one point, while the percentage and position of Lazio remained unchanged compared to the third quarter of 2022. Campania remained in the third position, but lost two percentage points, settling at 8%. Sardegna had an excellent performance which increased its percentage by 6 points, rising 7 positions in the regional ranking, compared to the same quarter of 2022
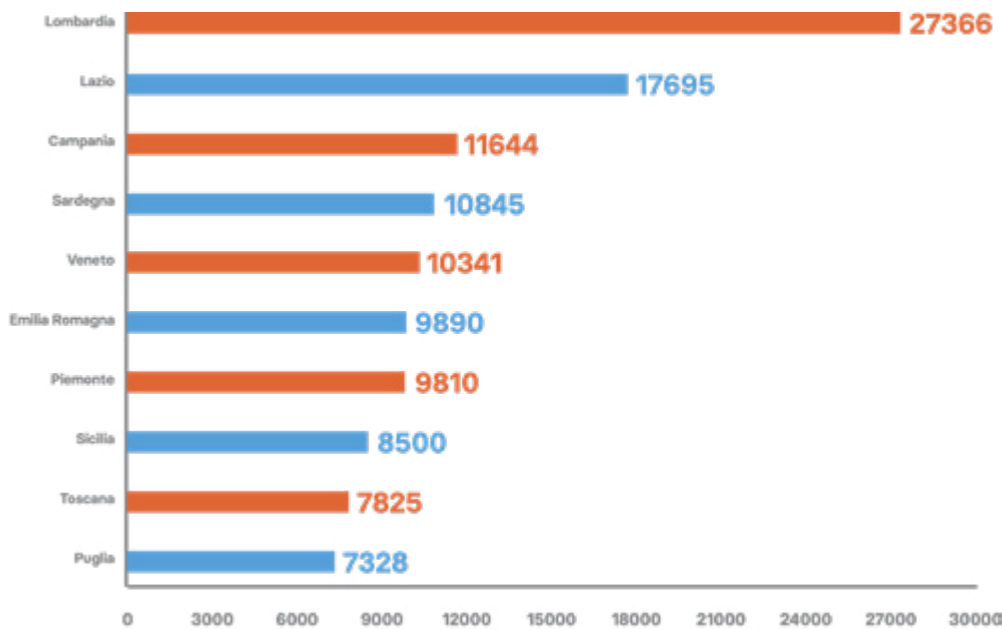

Yearly growth

Although in October 2023 the domains reached the threshold of 3 million and 500 thousand, at the end of the third quarter of 2023, the overall number of .it domains amounted to 3,497,624 (given the increase in cancellations in the last months of 2023), with a growth rate of 0.86% (+29,931 domains), compared to the end of 2022.
This growth rate, compared to that of the same period of 2022 (0.50% compared to the end of 2021), is slightly higher and in line with the trend recorded in the previous quarters of 2023

Entity Types

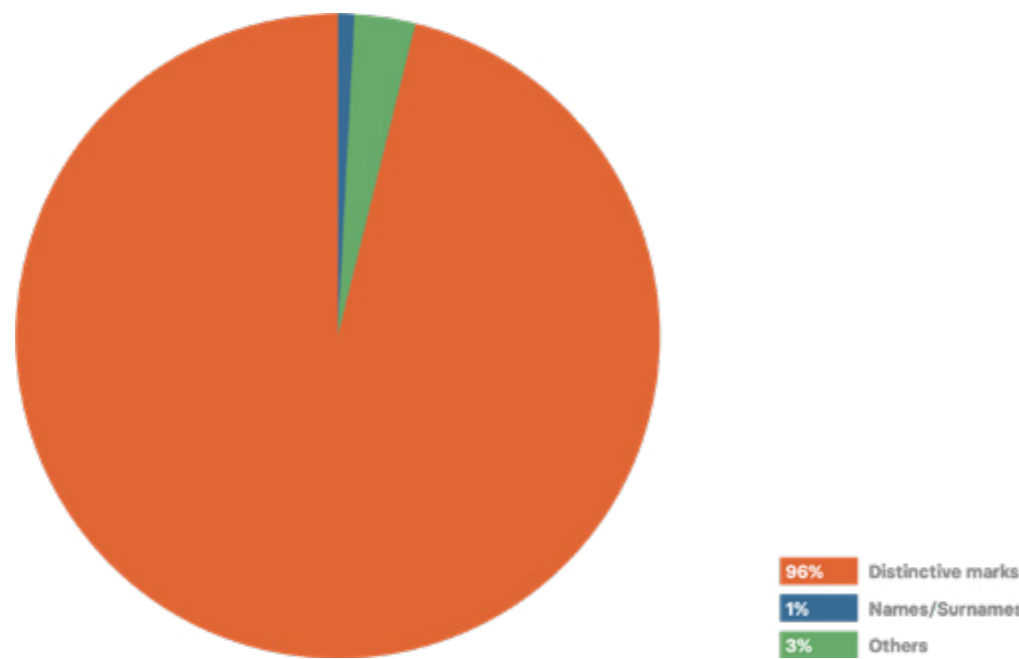Compared to the last four months of 2022, the percentage of natural persons decreased by three points, thus settling at 47%, while the percentage of businesses increased by two points, reaching 34%. The percentage of freelancers also rose by three points, reaching 10%
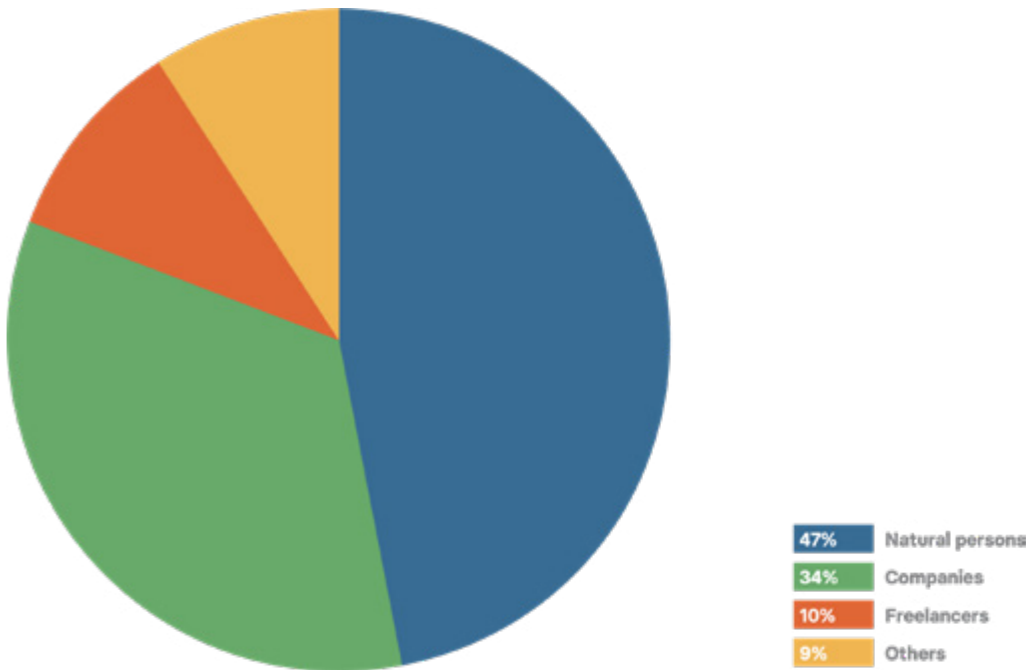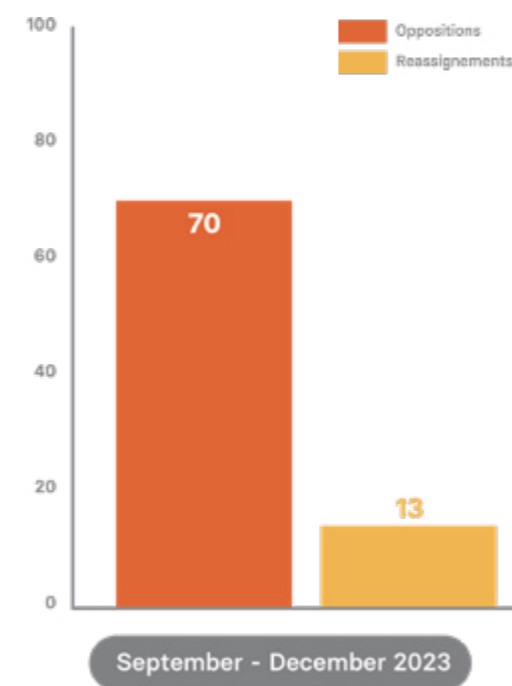
Reasons for oppositions

