EPDP-IDNs Phase 2 Project Plan & Estimated Timeline

ICANN

GNSO Council Meeting | 20 July 2023

Summary: Updated EPDP-IDNs Timeline

➤ Since ICANN77 the EPDP-IDNs Team has reconsidered the published timeline for the completion of our work taking into account the following:

  ○ Progress on Phase 2 charter questions during ICANN77

  ○ Close of public comment period for the Phase 1 Draft Final Report

    ■ a number of comments were outside the scope of the IDN EPDP and have been referred to the GNSO Council for consideration and appropriate action

  ○ Council and ICANN org's agreement to a face-to-face workshop for the EPDP Team

➤ There is **no change to the timeline for submitting the Phase 1 Final Report** to the GNSO Council

➤ The timeline for completing **Phase 2** work has been revised and **improved by 13 months**

➤ The EPDP Team has confirmed that the **Phase 2 work will NOT be re-organised** to prioritise consideration of the Charter questions that may impact the development of the next Applicant Guidebook or registry agreement

Updated Phase 2 Timeline Post ICANN77

	Step / Milestone	Responsible Party	Original Timing (ICANN77 Deliverable)	Updated Timing (Post ICANN77)
1	EPDP Initiation and Charter Approval	EPDP Team	May 2021	May 2021
2	Phase 1 Initial Report published for public comment	EPDP Team	April 2023	April 2023
3	**Phase 1 Final Report** delivered to GNSO Council	EPDP Team	November 2023	**November 2023**
4	**Phase 1 Final Report**: GNSO Council consideration	Various	Duration: 1-2 months	Duration: 1-2 months
5	**Initiate Phase 2**	EPDP Team	November 2023	**April 2023** (P2 deliberation paused till P1 Final Report is delivered)
6	**Phase 2 Initial Report** published for public comment	EPDP Team	May 2025	**April 2024**
7	**Phase 2 Final Report** delivered to GNSO Council	EPDP Team	November 2025	**October 2024**
8	**Phase 2 Final Report**: GNSO Council consideration	Various	Duration: 1-2 months	Duration: 1-2 months

Phase 1 Initial Report Public Comment

Public Comment Statistics

No. of Submissions	12 (2 late submissions)
No. of Commenters	10
Commenters	- ALAC - BC - CCWP-HR - CORE Association - GAC - ICANN org - Julius Kirimi - PointQuebec - RrSG - RySG
No. of Recs that Received Comments	**42 out of 68**
No. of Recs that Received Significant Concerns or Objections	**21 out of 68** (some are staff designations, as some commenters did not explicitly indicate the level of support or non-support)

Issues Raised & Other Developments

➢ **Proposal from PointQuebec and Core Association** to develop an exception procedure to address the consequence of String Similarity Review for confusingly similar strings that are not identified as variants

   ○ <u>EPDP Team believes this topic is out of scope and has referred the comments to Council</u>

➢ Comments from PointQuebec regarding **treatment of GeoTLD applications**

➢ ICANN Board's **possible non-adoption of SubPro Recommendations 32.2 and 32.10** regarding the challenge / appeal mechanisms

➢ **Pending input from Chinese / Japanese / Korean Generation Panels** on single-character gTLD guidelines

