REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Unofficial Translation

PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF NAMES IN THE .БГ INTERNET DOMAIN ZONE (IDN ccTLD .бг)

Coordinated by:

Valery Borisov
Deputy Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications

Hristo Hristov
Head of Information Technology Directorate

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**Principles and Requirements for the Registration of Names in the .бг Internet Domain Zone
(IDN ccTLD .бг)**

1. Background

These Principles and Pequirements have been developed by a working group established by Order of the Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications where representatives of stakeholder groups take part – government authorities, the Internet Community, academia etc. The document is being developed in relation with the approved by **ICANN**[1] top level domain in Cyrilic „**.бг**" and the need of implementing the next steps to select a Registry in accordance with the delegation procedure of **IANA.**[2]

The Principles and Requirements are consistent with the documents of ICANN and IANA that have been in force at the moment of their development (www.icann.org), (www.iana.org).

The Principles and Requirements for the Registration of Names in the „**.бг**" Internet Domain Zone (IDN ccTLD **.бг**) „Principles and Requirements" developed by the working group have been discussed and adopted by a Public Expert Council to the Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, established by Order where all stakeholders are presented.

The overal domain registration process in the „**.бг**" **zone** (**.бг**- IDN ccTLD top level domain) is being implemented by the following participants: Registry, Registrars, Applicants and Registrants as the Bulgarian legislation is applied. It includes the following definitions:

1.1. **Domain Name** – it consists of a Domain Name and the .бг string (Example: **президент.бг**) and it constitutes an alphabetic or alphanumeric designation of an electronic address that ensures the identification of a resource, computer or a group of computers in an Internet network by means of a standardized data transfer Internet protocol;

1.2. **Registry (IDN ccTLD administrator, manager)** represents the organization to which IANA has delegated the functions on the management of IDN ccTLD .бг;

1.3. **Registrar** is a person that receives and processes registration requests, as well as changes in the domain registration of Registrants. The Registrar provides data from all applications for registration and change in the Registry for their implementation;

1.4. **Applicant** constitutes a person that has filed an application for domain registration or an application related to the change of registration circumstances and domain support;

1.5. **Registrant** represents a person in whose name the domain has been registered.

2. Principles

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[1] **ICANN -** Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
[2] **IANA** - Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

Registration and support of Domain Names in the „.бг" Internet zone is being performed by the Registry in accordance with the following principles:

2.1. stability and security in operating the Registry of Names;

2.2. equality of Applicants;

2.3. equality of Registrants;

2.4. competitive environment for Registrars and services provided by them;

2.5. transparent and predictable procedure to apply for and register Domains (also based on the principle "first come first served);

2.6. ensuring cooperation against illegal, speculative and unfair registration and use of Domains;

2.7. fair, transparent, fast, and efficient procedure to resolve disputes over Names from the „.бг" domain by an arbitration authority that is independent from the Registry;

2.8. providing a reasonable and appropriate degree of security to the process.

3. Requirements for the Registry, Registrars and Registrants

3.1. Requirements for the Registry

The Registry is a Bulgarian legal entity or association of entities with a registered address and head office in the Republic of Bulgaria that has obtained support by the Government and the Bulgarian Internet Community and that is obliged to meet the current general Principles and Requirements.

Activity of the Registry is controlled by a structure that ensures stakeholders' participation in formulating and developing the registration policy of Names/Domains and control over its implementation by the Registry and Registrars.

The Registry sets equal prices for all Registrars that have been estimated in terms of a cost-oriented principle and published on the official website of the Registry.

3.2. Requirements for the Registrar

Registrar can be any person or association of persons that is able to comply with the current principles, requirements and rules regarding the procedure for submitting and considering registration requests, renewing, transfering and terminating the registration of Names in the „.бг." Domain Zone. Relations between the Registry and each Registrar shall be settled by contract.

The Registry receives and publishes on his official website equal accreditation requirements for all Registrars. The list of accredited Registrars shall also be published on the official website of the Registry.

Domain registration fees payable by Registrants shall be determined according to a cost-oriented principle.

3.3. Requirements for Registrants

Registrants of Names in the „.бг" Internet Domain Zpace can be:
– any individual or legal entity in the Republic of Bulgaria or an EU member-state;
– entities established under the force of contracts and programs between Bulgaria and other countries;
– any other individual or legal entity – through an authorized representative in the Republic of Bulgaria or an EU member-state.