In the closing period of 2023, 96% of the opposition requests activated concern the violation of the company's distinctive signs. The remaining 4% is distributed as follows: 3% started the procedure citing "various" reasons, but only 1% did so with the aim of safeguarding their name and surname. In total, in 2023: 92% of oppositions are based on rights concerning the company's distinctive signs, 5% on various rights and the remaining 3% on rights related to the name and surname

96%	Distinctive marks
1%	Names/Surnames
3%	Others

Monthly Trend of the Oppositions

In this last quarter, there are 70 oppositions, with an average of around 17 activations per month. The trend is fluctuating: in September there is a peak with the highest number of oppositions (23), while in October there is the lowest number of requests (12) for the period and the whole year, which date back to November with 21 activations, and then they underwent a new decline in December (14). In 2023 the annual average is 20 oppositions: the first quarter responds to the trend of the last 12 months, just like the second (with 22 activations), while the last quarter slightly drops the average by a few steps (17). Finally, the middle quarter of 2023 holds the record for the month with the highest number of procedures (31 in July)
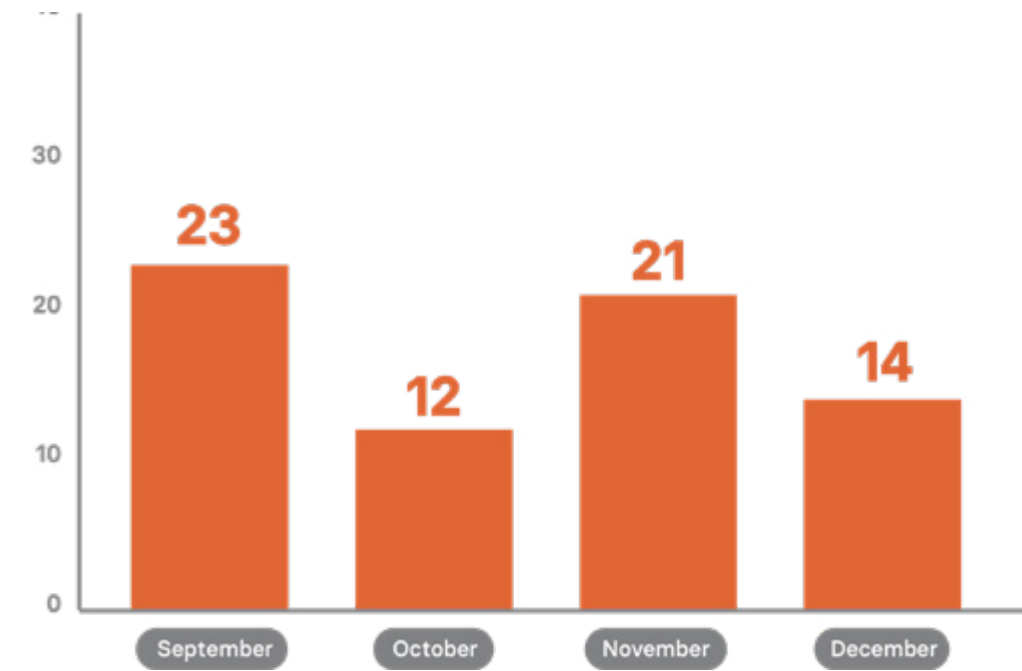

Oppositions - Reassignements relationship

In this last four-month period, there were 70 oppositions activated, 48 of which saw Italian subjects both as assignees and as opponents. In 13 cases, Italian opponents appealed against the same number of foreign assignees. However, there are 8 procedures in which all the parties involved are foreign. Only in one case a domain name was assigned to an Italian subject opposed by a foreigner.
Of the 241 oppositions activated in 2023, 164 were initiated among Italians. 55 foreign assignees were involved in the opposition procedure by compatriots. In another 16 cases, foreign subjects activated opposition towards Italian subjects. In only 6 cases, foreign subjects faced each other as assignee/opponent.
Regarding the 13 reassignments: 4 have been filed between co-nationals; 5 were undertaken by Italian subjects against foreigners; 3 were promoted by foreigners towards Italian assignees; only one saw a foreign individual acting as an opponent/complainant against an Italian assignee/respondent.
In 2023 there was a total of 31 reassignments: 16 national subjects coincide both as respondent/assignee and as complainant/opponent; 8 reassignments occurred between domestic claimants versus foreign claimants; another 5 saw foreign subjects taking action against Italians; and in 2 procedures, both parties are foreign

Yearly trend of the Oppositions - Reassignements

In 2023 the oppositions amount to 241, but there is a decrease (-20) compared to 2022. There were 31 reassignments conducted at the PSRDs (Providers of the Service of Dispute Resolution), and here too there was a decrease in procedures (-10) compared to 2022.
This year, the reassignments have been: out of 31 reassignments, in 21 cases, the Board, recognising the rights of the opponent/complainant, ruled by accepting the appeal, thus establishing the transfer of the domain name; in 2 procedures the Board resolved to terminate the reassignment procedure; in a single procedure the Board decreed that the domain name remained assigned to the assignee/respondent. There are 7 procedures awaiting a ruling from the Board
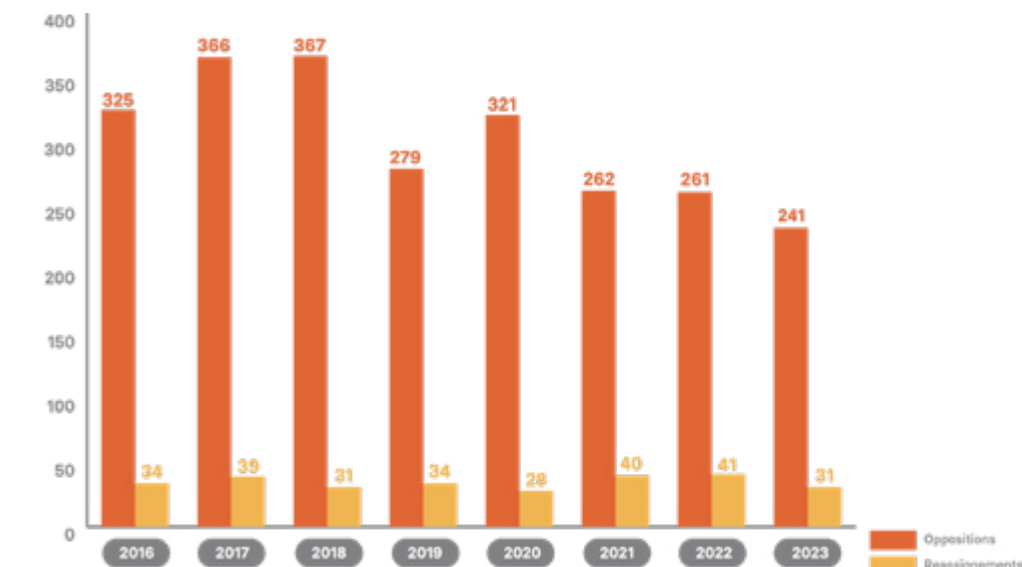
Authinfo requests