Timeline Impact

Given that one third of preliminary recommendations received substantive input, the **estimated delivery of Phase 1 Final Report remains unchanged:** ==**Early November 2023**==
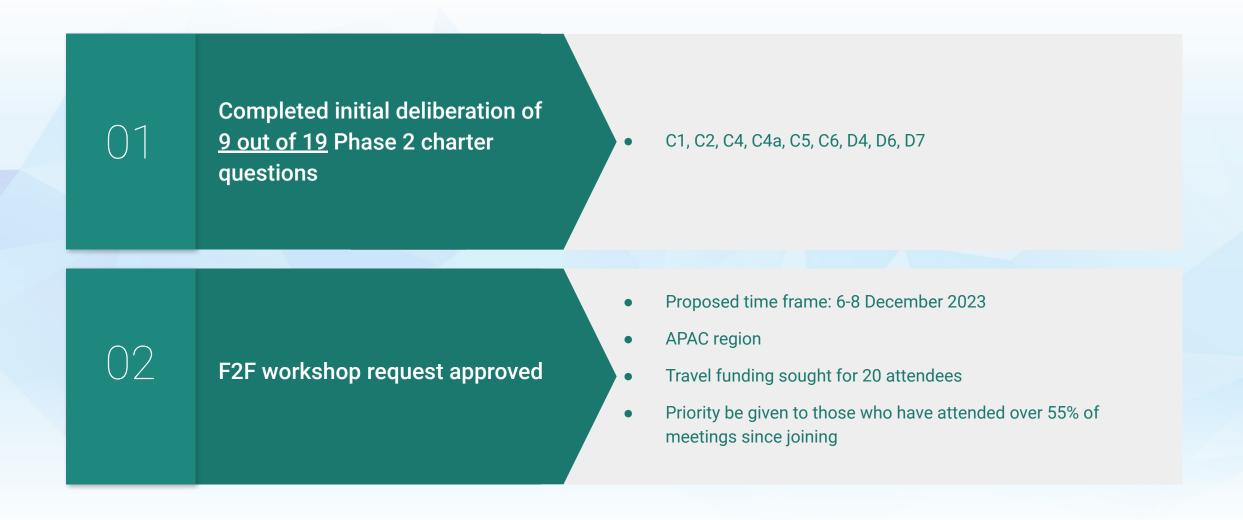
- *Caveat: If the GNSO Council requests the EPDP Team to address the issue related to .quebec, there will likely be more uncertainty regarding whether this estimated completion date is achievable*

Phase 2 Deliberation & Revised Schedule

Recent Development

01 **Completed initial deliberation of 9 out of 19 Phase 2 charter questions**

- C1, C2, C4, C4a, C5, C6, D4, D6, D7

02 **F2F workshop request approved**

- Proposed time frame: 6-8 December 2023
- APAC region
- Travel funding sought for 20 attendees
- Priority be given to those who have attended over 55% of meetings since joining

Consideration for Completing Phase 2 Initial Deliberation

❖ **==Project Approach Remains Unchanged: Tackle Phase 2 in one-go==**

  ➢ **More than half** of the Phase 2 charter questions may have a direct impact on the next AGB

    ■ These topics are related to: IDN Table harmonization, same entity requirement, domain name lifecycle management, variant domain registration data, IDN Implementation Guidelines

  ➢ Further project plan change will **become a distraction** to EPDP Team work, which may result in total timeline extension and volunteer burnout

❖ Resume Phase 2 deliberation **after delivery of Phase 1 Final Report in November 2023**

❖ **23 meetings total** budgeted for completing deliberation of the remaining 10 out of 19 charter questions

❖ **6 additional meetings** budgeted as contingency buffer

❖ Assumptions: factors to expedite initial deliberation

  ➢ **10-12 working sessions** planned for F2F workshop

  ➢ **4-5 working sessions** planned for ICANN79 San Juan

❖ **==Complete initial deliberation of Phase 2 charter questions by end of ICANN79 (7 March 2024)==**

Projected Timing

Milestone	Projected Timing
Complete Initial Deliberation of Phase 2 Charter Questions	Early March 2024 (End of ICANN79 San Juan)
Complete ICANN org Early Input Review	End March 2024
Open Phase 2 Initial Report Public Comment	End April 2024
Close Phase 2 Initial Report Public Comment	Early June 2024 (Prior to ICANN80 Kigali)
Complete Phase 2 Public Comment Review	September 2024
Deliver Phase 2 Final Report to GNSO Council	October 2024

Appendix: AGB Impact Analysis of Charter Questions

(Copied from 25 May 2023 GNSO Council Meeting Presentation)

Board Resolution on 16 March 2023

Whereas, the Board understands that the delivery of the Implementation Plan no later than 1 August 2023 requires the satisfactory completion of the following four deliverables (the Deliverables) **by the last day of the ICANN77 Public Meeting (15 June 2023)**:

4. **A project plan** from the GNSO Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Working Group (WG) **identifying all charter questions that will impact the next Applicant Guidebook**, along with considerations to ensure a consistent solution on IDN Variant TLDs with the ccPDP4 on IDN ccTLDs (in accordance with prior Board [Resolution 2019.03.14.09](#)), and **a timeline by when the IDNs EPDP WG will deliver relevant recommendations to the GNSO Council**.

