

TLD ISAC

An introduction

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Overview

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Purpose & History

Cyber threats evolve – so must we. We unite top-level domain (TLD) registries in a trusted network to share intelligence, strengthen security, and boost resilience against emerging risks.

History

- Formally launched in 2023
- Result of the Empowering EU-ISACs project.
- Special working group within CENTR asbl/vzw.
- 12 founding members.



Members & Community

25



Hosted by





What are ccTLDs Registry Operators?

- Entities that manage a country code top level domain.
 - Private organisations - not-for-profit
 - Governmental linked organisation – universities, research centres
 - SME sized – from 2 to 100 employees
- Our members manage:
 - .at, .be, .ca, .ch/.li, .de, .dk, .es, .eu, .fi, .fo, .fr, .gg/.je, .ie, .il .is, .lu, .nl, .no, .pt, .rs, .se/.nu, .si, .sk, .uk + some more
- ±70M domain names are managed by our members
- ccTLDs run the authoritative name servers for the extension
- ccTLDs manage the sales channel through registrars (triple R model)
- ccTLDs offer a registration interface for registrars (M2M)
- ccTLDs manage public query services via web, whois, rdap
- EU registries are essential entities under NIS2
- NIS2 implementing regulation EU 2024/2690
 - significant incidents
 - Technical and methodological requirements of cybersecurity risk-management measures



Mission

Our mission is to strengthen the security and resilience of top-level domain registries in Europe through information sharing, collaboration, and promoting best practices.

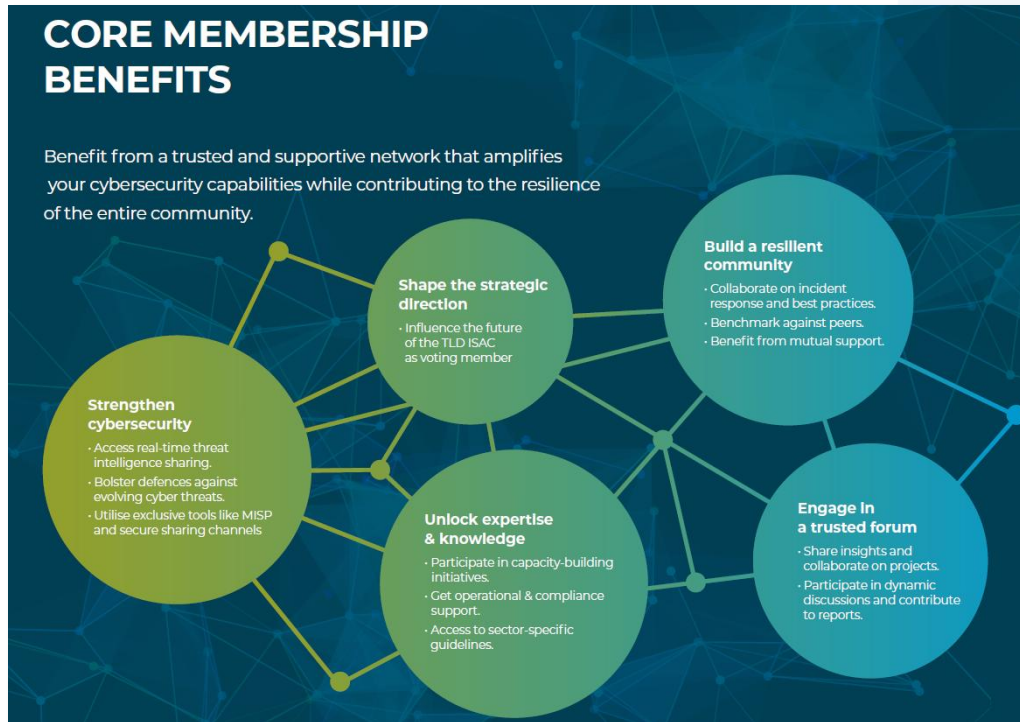


Objectives

- **Facilitate collaboration** on threat intelligence and analysis of technical and non-technical security information.
- Serve as an **expert point of contact** regarding cybersecurity linked to the DNS ecosystem.
- **Improve the internal capabilities** of top-level domain registry operators to meet security and regulatory requirements by sharing expertise and knowledge.
- **Enhance cross-sectoral sharing** through collaborating with other ISACs and participating in international initiatives.
- **Raise public cybersecurity awareness** regarding the use of the domain name system and associated protocols through seminars and publications.