The authinfo is essential to perform all operations on a domain. In the last four months of 2023, as usual, all the authinfo codes (more specifically, 37 authinfo codes) issued by Registro .it concern domain names in the 'noRegistrar' status (it is the status of the domain when the Registrar no longer has an active contract with the Registro)

Verification of domains by Registro

In the last period of the year examined, 132 verifications were carried out, covering 163 domain names and leading to the revocation of 140 domain names. In total 389, out of 446 domains involved, were revoked in 2023
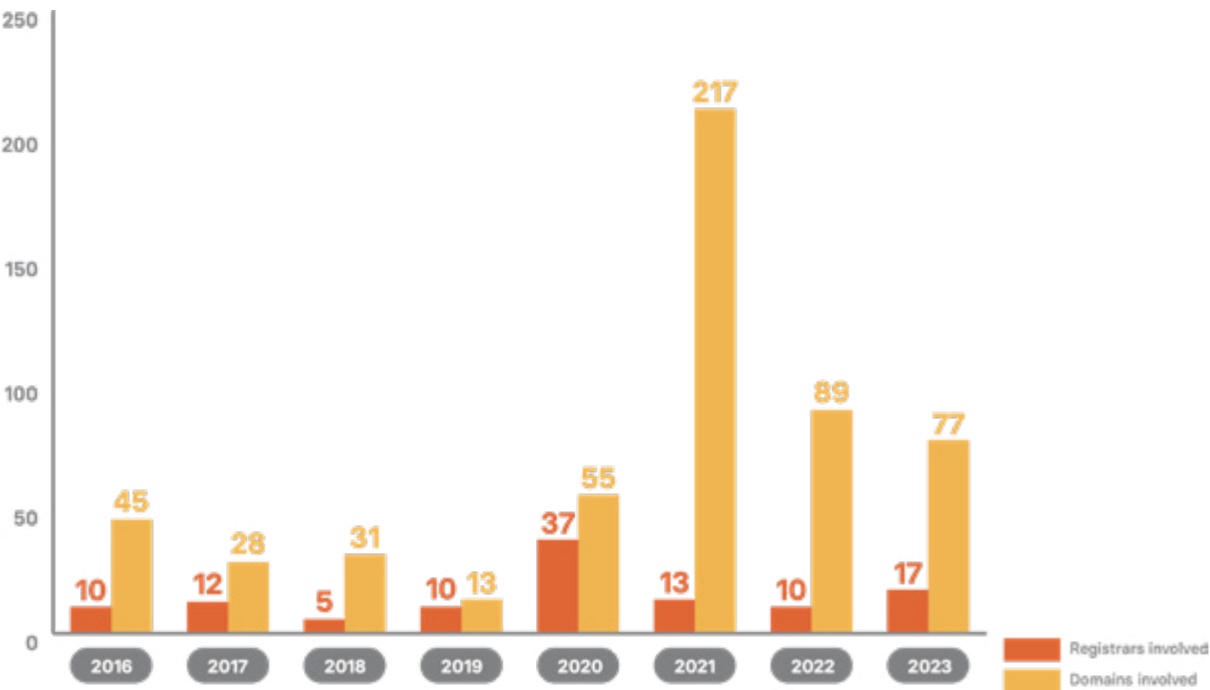
Requests from competent authorities

Request (17) dealing with the last four months of 2023 from the competent. authorities concerned 24 domain names: adding up the requests (43) received during the year, we deduce that a total of 50 domains are subjected to the authorities' attention
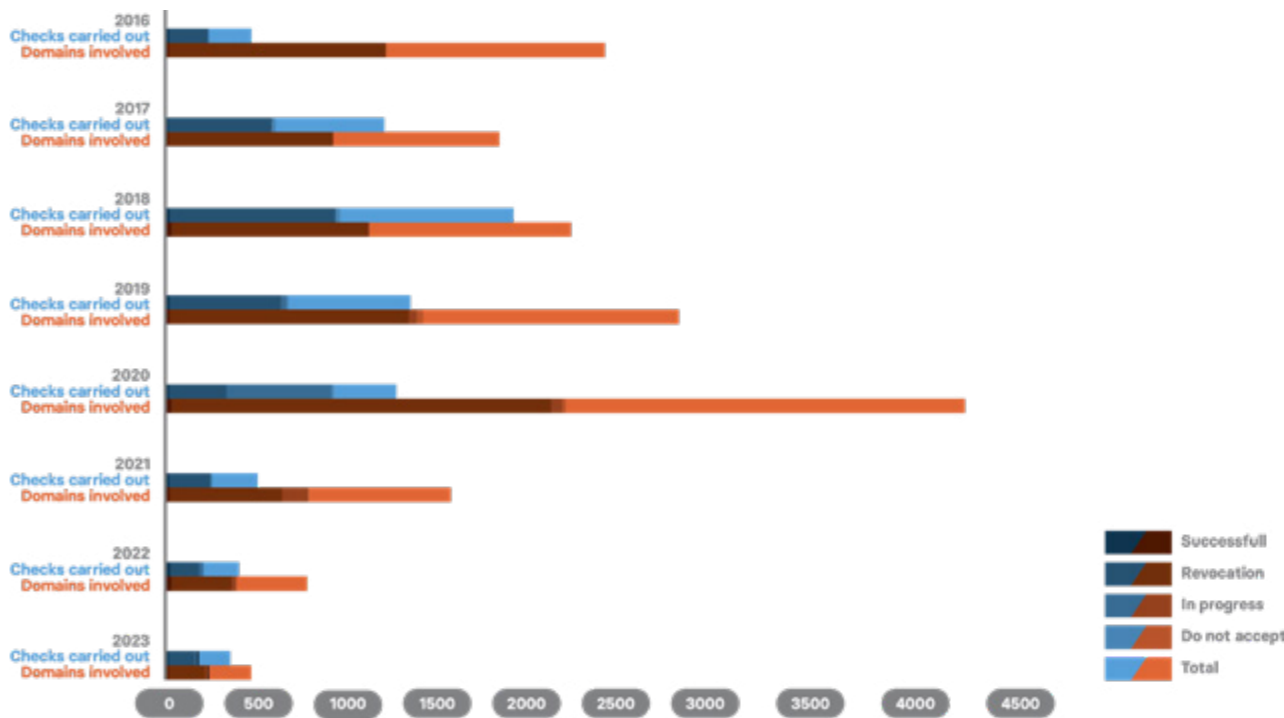
Reserved names