Phase 1: Impact Analysis & Timeline

EPDP Team identified <u>29 questions</u> under the following topics to be addressed in Phase 1:

- Topic A: Consistent definition and technical utilization of RZ-LGR – **Charter Questions A1-A10**

- Topic B: "Same entity" at the top-level – **Charter Question B1-B5**

- Topic D: Adjustments in registry agreement, registry service, registry transition process, and other processes/procedures related to the domain name lifecycle – **Charter Questions D1-D3, D8**

- Topic E: Adjustments to objection process, string similarity review, string contention resolution, reserved strings, and other policies and procedures – **Charter Questions E1-E7**

All of the <u>68 Phase 1 preliminary recommendations</u> will have impact on the next Applicant Guidebook

- 60 out of 68 preliminary recommendations concern future gTLDs

- 8 preliminary recommendations concern existing IDN gTLD registry operators applying for their variant labels

Estimated <u>10 November 2023</u> to deliver Phase 1 Final Report based on the following assumptions:

- Phase 1 Initial Report Public Comment closes on <u>5 June 2023</u>

- <u>18 weeks</u> to review public comments and complete deliberation toward Phase 1 Final Report

- <u>5 weeks</u> to build Final Report, conduct consensus call, and adopt final recommendations

Phase 2: Impact Analysis Introduction

EPDP Team identified <u>19 questions</u> under the following topics to be addressed in Phase 2:

- Topic C: "Same entity" at the second-level – **Charter Questions C1-C6**

- Topic D: Adjustments in registry agreement, registry service, registry transition process, and other processes/procedures related to the domain name lifecycle – **Charter Questions D4-D8**

- Topic F: Adjustments in registration dispute resolution procedures and trademark protection mechanisms – **Charter Questions F1-F2**

- Topic G: Process to update the IDN Implementation Guidelines – **Charter Questions G1-G1a**

Phase 2 impact analysis is conducted based on the following <u>key assumptions</u>:

- EPDP Team will develop corresponding recommendation(s) for each question that will result in a **change to the status quo**

- **2012 AGB will serve as the basis** of the next AGB

- **Impact on the Registry Agreement will have an impact on the next AGB**, as they will be published together for Public Comment (input from ICANN org GDS department)

Phase 2: Impact Analysis Overview

Impact?	C1	C2	C3	C3a	C4	C4a	C5	C6	D4	D5	D6	D6a	D7	D7a	D8	F1	F2	G1	G2
Next AGB	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	May	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	May	May
Application Question	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	May	Yes	Yes	No	May	May	May	May	Yes	May	May	May	May
Contractual Obligation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	May	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Summary:

- **7 out of 19 questions will have an impact** on the next AGB

- **3 out of 19 questions may have an impact** on the next AGB

- **9 out of 19 questions** may NOT have an impact on the next AGB

- **As noted, the Registry Agreement will have an impact on the next AGB: potential impact on application questions and contractual obligation also reviewed and <u>nearly every question may have an impact</u>.**

  - Contractual obligation generally refers to contracted parties' obligations as reflected in Registry Agreement, Registrar Accreditation Agreement, Consensus Policies, temporary policies, and other policies/procedures that have legal effect

- **Foundational questions**, which may set the underlying principles of Phase 2 deliberation and affect the deliberation of related charter questions, are highlighted in **Yellow**

Explanatory Notes

- Each slide includes:

  - a summary version of the Phase 2 charter question

  - potential data needed to facilitate deliberation

  - potential outcomes as a result of the deliberation

  - estimated number of meetings to finish initial deliberation (based on difficulty of charter question and experience in Phase 1)

  - analysis of impact on the next Applicant Guidebook (AGB), application question, and contractual obligation

- Impact analysis is conducted based on the following assumptions:

  - EPDP Team will develop corresponding recommendation(s) for each question that will result in a change to the status quo

  - The 2012 AGB will serve as the basis of the next AGB (relevant AGB section numbers and 2012 round application question numbers are noted in the rationale)

  - Impact on the Registry Agreement will have an impact on the next AGB, as they will be published together for Public Comment (input received from ICANN org GDS department)

- Contractual obligation generally refers to contracted parties' obligations as reflected in Registry Agreement, Registrar Accreditation Agreement, Consensus Policies, temporary policies, and other policies/procedures that have legal effects (relevant documents and section numbers are noted in the rationale)

- Foundational questions refer to questions that may set the underlying principles of Phase 2 deliberation and affect the deliberation of related charter questions

C1 & C2 (Part 1)

c1) Should the "same entity" requirement be extended to existing variant domains?

c2) Part 1: Should the "same registrant" requirement be extended to existing variant domains?