4. Procedure for the Registration of Names in the „.бг" Domain Zone

Based on and in accordance with the implementation of these Principles and Requirements, the Registry adopts and publishes Rules regarding the procedure for submitting and considering registration requests, renewing, transferring and terminating the registration of Names in the „.бг." Zone. These rules are binding on all Registrars and Registrants.

The Registry provides accreditation to Registrars. The list of accredited Registrars is published on the official website of the Registry.

A registration request is submitted to a selected by the Applicant Registrar according to rules set out by the Registrar that are common for all Registrars.

For the registration of any Domain a contract shall be concluded between the Registrar and the Registrant.

Domain registration gives the Registrant a limited, transferable and renewable exclusive right to use the Domain for the period of its registration, unless otherwise provided in these Principles and Requirements and the internal rules of the Registry.

5. Mandatory Contract Components for Domain Registration

Among other content, the contract for Domain Registration includes the following:

5.1. Declaration signed by the Registrant stating that identifying data submitted by him is accurate, complete and up-to-date and the Registrant is obliged to support it as such, as well as to keep a functioning e-mail address;

5.2. Declaration signed by the Registrant stating that the Name registration and its use do not violate rights of third parties;

5.3. The Registrant accepts the Personal Data Protection Policy of the Regystry;

5.4. It is an obligation of the Registrant to use the Name in a way that does not infringe the rules of third parties and applicable law and not to use the Name dishonestly or for illegal purposes;

5.5. Irrevocable consent of the Registrant to participate in arbitration procedures under Articl 8 of these Principles and Requirements for resolution of disputes with third parties regarding the Name registered by him, as well as to be bound by the rulings of such arbitration decisions;

5.6. A clause that obliges the parties under the contract to respect the Rules on the procedure for submitting and considering registration requests, renewing, transferring and terminating the registration of Names in the „.бг". zone.

6. Personal Data Protection. WHOIS[3] Database.

6.1. The Registry and Registrars have to be registered as administrators of personal data prior to launching their activity under the Personal Data Protection Act and they shall arrancge their business in accordance with that law.

6.2. The Registry accepts the Personal Data Privacy Policy of Requestors and Registrants of Names and publishes it on the official website.

6.3. The person requestor files a request in paper or electronically to a Registrar selected by him, published on the official website of the Registry.

6.4. When submitting the application the Requestor uses an electronic template that contains mandatory fields with the following information:
- full name or designation of the Requestor;
- PIN or analogical personal number of the individual, UIC or similar registration number of the legal entity (if any);
- legal representative (where applicable);
- authorized persons;
- administrative contact persons;
- technical contact persons;
- postal address;
- personal e-mail address;
- mobile telephone number;
- at least one primary and one secondary Name server.

6.5. By signing the Names Registration Contract, the Registrant gives consent for his personal data to be disclosed as described in the Personal Data Privacy Policy of the Registry, as well as within the Procedures for the Resolution of Disputes.

6.6. The Registry by means of the WHOIS service offers a free online access to third parties to the following data:

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[3] **WHOIS** – Internet protocol that is used for databases in order to obtain information regarding the registration of a Domain Name (or an IP address). The WHOIS service provides free public access to data regarding registered domains i.e."WHOIS data" that include elements such as dates of registration and expiry of the domain, Name servers, contact information of the Registrant and specified administrative and technical contacts.

6.6.1. Information about Registrants:

− For individuals – personal and family name, postal address for correspondence, telephone number, e-mail address;
− for legal entities - name, UIC or similar number, registered postal address, telephone number, e-mail address.

6.6.2. Information about Domains:

− administrative and technical contact persons (contact address, telephone number, e-mail address);
− domain status, including the DNSSEC status;
− Name Servers

7. Technical Requirements for Names

7.1. The name can only contain letters of the Bulgarian alphabet, numbers from 0 to 9, and/or a hyphen (the minus sign „-");

7.2. The name must consist of at least three characters. After applying the IDNA protocol to convert the Name, the number of characters in the resulting string must be a maximum of 63;

7.3. The first and the last symbol shall be a letter or a number;

7.4. If the first two characters of the Name are numbers, the following two characters cannot be simultaneously signs, such as hyphen (minus „-").