102 domain names of Italian municipalities were registered. Throughout the year, 171 geographical names linked to municipalities in Italy were registered, distributed as follows:
40 municipalities in Sardinia,
20 in Lazio,
17 in Trentino Alto Adige,
16 in the Abruzzo,
16 in Veneto,
10 in Lombardy,
10 in Sicily,
8 in Calabria,
7 in Campania,
6 in Liguria,
5 in the Marche,
4 in Piedmont and Tuscany,
3 in Emilia Romagna,
2 in Friuli Venezia Giulia,
2 in Apulia,
1 in Molise
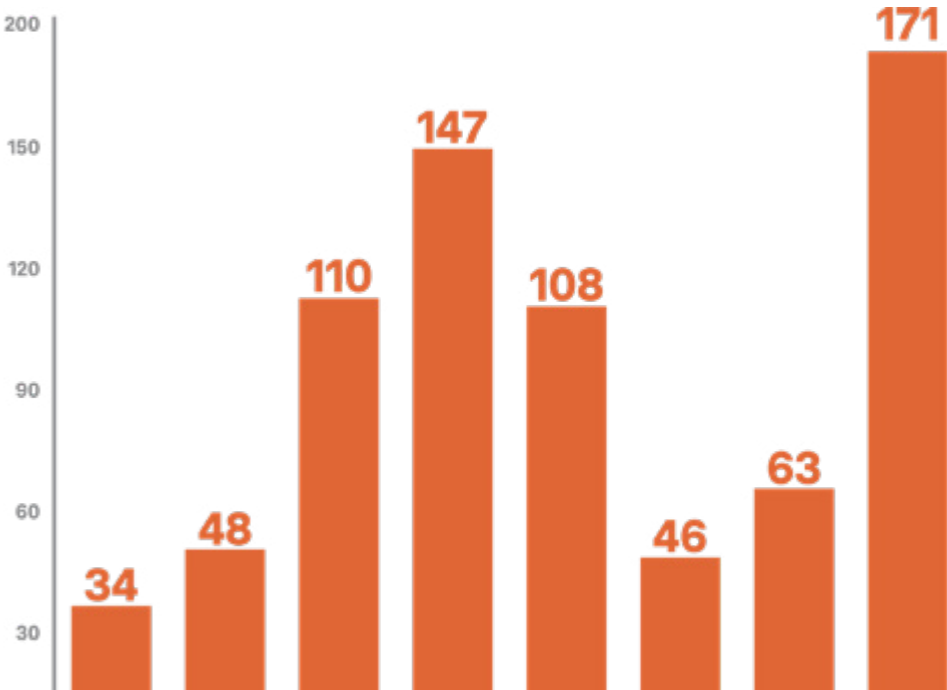
.it News

.it News

Discussion and innovation: the annual meeting between Registro and Registrars at the CNR of Pisa

by Stefania Fabbri

On the 24th of November, the usual annual meeting between the Registro and the Registrars was held in the Auditorium of the Research Area of the CNR in Pisa.

The day was characterised by the speeches by Marco Conti, Head of Registro .it and Director of the Institute of Informatics and Telematics of the Cnr of Pisa (Cnr-Iit), with the heads of the individual Units, who provided updates on new technologies, the activities carried out in 2023 and the prospects for 2024.

The meeting was attended by illustrious guests: Alessandro Paci of the Higher Institute of Communications and Information Technologies, who discussed the role of the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT) in the supervision of Registro; Alessio Cecchi, President of the Advisory Steering Committee of the Registro .it (Cir), illustrated the status of the Committee's work; Peter Van Roste, General Manager of the Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries (CENTR), offered an analysis of future trends in the domain name market.

Then, Prefect Milena Rizzi of the National Agency for Cybersecurity (ACN) underlined the synergy between the ACN and the Registro .it and highlighted the importance of cybersecurity.

In the afternoon, direct and in-depth discussions took place on topics of specific interest between the Registrars and the four Units of the Registro.

Valentina Amenta
Registro .it

Anna Vaccarelli
Registro .it

Maurizio Martinelli
Registro .it

Alessio Cecchi
Cir

**Marco Conti**
Registro .it

Peter Van Roste
Centr

Milena Rizzi
Acn

New authentication policies for Registro .it

by Lorenzo Luconi Trombacchi

**The Registro .it has recently made some changes to its systems in order to improve the security of access to applications reserved for Registrars.
The changes are already active in the test environment and soon they will go into production.**
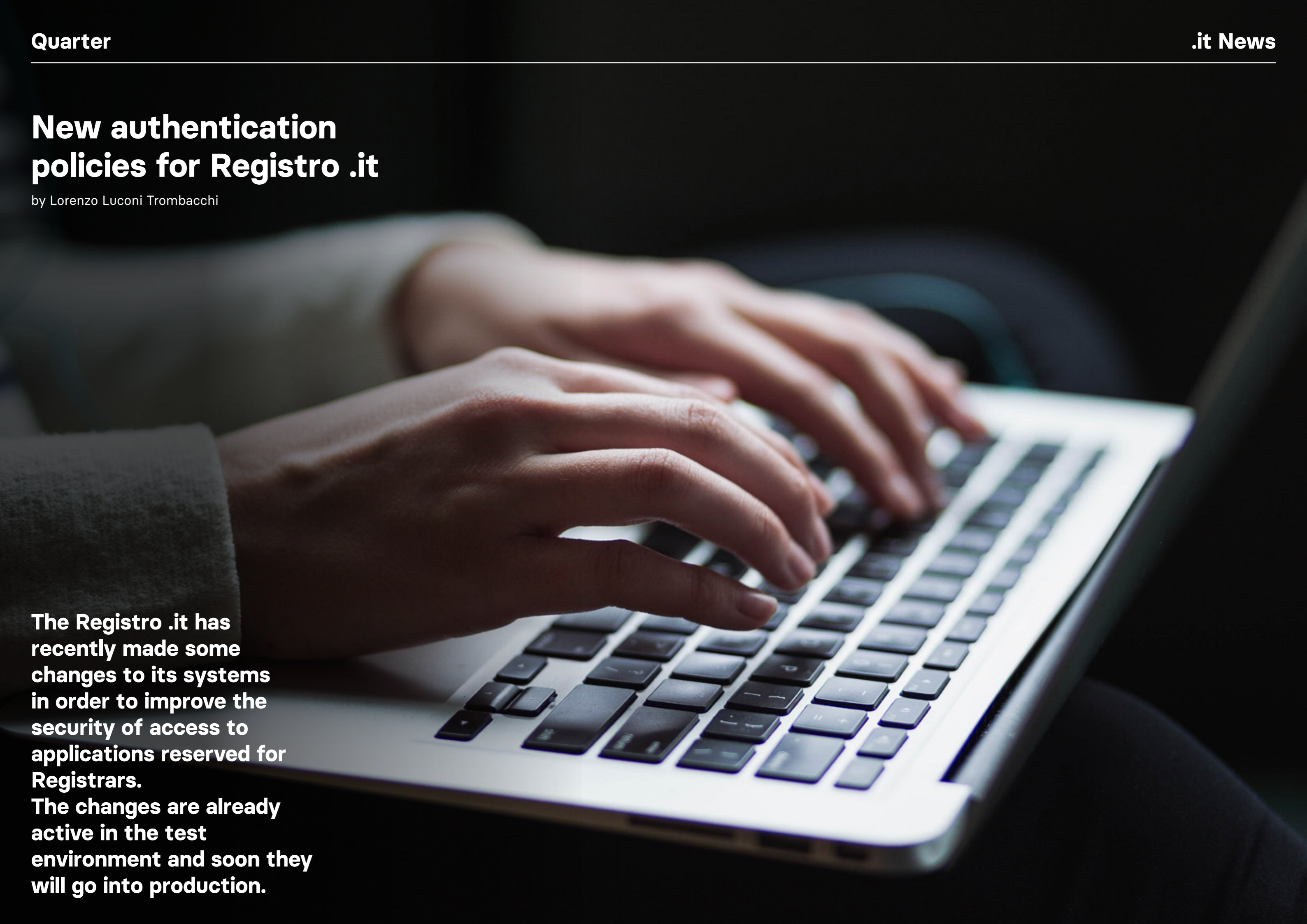
The first change concerns the use of the centralised authentication system based on the opensource Keycloak server (https://auth.nic.it) already active for some systems, such as the ARP portal, which is now also extended to the RAIN portal.