Data	Data from registrars regarding how variant domains are managed
Potential Outcome	- Yes, "same entity" / "same registrant" required retrospectively - No, grandfather existing registrations
Length	4 Meetings **Foundational Question**

If EPDP Team recommends "same entity" / "same registrant" requirement applied retrospectively to existing variant domains	
Next AGB	**No,** only impacts existing variant domains
Application Question	**No**, only impacts existing variant domains
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - IDN Implementation Guidelines

C2 (Part 2)

c2) Part 2: Whether the current rules for activating variant domains should be updated?	
Data	- Data from registrars regarding registrant situation of variant domains - Data from registries regarding their current practice activating variant domains
Potential Outcome	- Follow the current rules for activating variant labels - Develop different rules for activating variant labels
Length	4 Meetings **Foundational Question**

If EPDP Team recommends changes to how ROs activate second-level variant labels	
Next AGB	**Yes,** potential update to: - Section 2.2.3 Registry Services Review - Section 2.2.3.2 Customary Services
Application Question	**Yes**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 23 Registry Services - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Exhibit A of Registry Agreement - IDN Implementation Guidelines

C3

c3) Should ROID be used to identify the same registrant for both existing and future variant domains? If not, what other mechanisms, if any, exist to identify the same registrant?	
Data	- Basics of ROID; data from ICANN Compliance (e.g., any issue with the use of ROIDs) - Data from registrars regarding the mechanism(s) of identifying the same registrant
Potential Outcome	For future registrations: - Yes, use ROID to identify the same registrant - No, use a different mechanism to identify same registrant - No specific recommendation, let registrars determine the appropriate mechanism For existing registrations: - Yes, use ROID retrospectively - No, grandfather existing practices
Length	**4 Meetings** *Foundational Question*

If EPDP Team recommends ROID or a specific mechanism to identify the same registrant	
Next AGB	**Yes,** potential update to: - Section 2.2.2.1 Technical/Operational Review
Application Question	**Yes**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 25 Extensible Provisioning Protocol - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Registry Agreement Specification 4 for Registration Data Publication Services

C3a

c3a) Should additional requirements be developed if ROID is determined as the mechanism to identify the same registrant?	
Data	Data from registrars regarding the mechanism(s) of identifying the same registrant
Potential Outcome	Depends on the answer to C3… - Yes, develop additional requirements - No additional requirements from EPDP, let registrars determine additional requirements if needed
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends ROID and additional requirements to identify the same registrant	
Next AGB	**Yes,** potential update to: - Section 2.2.2.1 Technical/Operational Review
Application Question	**Yes**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 25 Extensible Provisioning Protocol - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Registry Agreement Specification 4 for Registration Data Publication Services

C4

c4) Should IDN tables under a gTLD be mutually coherent for an existing gTLD or a future gTLD?	
Data	- Explanation of "mutually coherent" - Data from registries and back end registry service providers regarding current practice of making IDN tables mutually coherent - Data from ICANN org's IDN table update project - Impact on existing registrations if harmonization is required
Potential Outcome	For future IDN tables: - Yes, IDN tables must be required to be mutually coherent - No, IDN tables do not need to be mutually coherent For existing IDN tables: - Yes, existing IDN tables must be required to be "mutually coherent" retrospectively and enforce compliance with existing registrations - No, grandfather existing IDN tables and existing registrations
Length	**4 Meetings** <mark>**Foundational Question**</mark>
If EPDP Team recommends IDN tables be mutually coherent	
Next AGB	**Yes,** potential update to: - Section 1.3 Information for Internationalized Domain Name Applicants - Section 1.3.2 IDN Tables
Application Question	**Yes**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 15(a) If an IDN, attach IDN table for the proposed registry - Question 15(b) Describe the process used for development of the IDN tables submitted, including consultations and source used - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - IDN Implementation Guidelines

