

Will Late Starters become Front Runners in new Markets?

.MD – Moldova Case Study

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Foreword

In the context of the ICANN Studienkreis meeting on **Internet Governance and Domain Names: New TLDs, New Services, New Markets**, the current paper presents the **Stakeholders' perspective on the current situation on Domain Names in Moldova**: National Regulatory Agency for Telecommunications and Informatics; Molddata – the official .MD Registry Operator representative, representative of the ISP providers, representative of the Association of the IT Companies. These were the stakeholders interviewed for the purpose of this presentation.

1. A Brief Overview on the General Development ...

The latest changes, evolutions in the Domain Name sector in Moldova

In the period of 2005- 2006 there have been made some important amendments to the **Regulation on Name Administration in the Top-level Domain .md** (document approved in March 1, 2001).

According to these amendments the National Registry Operator of the TLD .md

- has the right to determine the premium sub-domain names and to organize electronic auctions for selling these sub domain names. According to NRATI (National Regularity Agency for Telecommunications and Informatics), the purpose of these amendments is to adjust the current Regulation to the norms and recommendations made by ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), the World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO), as well as to contribute to a more active promotion of the TLD, attributed to Moldova in accordance with the ISO 3166 national standard.
- These amendments foresee new simplified rules and procedures for registering, prolonging and modifying the Sub domain names;
- The new amendments also stipulate the prohibition on registration of the domain names with such purposes as blackmailing, commercial use of trademark or of the intellectual property.
- According to these amendments, the registrant is responsible for the potential violation of trademark rights and for conflict situations occurring as a result of the trademark rights violations.

Along with these main amendments, a decision was made on the domain names which will be not used for commercial purposes. It is about the **Domain Names Attributed to State Authorities, for whom the Registration is Free and** Registration of sub-domain names within the top-level domain .md will be done only for Central State Public Administration authorities and their clerks:

1. Prm.md, Presedentie.md
2. Prl.md, Parlament.md
3. Gov.md, Guvern.md
4. Academic and educational institutions relying on state budget financing.

And there are Geographical Sub-Domain Names, Attributed to the Local Public Administration Authorities, the Registration of which will be made only for Local Public Administration Authorities, their clerks, and other local institutions, financed from the state budget.

These sub-domains are not used for commercial purposes.

2. National Policy Environment: What is the current strategy for the development of the Domain Names

The National Registry Operator's strategy now is to increase the number of registrants, through more affordable prices. Today, there are about **10.000 registrants** (September 2006). It is hoped that by 2011 there will be around **100.000 registrants** for the Sub Domain names. In case there will be around 100.000 registrants, the price per year will low to **15 \$**.

Below are the current tariffs for the .MD Domain Names!

Tariffs for the zone .MD Domain Names

Price/per year	1 year	2 years	3 years	5 years	10 years
.md	\$49.00	\$47.00	\$45.95	\$42.95	\$35.95
.com.md	\$24.00	\$23.95	\$22.95	\$20.95	\$14.95
co.md	\$24.00	\$23.95	\$22.95	\$20.95	\$14.95
org.md	\$24.00	\$23.95	\$22.95	\$20.95	\$14.95
info.md	\$24.00	\$23.95	\$22.95	\$20.95	\$14.95
.com					
.net					
.org	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$24.00
.info					
.biz					

3. Legal Framework: Laws, regulations, decisions that regulate the Top Level Domain

Among the most important Laws and Regulations is the **Regulation on Name Administration in the Top-level Domain .md**, by the National Regulatory Agency in Telecommunications and Informatics (ANRTI) (<http://www.anrti.md>)

4. Market Developments/Business Opportunities: The Domain Name in the zone .MD

The Domain Names in the zone .MD are opened to anyone interested ... The Principle is "first come first served". Companies located in Moldova as well as companies or corporations which have business – relations with Moldova mainly use this TLD. .md domain names are also used by individuals and corporations related to medical industry. There are no legal or technical special requirements for registering a md. Domain name.

5. Key Players/ISPs, Academia, Registrars ...

MoldData is the National Registry, responsible for managing the top-level Internet domain, and then for allocating second-level domains within that domain to people and organizations with interests in Moldova.

The ISP providers offer third level and fourth level domain names. There are around 6 big ISP providers (according to Molddata) which provide this type of domain names.

5. User Developments/User Groups: MoldData has around 10.000 registrants at the moment. There are no statistics related to the main target users, but the biggest number of registrants are from the

- business sector, followed by
- physical entities,
- state and public institutions (most of them are required to have a web page), and
- NGOs.

The biggest number of registrants is from the Capital city, Chisinau and there are around 150- 200 registrants (MoldData) which are in the rural communities. These are mostly local NGOs, local public administration offices, Regional Educational departments and few businesses.

6. Future Perspectives by MoldData ...

- To increase the number of registrants;
- To offer discounts for the purchase of several domain names;
- To regulate more strictly the content of the web sites;
- To come up with new services ...