The most relevant changes made to RAIN for Registrars concern the login screen, which will be the one proposed by the centralised authentication system, and new functions, reachable through specific menu items, which will allow the modification of the password and/or profile data of the authenticated user.

Inserting RAIN among the applications that use the centralised authentication system allows the Registro .it to introduce some important innovations and changes in the credential validation phase. In fact, upon the first access, each user of the Registrar (including the main user of the "TAG-REG" Registrar) will be asked to enter or confirm their profile data: name, surname and e-mail address (Figure 1). Particular importance is covered by the e-mail address, which is used as a system for recovering the password if a user has lost it. Using a specific item on the authentication screen, it's possible to proceed with the password recovery, which consists of sending the user an e-mail containing a useful link for "resetting" the password.

The One-Time Password based mode involves the generation of a numerical code at regular intervals of time (Time-Based One-Time Password): typically, a new code is generated every minute. To use the OTP you can use both applications for your smartphone, for example Google Authenticator or FreeOTP, and, in some cases, also physical devices dedicated to generating codes. OTP is a rather widespread mechanism and does not require particular software requirements to be used.

Webauthn is a very recent authentication mechanism and is an open standard that allows the user's browser to exploit various authentication methods, such as the use of USB/NFC security tokens or biometric systems, which can be used both for two-factor authentication and for passwordless authentication (which however is not provided in the Registro .it applications). However, since Webauthn has been recently introduced, it can present very different user experiences that mainly depend on the browser or operating system used and, in some cases, it may not be compatible with older systems.

The Registro .it carried out numerous tests of Webauthn with different operating systems and with the main browsers, managing to configure both the use of USB Security Tokens and more recent systems such as Passkey (the latter consists of the use of public/private keys for user authentication). The tests confirmed that Webauthn is certainly the most modern and configurable authentication method, but not all browsers offer the same configuration possibilities.

Figure 1 - Updating user profile data
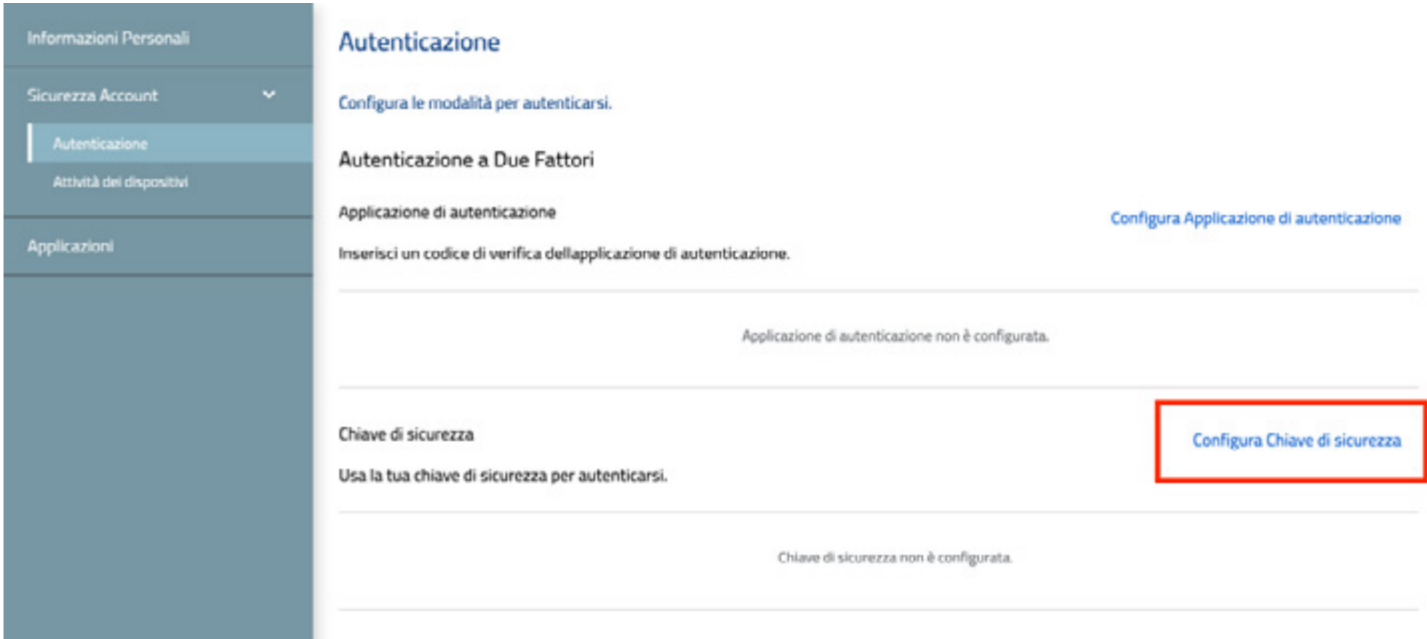
Figure 2 - Configuration of WebAuthn two factor authentication

The user's e-mail address therefore becomes an important piece of data and, in order to guarantee that it's correct and functional, every time the address is changed, a verification phase is envisaged which involves the sending of an email to the user.

Another new feature concerns the possibility of activating two-factor authentication for any Registrar user, i.e. the possibility of adding an additional level to a user account, in addition to the normal credentials consisting of "user" and "password", an additional safety level (Figure 2). There are currently two modes of two-factor authentication: one based on One-Time Password (OTP) and the other on Web Authentication API (Webauthn). Both modes can be configured by the user via the account management console offered by Keycloak, which can also be reached via the RAIN menu items, relating to changing the password or profile data.

It's important to highlight that the introduction of the two-factor authentication system will not, in any way, affect the EPP-based domain name registration system, even if it has been activated for the user used to access the EPP server.

On the RAIN portal in the "Communications and Documents/Documents" section, a guide is available which describes in detail all the changes introduced and the various steps to exploit and configure the different two-factor authentication mechanisms.

Carpe Digital: cybersecurity is the protagonist of the news season

by Giorgia Bassi and Stefania Fabbri

The first four episodes of the second season of "Carpe Digital" are now available online: produced by the Ludoteca of Registro .it, the series of short animated videos explores the theme of digital education. Each video, that lasts two minutes, represents a useful tool to understand and analyse the key concepts of IT, enriching our daily experience on Internet and the Web through greater awareness.

In the first series, the animations examined various technical aspects of the Internet, including domain names, TCP/IP, the differences between the Internet and the Web, the distinction between browsers and search engines, cookies and Big Data. The new season, characterized by a renewed animation style that favours "lettering" (the operation of choosing the characters with which to write the text that serves, for example, as a comment and integration to an image or a drawing) , to further establish the key concepts, is dedicated to cybersecurity issues and the measures to be taken to protect yourself from attacks and malicious programs.