C4a

c4) Should variant domains under a single gTLD behave the same?	
Data	SubPro PDP Recommendation 25.8: *Second-level labels derived from Recommendation 25.6 or Recommendation 25.7 are not required to act, behave, or be perceived as identical.*
Potential Outcome	Affirm SubPro PDP Recommendation 25.8, which has already addressed this question
Length	**1 Meeting**

If EPDP Team affirms SubPro PDP Recommendation 25.8	
Next AGB	**No**, no additional requirement as variant domains do not need to behave the same
Application Question	**No,** no additional requirement as variant domains do not need to behave the same
Contractual Obligation	**No**, no additional requirement as variant domains do not need to behave the same

C5

c5) How to harmonize IDN tables to ensure the ones under a gTLD are mutually coherent?	
Data	Data from registries and back end registry service providers regarding their current practice of IDN table harmonization
Potential Outcome	- Adopt staff paper suggested method(s) of IDN table harmonization - Recommend a different method of IDN table harmonization - No specific recommendation, let registries determine their methods of IDN table harmonization
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends specific method(s) of IDN table harmonization	
Next AGB	**No**, implementation detail does not seem necessary for inclusion in AGB
Application Question	**Maybe**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 15(b) Describe the process used for development of the IDN tables submitted, including consultations and source used - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Maybe**, potential update to: - IDN Implementation Guidelines

C6

c6) Should IDN tables use the LGR format, as specified in RFC 7940, for both existing gTLDs and future gTLDs?	
Data	- Data from registries regarding IDN table format - Data from ICANN regarding IDN table format
Potential Outcome	For future IDN tables: - Require LGR format as specified in RFC 7940 - Recommend a different IDN table format - No specific recommendation, let registries determine IDN table format For existing IDN tables: - Require LGR format as specified in RFC 7940 retroactively - Grandfather existing IDN Tables in their current formats
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends the LGR format or a specific format for IDN tables	
Next AGB	**Yes**, potential update to: - Section 1.3 Information for Internationalized Domain Name Applicants - Section 1.3.2 IDN Tables
Application Question	**Yes**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 15(a) If an IDN, attach IDN table for the proposed registry - Question 15(b) Describe the process used for development of the IDN tables submitted, including consultations and source used - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - IDN Implementation Guidelines

D4

	d4) Should the variant domains from a variant label set have the same behavior throughout the domain name lifecycle?
Data	- Basics of domain name lifecycle stages - SubPro PDP Recommendation 25.7
Potential Outcome	Take into account the underlying principles of variant management mechanism… - Yes, a variant label set must behave as one unit at all stages of the domain name lifecycle - No, a variant label set do not need to behave as one unit at any stage of the domain name lifecycle - Some stage(s) of the domain name lifecycle will require that a variant set behaves as one unit
Length	**4 Meetings** *Foundational Question*

	If EPDP Team recommends variant domains have the same behavior for one, some, or all stages in domain name lifecycle
Next AGB	**Yes**, potential update to: - Section 2.2.2.1 Technical/Operational Review
Application Question	**Yes**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 27 Registration Life Cycle - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Registrar Accreditation Agreement

D5

d5) Should each variant domain transaction incur fees paid to ICANN by its registry and registrar?	
Data	Fees paid to ICANN by contracted parties
Potential Outcome	Take into consideration <u>Preliminary Recommendation 7.6</u> regarding the calculation of the registry-level transaction fee… - Each domain name registration will be considered an independent registration and require fee paid to ICANN by registry and registrar - A variant label set will be considered as one unit for fee purposes
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends how variant domain incur fees paid to ICANN by its registry and registrar	
Next AGB	**Maybe**, it is referenced in Section 5.4.1 What is Expected of a Registry Operator (e.g., pay recurring fees to ICANN) - However, if the EPDP Team recommends any substantive update to RA Section 6.1, it will impact AGB
Application Question	**No**, does not seem necessary for inclusion as an application question; cannot find such a question in 2012 round
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Registry Agreement Section 6.1 Registry-Level Fees - Registrar Accreditation Agreement?

