

ICI Bucharest announces the transition to a new registration and yearly maintenance policy for the “.ro” domains.

Following the consultations with the partners held on Jan. 18, 2017, which took place at ICI Bucharest headquarters, and based on the output of the “Consultations on regulation principles regarding the .ro domain names” survey initiated by MCSI (Ministry for Communications and Information Society) on May 27, 2017, the Board of Directors Of ICI - Bucharest approved on July 14, 14.07.2017 the introduction of the registration and annual maintenance service for “.ro” domains.

As effects:

- The “.ro” domain system will be comply with the requirements of the annual maintenance service beginning with March 01, 2018.
- As of March 1, 2018, “.ro” domain owners will be able to pay the maintenance service for a desired period between 1 and 10 years.
- For ROTLD accredited registrars, the annual fee will be 6 EUR / year, plus VAT. This amount was set taking into consideration the European general trends in this area, adjusted with the national circumstances of the Romanian market, such as income and purchasing power.
- For direct acquisition, via www.rotld.ro site, ICI Bucharest registrar will charge the amount of 12 EUR / year, plus VAT.
- The domains' expiry date will be calculated taking into account the principle that the old registration fee should cover at least 5 years of maintenance as follows:
 - Domains registered before March 01, 01.03.2013 will receive a grace period of minimum 3 months in order to pay the maintenance service fee, so that first domains will expire on June 01, 01.06.2018.
 - 5 years will be added to the date of the most recent domain trade (ownership transfer). Example: If the domain was registered on Jan. 01, 2015 and there wasn't any transfer of the right of use since then, the domain will expire on Jan. 01, 2020; if the domain was registered on Jan. 01, 2015 and ownership was transferred to a different entity / person on Jan. 01, 2017, then the domain will expire on Jan. 01, 2022.
 - If the resulting expiration date is before 01.06.2018 (e.g. the domain registered on 01.01.2010 will have the expiration date 01.01.2015), calculation of the date that the domain will expire will take into account the registration date, and grouping two months as in the table below:

The month when the registration or transfer occurred	The expiry month and year
January, February	June 2018
March, April	July 2018
May, June	August 2018
July, August	September 2018
September, October	October 2018
November, December	November 2018

Examples:

Registration date	Ownership transfer	Expiry date
28.02.2018	-	28.02.2023
01.01.2015	-	01.01.2020
01.01.2015	01.01.2017	01.01.2022
31.08.2010	-	30.09.2018
31.05.2013	-	31.08.2018

Extending the expiry date of domains older than 5 years over a period of 6 months is meant to allow each “.ro” domain owner to renew the domain if he/she so wishes.

The main considerations underlying the decision to introduce the annual registration and maintenance service are:

- **Alignment with European practice.** In Europe, gradually, all countries have switched to a limited time registration of country code domains, and renewal if the owner wants to keep using the domain name. Currently, Romania is the only country in Europe that has not introduced an annual maintenance fee for domains;
- **Compliance with the best practices and recommendations from ICANN, the entity that coordinates the global Internet regulatory process, ICI Bucharest being a member and stakeholder since 1993;**
- Provide the funds needed to scale the IT infrastructure and increase security and reliability;
- The implementation of the annual registration and maintenance system also has the advantage of unlocking the “.ro” domain names that have been registered during nearly 25 years of “.ro” domains and currently aren't used any more; either the companies that registered them ceased to exist, or the person who registered them no longer needs those domain names;
- Maintaining a large database of domains requires a great deal of resources. At the present moment, with all registrations made during the last 24 years, it is almost impossible for system maintenance and security to rely only on revenues from new domain registrations, given that they are on a downward trend;
- Introducing the registration and annual maintenance fee will strengthen the security and stability of the RoTLD service, as the virtual environment is increasingly aggressive over the Internet.