It starts with "phishing", an attack mainly aimed at accessing the personal data of individuals and companies to commit scams. Subsequently, topics such as "ransomware", cyber scams with ransom demands, "data breaches" (violations with the aim of collecting personal data) and hate speech, known online as "Hate Speech", are addressed.

The last two episodes which will conclude the second series of "Carpe Digital", titled "Cyber-attacks" and "Troll, bot e fake news", are arriving.
All episodes are available on the YouTube channel and on the Ludoteca website.

2023: all the numbers of the Ludoteca of Registro .it

curated by Beatrice Lami

For the Ludoteca of Registro .it, 2023 was a year of intense activity both for the many frontal lessons, resumed at full capacity, after the forced stop of the (post) pandemic, the webinars, and the participation in various events on the topics of digital education.
The numbers of participation in lessons exceeded the 2022 data: over 1300 children and young people (in 2022 there were 1000) and over 100 teachers and parents.

13, 20, 27 January | 3, 10, 24 February
workshops for the "Digital Citizenship" project, organised for 4 classes of the "V. Morroni" Primary School of San Giuliano Terme (PI) - 80 participants

9 and 23 February
seminar for the "Cybersecurity for teens" project on IT security, held for a class of the "Silva-Ricci" High School of Legnago (VR) - 26 participants

10 February
as part of the "The keys to the city" project of the Municipality of Florence, seminar on Cybersecurity, held for various classes of the Meucci State Industrial Technical Institute of Florence - 74 participants

13 February
seminar dedicated to teachers of the Torre del Lago Comprehensive Institute (LU) entitled "Videogames: only risks or also opportunities?" - 15 participants

22, 23, 27 February | 3, 8, 9, 13, 17, 22, 23 March | 21 April | 5 May
workshops for the "Digital Citizenship" project, addressed to various classes of the "Sinopoli-Ferrini" Primary School in Rome - 139 participants

7 March
seminar entitled "Nabbovaldo e il ricatto dal cyberspazio", addressed to some classes of the Secondary School "Minerva Benedettini" of Livorno - 50 participants

9 March
seminar entitled "Good cybersecurity practices for a responsible use of the Internet", addressed to the teachers of the Fibonacci Comprehensive Institute of Pisa - 20 participants

10 March
seminar entitled "Ludoteca of Registro.it: cybersecurity laboratories for first and second grade secondary schools" and seminar entitled "Ludoteca of Registro.it: digital education and cybersecurity for primary schools", held respectively during the Didacta event 2023 and addressed to teachers - 45 participants

16 March
seminar entitled "How can we defend ourselves from cyber threats?
Good cybersecurity practices for a responsible use of the Internet", addressed to parents of students of the Fibonacci Comprehensive Institute of Pisa - 18 participants

30 March
seminar entitled "Domain names on the internet: curiosities of .it", addressed to students of two classes of the "G.M. Colobini" High School of Piacenza - 52 participants

4 April
webinar entitled "Cybersecurity for teens", held for two classes of the Istituto Istruzione Superiore Silva Ricci High School of Legnago (VR) - 48 participants

4, 5 April
webinar entitled "Cybersecurity for teens", held for two classes of the "28 Nentori" High School in Scutari (Albania) and the "Ismail Qumali" High School in Tiana (Albania) - 30 participants

21 April
for the occasion of the "Earth Day" held in Rome, presentation of the activities of the Ludoteca of Registro .it - 20 participants

28 April
seminar entitled "Nabbovaldo e il ricatto dal cyberspazio", held for two classes of the Primary School "P. Tabarrani" of Camaiore (LU) - 33 participants

16 May
seminar entitled "Nabbovaldo e il ricatto dal cyberspazio" held for two classes of the first grade Secondary School XV Polo Comprensivo "P. Orsi" of Syracuse - 18 participants

29 September
"The new Internetopoli web-app" workshop, organised in Pisa for children and young people within the event "Bright 2023 - Notte europea delle ricercatrici e dei ricercatori in Toscana", which is held every year on the last Friday of September - 15 participants

5, 6 October
within the Internet Festival event, workshop "Scoprire Internet e la cybersecurity giocando", held for four primary school classes - 84 participants; "Impariamo a difendere il cyberspazio con Nabbovaldo" workshop, held for four primary and first grade secondary school classes 72 participants

19, 20 October
"Rome Maker Faire", seminar/laboratory "Giochiamo con Internetopoli", dedicated to teachers, children and school children visiting the fair - 50 participants

27 October
"Cittadinanza digitale" project, workshops organised for various classes of the Primary School "D. R. Chiodi" Rome - 118 participants

30 October
Science Festival, Genoa, "Internetopoli" seminar, dedicated to teachers 25 participants

3 November
Lucca Comics, Lucca, "Giochiamo a Internetopoli" seminar, dedicated to primary school children and teachers - 30 participants

6, 13 and 20 November
workshop entitled "Internetopoli: the new web-app", organised for some classes of the Iqbal Masih Comprehensive Institute, Bientina complex (PI) - 33 participants

7, 13 and 21 November
workshop entitled "Internetopoli: the new web-app", organised for some classes of the "Iqbal Masih" Comprehensive Institute, Buti complex (PI) - 64 participants

8 November
training meeting on IT security, held at the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT) for three classes of a first grade secondary school in Rome - 57 participants

14 November
training seminar on peer-education, as part of activities to prevent (cyber)bullying and to spread good practices in the relationship between peers of the students of the "G." High School. Carducci" of Pisa – 10 participants

20 November
seminar entitled "Difendiamo insieme a Nabbovaldo il cyberspazio", held for a class of the Primary School "G. Pascoli" of Cascina (PI) - 10 participants

20 e 28 November
seminar entitled "Difendiamo insieme a Nabbovaldo il cyberspazio", held for some classes of the "R. Fucini" of Cascina (PI) - 38 participants

27 November | 6, 13 and 18 December
seminar entitled "Difendiamo insieme a Nabbovaldo il cyberspazio", held for the classes of the "San Giovanni Bosco" Comprehensive Institute of Campo Galliano (MO) - 118 participants

14, 15 December
seminar entitled "Difendiamo insieme a Nabbovaldo il cyberspazio", held for the classes of the Comprehensive Institute "D. Settesoldi" in Vecchiano (PI) - 42 participants

Ludoteca:
the initiatives that educate for the digital world (and cybersecurity)

by Giorgia Bassi

An autumn full of events and activities for the Ludoteca of Registro .it. Among the leading topics addressed, cybersecurity is always present, of fundamental importance to educate more aware users of the Net and make them able to defend themselves from potential threats.

Participation in the conference "HELMeTO, International Conference on Higher Education Learning Methodologies and Technologies Online" (Foggia, September 13-15) was an opportunity to present the paper "CS4T (Cybersecurity for Teens)", dedicated to the PCTO project (Percorsi per le competenze trasversali e l'orientamento, Pathways for Soft Skills and Orientation, formerly school-to-work alternation), created in 2021 with the aim of offering high school students a theoretical and practical course on cybersecurity, thanks in part to the collaboration of researchers from the CNR Institute for Informatics and Telematics in Pisa (CNR-IIT).

There was no shortage of educational initiatives for middle schools, for which it is essential to use educational methods and tools that encourage the engagement of children, such as the video game "Nabbovaldo e il ricatto dal cyberspazio" (Nabbovaldo and the blackmail from cyberspace), a fun adventure with which young Internet users are able to learn leading knowledge and skills for cybersecurity.
The video game workshops by Ludoteca were also held during the session for schools at the national EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) conference "Spegni il buio. Strumenti, strategie e soluzioni per il benessere in Rete" (Turn off the Darkness. Tools, Strategies and Solutions for Well-Being on the Web) (Pisa, November 30), devoted mainly to the phenomenon of cyberbullying.