D6

d6) Whether and how should the Transfer Policy be updated for variant domains?	
Data	Basics of Transfer Policy
Potential Outcome	Depends on answer to D4… - Transfer of one domain will affect the other domains from the variant label set - Transfer of one domain does not affect the other domains from the variant label set - Transfer of one domain may affect the other domains from the variant label set, depending on specific circumstances - Recommend other specific changes to transfer policy to preserve the underlying principles of variant management mechanism
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends any changes to the Transfer Policy	
Next AGB	**No**, changes will be applied to the Transfer Policy directly, and AGB may only reference it. - See Section 5.4.1 What is Expected of a Registry Operator (e.g., comply with consensus policies and temporary policies)
Application Question	**Maybe**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 27 Registration Life Cycle - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Transfer Policy

D6a

d6a) Should the variant domains from a variant label set be transferred to the same entity as a remedy of UDRP?	
Data	Basics of UDRP and its remedy
Potential Outcome	Depends on answer to D4 and D6… - Transfer of the entire variant label set is required as a remedy of UDRP - Transfer of one domain name as a remedy of UDRP does not necessarily impact the other domains from the variant label set - Recommend specific changes to other dispute resolution mechanisms to preserve the underlying principles of variant management mechanism
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends any changes to the UDRP	
Next AGB	**No**, changes will be applied to the UDRP directly, and AGB may only reference it. - See Section 5.4.1 What is Expected of a Registry Operator (e.g., comply with consensus policies and temporary policies)
Application Question	**Maybe**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 29 Rights Protection Mechanism - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - UDRP

D7

d7) Whether and how should suspension related procedures be updated for variant domains?	
Data	Basics of domain name suspension (voluntary and involuntary)
Potential Outcome	Depends on answer to D4… - Suspension of one domain will affect the other domains from the variant label set - Suspension of one domain does not affect the other domains from the variant label set - Suspension of one domain may affect the other domains from the variant label set, depending on specific circumstances
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends any changes to suspension related policies and procedures	
Next AGB	**No**, changes will be applied to suspension related policies and procedures directly (e.g., Section 3.7.7.2 in Registrar Accreditation Agreement), and AGB may only reference them.
Application Question	**Maybe**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 28 Abuse Prevention and Mitigation - Question 29 Rights Protection Mechanism - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Registrar Accreditation Agreement

D7a

d7a) Should all of the variant domains from a variant label set be suspended as a remedy of URS?	
Data	Basics of URS and its remedy
Potential Outcome	Depends on answer to D4 and D7… - Suspension of the entire variant label set is required as a remedy of URS - Suspension of one domain name as a remedy of URS does not necessarily impact the other domains from the variant label set
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends any changes to the URS	
Next AGB	**No**, changes will be applied to the URS directly, and AGB may only reference it. - See Section 5.4.1 What is Expected of a Registry Operator (e.g., implement post-launch rights protection measures)
Application Question	**Maybe**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 29 Rights Protection Mechanism - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - URS - Registry Agreement Specification 7 for Minimum Requirements for Rights Protection Mechanisms (references URS)

D8

d8) Should data with regard to variant domains be available in IANA WHOIS and Registry WHOIS?	
Data	- Basics of WHOIS/RDAP - GDPR outcomes - Information from the Internationalization of Registration Data Group
Potential Outcome	Take into account <u>Implementation Guidance 9.2</u> regarding variant label state tracking… - Recommend specific changes to IANA WHOIS and Registry WHOIS to record the registration data of a domain and its associated variant label set
Length	**3 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends any changes to WHOIS	
Next AGB	**Yes**, potential update to: - Section 2.2.2.1 Technical/Operational Review - Section 5.2.3 Test Elements: Registry Systems (Whois support) - Section 5.4.1 What is Expected of a Registry Operator (e.g., provide whois service)
Application Question	**Yes**, may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 26 Whois - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Registry Agreement Specification 4 for Registration Data Publication Services

F1

f1) Should variant labels of a registered mark also be recorded in the TMCH? Are variant labels of a registered mark eligible to receive Sunrise and Trademark Claims services?	
Data	- Basics of TMCH and its Sunrise and Trademark Claims services - ICANN org collected data on TMCH - SAC060
Potential Outcome	Take into account Preliminary Recommendation 3.16 regarding variant label application for .Brand TLDs... - No change to TMCH and its services due to the exact match rule based on trademark law - Recommend specific changes to TMCH and its services by considering SAC060
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends any changes to the TMCH	
Next AGB	**No**, changes will be applied to the TMCH directly, and AGB may only reference it. - See Section 5.4.1 What is Expected of a Registry Operator (e.g., implement start-up rights protection measures)
Application Question	**Maybe,** may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 29 Rights Protection Mechanism - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - TMCH - Registry Agreement Specification 7 for Minimum Requirements for Rights Protection Mechanisms (references TMCH)

