

Dynamic Coalition on Data and Trust

Annual Report, 2021

Background info about the DCDT

The Dynamic Coalition on Data and Trust was established in 2020 by EURid and Oxford Information Labs. Typically, issues relating to content and infrastructure are examined in policy silos. This Dynamic Coalition fills a governance gap, by encouraging an inclusive policy dialogue among all stakeholders who are interested in exploring issues of data and trust in the online environment, and the extent to which actors in one segment of the ecosystem can take effective actions to curb abuse in other segments.

The scope of the Dynamic Coalition on Data and Trust is kept deliberately broad, so that over time it can accommodate a wide range of discussions relating to data and trust in response to emerging issues. The aim of the DCDT is to deepen understanding of the issues, build consensus, identify good practices and other actions to improve quality of data and information, as well as raise levels of public trust in industry self-regulation.

Activities conducted during 2021

The DCDT had its first full year of operation during 2021. Activities were taken forward at the IGF and in activities beyond the IGF.

Activities within the IGF

The DCDT held a session at the annual IGF, a virtual meeting in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The session was entitled “**Enhancing community cooperation to ensure effective data management and accuracy**”. The session was focused on data management, data accuracy, and the upcoming NIS 2 directive from different perspectives. An interactive session involving more than 50 participants explored the roles and responsibilities of actors within the DNS environment and related industries for data quality and enhancing trust, in light of the EU proposals to update the NIS 2 Directive. The session drew one of the highest attendance levels of DC events at the 2021 IGF.

The session was led by speakers from the European Commission, CENTR, EURid, Verisign, and the child protection hotline EOIK.

Activities beyond the IGF

Inclusive planning

The year began with the creation of an action plan for 2021 (https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/11206/2476), developed in consultation on the DCDT mailing list. Members were invited to share their views and preferences and highlighted three areas for further work:

1. In light of the EU proposals to update the NIS directive, which actors within the DNS ecosystem bear responsibility for data management and data accuracy?
2. Preliminary discussions around the potential to create shared, transparent processes for mitigating threats to online trust arising from domain names involved in disinformation or criminal activity.
3. Consultations with registrars to gather industry perspectives on improving user trust during crisis situations (such as during the pandemic).

In preparation for the IGF main session, a planning call took place in September to discuss the agenda. The call was followed by discussion on the mailing list and refinement of the topics.

Intersessional activities

The DCDT was presented at the CENTR General Assembly in March 2021, through the mechanism of a virtual booth to raise awareness of the DCDT and its work.

The DCDT organized a panel event entitled 'DNS Abuse Mitigation in Practice' at EuroDIG 2021, and hosted it in a hybrid format from Trieste on 28 June 2021. The panel included perspectives from the European Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), EUROPOL, the Internet and Jurisdiction project presented its DNS Abuse Toolkit, EURid's Youth Committee and two domain name registrars. All speakers made insightful contributions from a variety of perspectives and the conversations were enriched by several audience polls and questions.

Any outputs produced and/or research/studies conducted.

EURid has actively promoted the DCDT during 2021. Its press release relating to the 2020 inaugural meeting was the most viewed PR EURid had in 2020 with nearly 12 000 views.

Updates on internal processes (e.g. DC meetings held during the year, new coordinators/members, updates to website/ mailing list)

The DCDT activity continues to be sole funded by EURid and organised in partnership with Oxford Information Labs.

The DCDT has attracted a wide range of stakeholders. The following who indicated their support when the DCDT was founded:

Public sector

- o European Commission
- o EUROPOL

Private sector

- o Member(s) of INTA, the International Trade Mark Association (Charles Shaban AGIP and Lori Schulman INTA)

Civil society

- o The Computational Propaganda Unit at the University of Oxford Internet Institute
- o EU DisinfoLab

Technical community

- o EURid, the registry manager of the of the .eu, .eu (Cyrillic script) and .eu (Greek script) country code top-level domain names
- o AfTLD, the regional organisation for African Top Level Domain registries
- o CENTR, the regional organisation for European Top Level Domain registries
- o Donuts Inc
- o Jeff Bedser, CEO and President iThreat, Chair of ICANN SSAC working party on DNS Abuse
- o David Cake, ICANN Community

The DCDT mailing list now has 39 members

Priorities/objectives for the following year

Objectives for the year are to continue inclusive discussions on issues relating to data and trust. We will shortly be consulting with the members of the DCDT for their input on a proposed 2022 action plan.

We are continuing to explore ways of raising the profile of the DCDT and to engage with a wide range of stakeholders. We are considering the building of a dedicated website devoted to the DCDT during 2022.