The collaboration between Ludoteca and EMDR, an association of psychotherapists experts on trauma resulting from the effects of distorted use of the Web, underscores how important it is to do prevention, but also to take action promptly with appropriate psychological tools where risky behaviours are already widespread. In the afternoon session of the conference, dedicated to tools and strategies for the promotion of a conscious use of the Net, Anna Vaccarelli introduced the poster "A scuola di cybersecurity" (A cybersecurity lesson) created and promoted by Ludoteca. The video game Nabbovaldo was, moreover, among the protagonists of the ICEC conference (International Conference on Entertainment Computing), curated by the University of Bologna (November 15-17), where it was included in the demo session "Interactive Entertainment", along with other applications and educational video games created by entities and organisations from all over the world.

In addition to this, in early November cybersecurity workshops for middle schools were also held at the headquarters of the MIMIT (Ministero delle Imprese e del Made in Italy, Ministry of Business and Made in Italy), in Rome, included within the programme of an educational visit of a class, and at the headquarters of the CIF (Centro italiano provinciale femminile, Italian Provincial Women's Centre) association in Pisa. Among the novelties of the 2023/24 school year, worth mentioning is the launch of the new release of the Web app Internetopoli, dedicated to the themes of the Net (domain names, history and organisation, AI, IoT, cybersecurity) and structured into paths of "gamification", centred on the world of Nabbovaldo, the protagonist of the video game.
Two other occasions, such as the Maker Faire Rome fair (Rome, October 20-22, dedicated to the world of innovation in education as well) and the Festival of Science (Genoa, October 26-November. 5, an important showcase for popularisation projects), were important to present the new release of the app to teachers and educators.
In the Ludoteca's popularisation journey with Internetopoli, yet another stop was Lucca, the symbolic city of comics: thanks to the collaboration with the CNR Comics&Science group, Internetopoli was presented at the Comics&Science Palace (Lucca, November. 3), an area dedicated to meetings, panels and performances.
Finally, thanks to its participation in the "Women and Science" conference (Bologna, November 16), Ludoteca was able to present data from the "Gender&Stem" survey, carried out in collaboration with the University of Florence (Department of Education, Languages, Interculture, Literature and Psychology). The study, conducted on a sample of high school boys and girls between the ages of 14-10, showed how gender stereotypes related to educational and vocational choices are still rooted, especially with respect to STEM disciplines.

From the World

The Cyber Resilience Act: new rules for digital products

by Valentina Amenta, Rosaria Deluca, Sonia sbrana, Luca Albertario, Daniele Pancrazi

The agreement on the protection of geographical indications for food products kicks off

by Gino Silvatici

EU: provisional agreement on the European Unique Identifier (EUID) regulation

by Gino Silvatici

Artificial Intelligence at the Service of Domain Name Registries

by Arianna Del Soldato and Adriana Lazzaroni

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20

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The Cyber Resilience Act: new rules for digital products

by Valentina Amenta, Rosaria Deluca, Sonia Sbrana, Luca Albertario, Daniele Pancrazi

On 30 November 2023, the European Parliament and the European Council reached a provisional agreement called "Cyber Resilience Act", on the legislative proposal that provides for a set of cybersecurity requirements for digital products before they are placed on the market.

The regulation is valid for all EU member states, and aims to ensure the security of smart devices, at all stages of the production cycle, and to fill the gaps in fragmented and diverse legislation that would risk undermining European competitiveness within the global economic system.

One only has to think of the features of smart devices, such as smartphones, refrigerators, smartwatches, alarm systems, locks, toys, to understand how the Internet of Things has become a socio-cultural paradigm of our daily life through everyday objects in recent years.

In this new, largely technological scenario, in line with the new NIS 2 (Network and Information Systems) Directive on cybersecurity, and the GDPR (General data protection regulation), the "Cyber Resilience Act" will make it easier for consumers to select products to which appropriate security measures (hardware and software) have been applied, and on which the "CE" marking will have to appear to indicate compliance with the requirements set out in the regulation. This will enable them to be sold throughout the EU.

The package of rules mainly concerns: the obligation to carry out risk assessments; the issuing of declarations of conformity; collaboration with the competent authorities; transparency on product security; the definition of vulnerability management processes; and the management of IT incidents.

In addition to these obligations, there will be awareness-raising campaigns and training activities of those involved in the production cycle from manufacturers to exporters, including traders. Moreover, market surveillance mechanisms for rule enforcement will be introduced with the involvement of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA). In addition, time frames will be set for resolving vulnerabilities in products placed on the market, and making their resolution public.

The "Cyber Resilience Act" will come into force at the beginning of 2024, although it will not be operational for three years at the earliest, in order to allow companies to adapt to it, both technically and organisationally, as well as in terms of training and awareness-raising activities (mentioned above).

Certainly, there will be targeted interventions to support companies, in order to ensure their competitiveness in the national and international market, but what is certain, as of now, is the decisive role that this regulation will play in the digital transformation of society.

The agreement on the protection of geographical indications for food products kicks off

by Gino Silvatici

At the 27 November meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA), member state delegations in the Council of the EU endorsed the provisional agreement on the proposal regulating the protection of geographical indications (GIs) for wine, spirits in general, and agricultural products.

According to the text made available before the SCA meeting, the protection of GIs applies to all domains accessible in the EU, regardless of the location of the relevant registers. In particular, the latter must recognise Geographical Indications within dispute resolution systems.

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) is in charge of establishing and managing a domain name information and alert system based on voluntary agreements with the EU ccTLDs.

Registries will be required to remove or disable access to domain names registered in violation of GI protection, taking into account the principle of proportionality and the rights of interested parties.

Within 18 months from the date of entry into force of the regulation, the Commission will conduct an assessment of the need and feasibility of the information and alert system, taking into account the functioning of the voluntary provision of data to the EUIPO by the EU ccTLD registries.

EU: provisional agreement on the European Unique Identifier (EUID) regulation

by Gino Silvatici

EUID is the European Unique Identifier, provided for in Directive 2012/17/EU and the Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development, which aims to facilitate the launch of a European system of interconnection between business registries. Since 8 June, 2017, the EUID code has been included in a company's Chamber of Commerce registration report, and is used to uniquely identify corporations with registered offices abroad, secondary offices in Italy, or cross-border mergers.

A provisional agreement was reached on November 8, 2023, on the regulation of European digital identity: the EUID aims to ensure universal access for individuals and businesses to secure and reliable electronic identification and authentication.

Member states will offer citizens and businesses voluntary digital wallets that will be able to link their national digital identities with other documents and personal information such as - for example - a driver's license, educational qualifications or bank accounts.

The wallet will be free for individuals, but free use for non-professional purposes may be limited by member states.

The provisional agreement on the matter was approved on 7 December by the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), but the Council of the EU has not yet given its final approval to turn it into law.

di Gino Silvatici

# Artificial Intelligence at the Service of Domain Name Registries

by Arianna Del Soldato and Adriana Lazzaroni

Artificial intelligence (AI) also finds its place within the domain name ecosystem: it provides some tools, relatively new, to which some Registries (including .it, EURid, SIDN, .be) have approached. In fact, IA now allows Registries to address and solve certain problems in a different way than in the past, when it was a subject for a few experts and there was no availability of Open Source libraries.
The most common use of AI is in the implementation of systems that are able to identify domain names requested with malicious intent. These systems, which have been among the most discussed topics at ICANN for the past two years, are designed to calculate a risk factor centred on the domain name itself, which is based on suspicious keywords (such as "bank", "verification" or a registered trademark) contained in the name or on the data provided at the time of registration (if false or incorrect).