F2

f2) RPM catch all question	
Data	Basics of rights protection mechanisms and dispute resolution procedures
Potential Outcome	Take into account <u>Preliminary Recommendation 7.12</u> regarding the remedy of TM-PDDRP and depends on answers to D6a, D7a, F1… - Recommend other specific changes to RPMs to preserve the underlying principles of variant management mechanism
Length	**1 Meeting**

If EPDP Team recommends any changes to RPMs	
Next AGB	**No**, changes will be applied to RPMs directly, and AGB may only reference them. - See Section 5.4.1 What is Expected of a Registry Operator (e.g., implement post-launch rights protection measures)
Application Question	**Maybe,** may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 29 Rights Protection Mechanism - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Registry Agreement Specification 7 for Minimum Requirements for Rights Protection Mechanisms (references RPMs)

G1

g1) Since IDN Implementation Guidelines have contractual implications for registries and registrars, what is the proper mechanism for updating them in the future?	
Data	- History of IDN Implementation Guidelines and current process for updating - Background of IDN Implementation Guidelines version 4.1 and related challenges - IDN ccTLDs' experience with IDN Implementation Guidelines
Potential Outcome	- Recommend specific changes to how IDN Implementation Guidelines should be updated
Length	**4 Meetings** *Foundational Question*

If EPDP Team recommends any changes to the update process of IDN Implementation Guidelines	
Next AGB	**Maybe**, changes will be applied to IDN Implementation Guidelines directly, and AGB may only reference it. See Section 1.3.2 IDN Tables - However, if the EPDP Team recommends any fundamental change to the IDN Implementation Guidelines that will result in any substantive update to RA Specification 6, it will impact AGB
Application Question	**Maybe,** may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Registry Agreement Specification 6 for Registry Interoperability and Continuity Specifications (references IDN Implementation Guidelines)

G1a

g1a) Should a separate legal mechanism, other than the IDN Implementation Guidelines, be created to enforce IDN related contractual obligations for registries and registrars?	
Data	- History of IDN Implementation Guidelines and current process for updating - Background of IDN Implementation Guidelines version 4.1 and related challenges - IDN ccTLDs' experience with IDN Implementation Guidelines
Potential Outcome	Depends on answer to G1.. - No, there is no need for separate legal mechanism as the IDN Implementation Guidelines already suffice - Yes, there is a need for separate legal mechanism (develop a recommendation) - ccTLDs related consideration seem to be out of scope
Length	**2 Meetings**

If EPDP Team recommends any changes to the update process of IDN Implementation Guidelines	
Next AGB	**Maybe**, changes will be applied to such a separate legal mechanism directly, and AGB may only reference it. See Section 5.4.1 What is Expected of a Registry Operator (e.g., comply with consensus policies and temporary policies) - However, if the EPDP Team recommends any fundamental change to the IDN Implementation Guidelines that will result in any substantive update to RA Specification 6, it will impact AGB
Application Question	**Maybe,** may impact how an applicant answers: - Question 44 (optional)
Contractual Obligation	**Yes**, potential update to: - Registry Agreement Specification 6 for Registry Interoperability and Continuity Specifications (references IDN Implementation Guidelines)

Additional Explanatory Information in ICANN77 Deliverable

There are several important elements that may allow the EPDP Team to <mark>reconsider its delivery date</mark> prior to the ICANN org's delivery of the Implementation Plan to the Board. Those factors include:

- The closure of the **Phase 1 Initial Report public comment period** and gaining a better understanding of the breadth and quantity of comment received;

- A better sense of **progress made on Phase 2 charter questions** in advance of the schedule; and

- More certainty of approval for the EPDP Team's request for its dedicated **face-to-face workshop**

The EPDP Team and GNSO Council would like to reserve the right to <mark>provide a revised schedule</mark> to the ICANN Board and ICANN org before 1 August, which would <mark>reflect a shortened timeline</mark>