8. Resolving Disputes over Registrations

8.1. Disputes over a Name between its Registrant and third parties shall be resolved by means of arbitration in accordance with the adopted and published by the Registry on its official website Policy for the Resolution of Disputes over Names, based on the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy, approved by ICANN and the recommendations of the World Intellectual Property Organization set out in the document WIPO ccTLD Best Practices for the Prevention and Resolution of Intellectual Property Disputes. For any unsettled matters the Bulgarian legislation shall be applied.

8.2. Disputes under Art. 8.1. shall be resolved by one or more independent arbitration authorities, at least one of which must be registered in Bulgaria and approved by the Registry on the basis of objective, transparent and non-discriminatory criteria and indicated on its official website. The Registry accepts and publishes on its official website Rules for Resolution of Disputes over Names, based on the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy, adopted by ICANN. The arbitration authority publishes on its website a Tariff of Fees for Resolution of Disputes over Names.

8.3. The name can not be transferred to another person while the arbitration procedure under Art. 8.1. is pending.

8.4. By its decision over the dispute the arbitration authority under Art. 8.2 can order transfer of

the Name in favour of a third party - claimant, termination of the Name registration, or claim dismissal. Decisions over disputes under Art. 8.1. are mandatory both for the contract parties and the Registry that implements them without any delay. In cases of transfer the Name shall be registered in the name of the person after he submits a new request.

9. Discharge of Liability

Unless in case of intent or gross negligence the Registry and its officials or angels shall not be liable for any damage and lost profits suffered by the applicants, Registrants of Names and Registrars arising from action or lack of action on the part of the Registry and its officials or angels in implementing the functions of the Registry.

The Registrant is fully liable to third parties regarding the Name selected and registered by him.

The Registry and Registrant are not liable for the truthfulness of data that has been submitted by the Registrant.

The Registry and Registrar have no liability to the Registrant for claims of third parties related to management or the right to use the requested Name.

10. Amending and Supplementing These Principles and Requirements

10.1. These Principles and Requirements can be amended and supplemented by a Decision of the Public Expert Council under Article 1.

11. Supplementary Provisions

These Principles and Requirements shall come into force upon their approval by the Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications.

At the initial stage of the Registry establishment, the current document provides guidelines to the Registry applicants in terms of what requirements they must meet when preparing their application documents in accordance with the Delegation Procedure of IANA

11.1. The Registry applicant must submit a proposal that includes an organizational model for the implementation of the entire process, draft internal rules and procedures, as well as description and evidence on how it will meet all requirements in various directions (administrative, organizational, operational, technical and financial support), so as to the utmost degree to satisfy the Principles and Requirements document;

11.2. Evaluation criteria of the applicant's proposal, as well as the circumstances that shall be taken into account upon its preparation have been described in the Methodology on the Evaluation of Applicants' Proposals for the „.бг" Top Level Domain Registry;

11.3. With his proposal the Registry applicant must demonstrate that he meets the current Principles and Requirements, in order to receive support by the Government and the Internet Commnity for the application procedure to IANA.

11.4. The applicant whose proposal most satisfies the Principles and Requirements set out in the document Principles and Requirements for the Registration of Names in the .бг Internet Domain Zone

(IDN ccTLD .бг)" and who has obtained the highest evaluation score shall receive support by the Government and the Internet Community and move to the next step of identifiying the „.бг" Top Level Domain Registry – appliying to IANA.

11.5. The support is valid within 3 months from the date of its receipt. If the nominated applicant fails to cary out the commitment made by him in his proposal and does not take within the prescribed period the actions needed to apply to IANA with the necessary minimum set of documents, the support shall be withdrawn and redirected towards the second ranked applicant.

11.6. The support of the Government and the Internet community, stipulated in article 11.4, is granted only after the highest ranked candidate has signed an agreement, either with the government or a government – appointed entity, which guarantees that he will adhere to both his submitted proposal, as well as the principles and requirements of this document (including any changes in accordance with article 10.1.) for the whole period of establishment and administration of the Registry. Failure to comply with said Agreement, as well failure to carry out any of the functions necessary for the Registry's work, are considered grounds for the withdrawal of support and the launch of a redelegation procedure.