AI is also used to build automatic classifiers of web pages that, by providing the probability of belonging to a certain pre-established category, are used in fact-finding domains to understand the market sectors in which a TLD (e.g. .uk, .de, .com, .net, etc.) is most used.
Finally, Deep Learning models of the LLM (Large Language Model) type, or generative and pre-trained Machine Learning systems, have been used by Registries to support the WHOIS service to suggest alternative names to the one they wish to register in the event that it is not available.
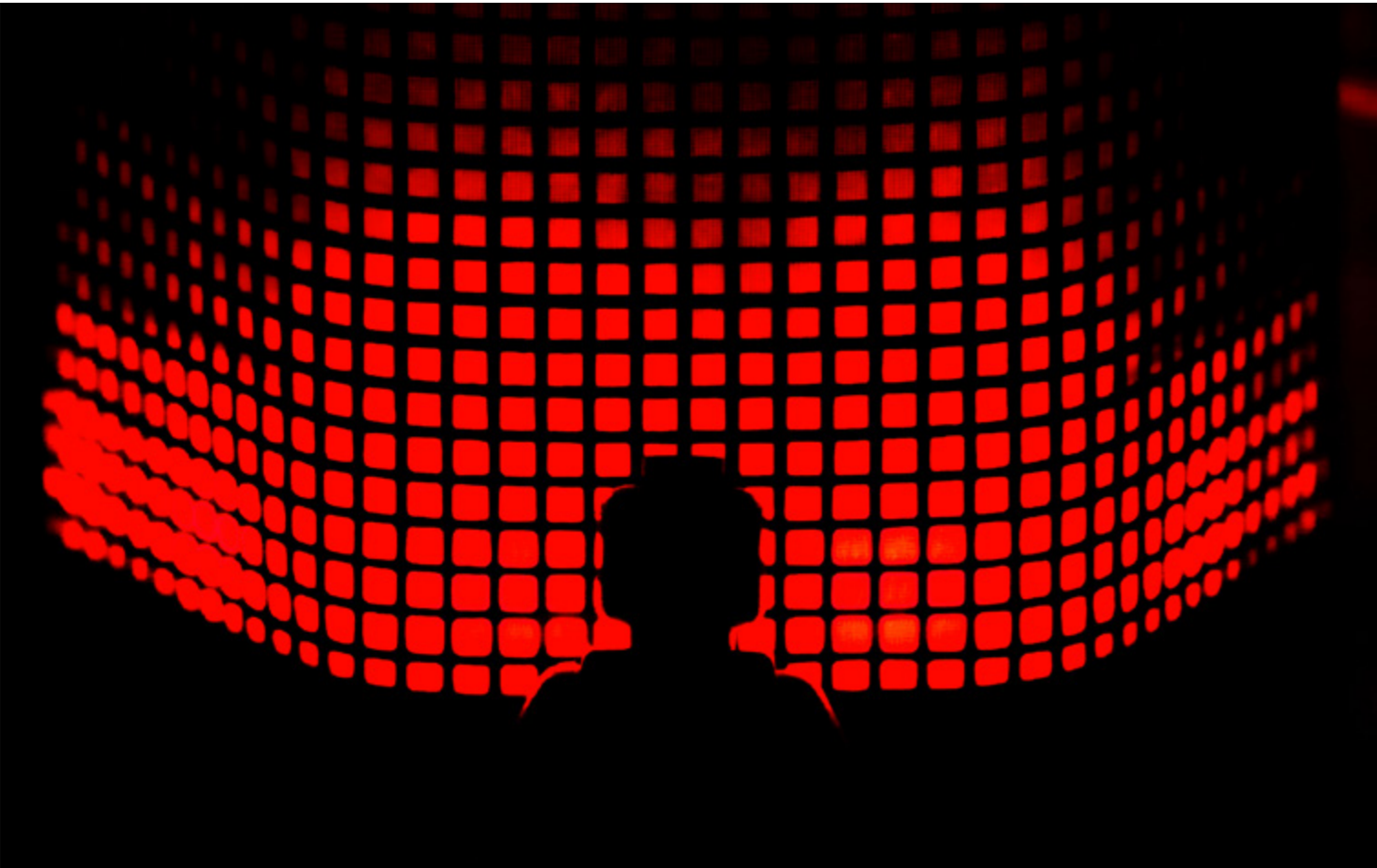
World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20

by Arianna Del Soldato and Adriana Lazzaroni

At its recent meeting in Hamburg, ICANN's ccNSO devoted ample space to Internet governance and the 20-year review of the 2005 Tunis World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).
The Tunis Agenda of that year had represented an important milestone in Internet governance, in which governments formally recognised the role played by all stakeholders in the development of the Net (international organisations, civil society, businesses and the scientific community), acknowledging an egalitarian and multi-stakeholder model of governance, and establishing the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), whose current mandate expires in 2025.

The WSIS+20 review - an event to be held in Switzerland (Geneva) from 27 to 31 May 2024 - will be an opportunity for governments to reflect on the past 20 years of network evolution and decide whether to reconfirm the Tunis Agenda or negotiate a new agreement.

The ccNSO IGLC Working Group on Internet Governance has prepared FAQs on WSIS+20 for ccTLDs to offer comprehensive guidance to help geographic registries understand the importance of the 2025 review of the World Summit on Information Society mandate.
In terms of opportunities, the conversations ahead of WSIS+20 will offer ccTLD managers the chance to have a significant impact on the future of global Internet governance, strengthening their role in this context. The strengthening of relations between the ccTLDs may in turn foster forms of collaboration and knowledge-sharing on issues beyond WSIS+20. In this context, an invitation has been made to all ccTLD registries to collaborate with their respective government representatives at WSIS+20 (e.g. through national or regional IGFs), and with those sitting on the ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC).

Events

International appointments from the digital world

IETF

16-22 March 2024
IETF 119 - Brisbane (Australia)

RIPE

20 February 2024   *(on invitation)*
Roundtable Meeting for Governments
and Regulators (Europe) Brussels (Belgium)

20-24 May 2024
RIPE 88, Cracovia (Poland)

ICANN

2-7 March 2024
ICANN79, San Juan (Puerto Rico)

CENTR (only for members)

6 February 2024
Access&Cybersecurity:
Streamlining end-users experience in
accessing safe and secure European
domain space - Brussels (Belgium)

7-8 February 2024
70th CENTR Legal & Regulatory workshop
Brussels (Belgium)

14 February 2024
24th CENTR R&D workshop - online

27 February 2024
50th CENTR Tech workshop - online

7-8 March 2024
58th CENTR Admin & Marketing workshop
Leuven (Belgium)

28 March 2024
71st CENTR GA
2024 CENTR Annual General Meeting
online

29-31 maggio 2024
CENTR Jamboree 2024
Copenaghen (Denmark)

Other events

8-9 February 2024
OARC 42
Charlotte (USA)

22-23 February 2024
Domain pulse 2024
Vienna (Austria)

18-21 March 2024
Cloudfest, Europa-Park
Rust (Germany)

Quarter

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