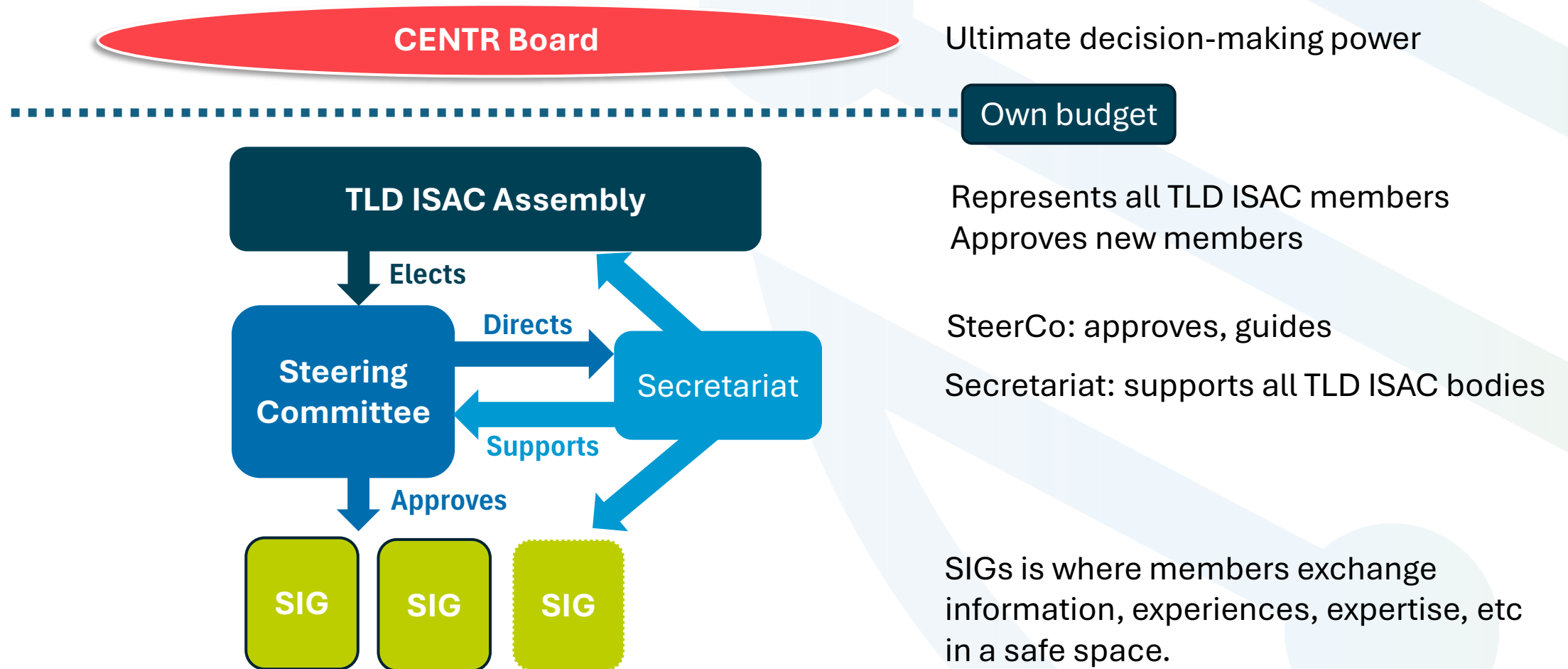
TLD ISAC Membership Benefits



- Strengthen cybersecurity
- Shape the strategic direction
- Build a resilient community
- Unlock expertise & knowledge
- Engage in trusted fora.



Structure & Governance





Structure & Governance

TLD ISAC Body	Frequency	Accessibility	#
TLD ISAC Assembly	2 x year	TLD ISAC members	25
TLD ISAC SteerCo	1 x month	TLD ISAC members (elected)	6
Threat Intel SIG	1 x month	TLD ISAC members (limited)	~20-25
CISO SIG	4 x year	<u>All</u> CENTR <u>full</u> members	29 RYs



Activities

We provide a trusted environment and bring together experts who share real-time threat intelligence, discuss mitigation techniques and collaborate on projects.

- Special interest groups (SIGs), incl. for intel-sharing
- Annual TLD ISAC Conference in Brussels
- Annual Threat Landscape Analysis
- Sector-specific guidelines, incl. EPP guidelines
- Security benchmarks
- Capacity building, incl. crisis comms exercises
- Tools for intel-sharing, incl. MISP, MatterMost





Highlights to date

- Membership growth from 12 to 25 (2023 - 2026)
- 2 SIGs – Threat Intelligence & CISO
- Yearly TLD ISAC Conferences (2023 - 2026) with up to 100 participants
- Threat Landscape Analysis (2024, 2026) – increased frequency to yearly
- Leaders' survey (2026) on cybersecurity priorities
- MISP training in 2025 (CIRCL)
- CENTR Jamboree workshop on creating scenario-based TTX
- Crisis Comms Exercises (2024 - 2025)
- EPP Guidelines published (2025)
- Biennial CM Security Maturity Model (2018 - 2024)



Threat Landscape Analysis 2026



- **Human-centric attacks** (social engineering & phishing) ranked highest when combining likelihood and potential impact
- **Domain Management System compromise** was assessed as less likely, but potentially severe in operational and regulatory impact
- **Persistent infiltration by sophisticated threat actors** reflects concern over long-term, covert operations rather than isolated events
- **Cyber incidents affecting critical suppliers** highlight ecosystem and supply-chain dependencies
- **Legacy systems and inconsistent security** discipline were identified as sources of accumulated structural risk
 - ➔ Risk for ccTLD registries is not driven by weaknesses in core DNS technology
 - ➔ Risk increasingly arises from people, processes, and interconnected ecosystems.



External Relations

- Council of ISACs
- Yearly ENISA ISAC conference in Athens
- ICANN meetings in Europe
- CERT-EU meetings
- NISDUC conference
- Participate EC MSF ISD
multistakeholder forum on internet standards deployment



What's coming up in 2026?

- TLD ISAC Conference, 8 Oct, Brussels
- Guidebook for Disaster Recovery / Business Continuity planning based on NIS2 requirements
- Deployment of TLD ISAC MISP instance
- Security Maturity Model 2026
- Cross sectorial resilience exercise/workshop (looking for interested parties)



SAVE THE DATE
**TLD ISAC
CONFERENCE 2026**

8 OCTOBER 2026 | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



EUROPEAN
TLD ISAC

STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE OF
EUROPE'S TLD REGISTRIES THROUGH TRUST AND **COLLABORATION**



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Questions?