
ICANN Specific Reviews – Competition, Consumer Trust, Consumer Choice Review (CCT) Recommendation 31 - Implementation Documentation

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CCT Final Report: <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/cct-rt-final-08sep18-en.pdf>

Board resolution on CCT Final Report: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2019-03-01-en#1.a>

October 2020 resolution on a set of pending CCT Recommendations: <https://www.icann.org/en/board-activities-and-meetings/materials/approved-resolutions-regular-meeting-of-the-icann-board-22-10-2020-en#2.a.rationale>

- Recommendation submitted: September 2018
- Recommendation approved: March 2019
- Implementation completed: December 2022

See for more information on CCT implementation:
<https://community.icann.org/display/CCT/Implementation>

CCT Recommendation 31

The ICANN organization to coordinate the pro bono assistance program.

Board Action on CCT Recommendation 31

Accept contingent on the recommendation from the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG that the pro bono assistance program continue.

Final Implementation Report

During the 2012 round of the New gTLD Program, the Applicant Support Program (ASP) assisted potential new gTLD applicants seeking both financial and non-financial support via the following mechanisms: Financial assistance in the form of new gTLD evaluation fee reduction, and coordination of pro bono services. The ICANN Board designated a budget of up to \$2 million USD for seed funding for applicant support.

The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group (SubPro WG) reviewed the policy and implementation of the applicant support and the pro bono assistance program. Topic 17 of the SubPro WG's final report is dedicated to the ASP. The SubPro WG recommends that "fee reduction must be available for select applicants who meet evaluation criteria through the Applicant Support Program". The SubPro WG recommendations in this area suggest:

- expanding the scope of financial support provided to the ASP beneficiaries;
- improving outreach, education, evaluation, and usability of the ASP;
- exploring additional funding options, including "attorney fees", "application writing fees," and "bid credits";
- and, also providing non-financial assistance, such as "pro-bono assistance."

Specifically the report notes that “[SubPro] Recommendation 17.1 provides guidance that the Applicant Support Program’s pro bono assistance program should continue in subsequent procedures along with other elements of the program”.

ICANN org notes that should the SubPro WG recommendations be accepted by the ICANN Board, ICANN org will coordinate the pro bono assistance program according to those accepted recommendations. Implementation of SubPro Topic 17 related to the Applicant Support Program in the subsequent round of the New gTLD Program will also address implementation of CCT Recommendation 31. Considerations for implementation of this recommendation were explored as part of the SubPro Operational Design Phase (ODP), which delivered an Operational Design Assessment (ODA) to the Board on 12 December 2022.

Rationale

ICANN org considers further implementation of CCT Recommendation 31 to be addressed by implementation of the next round of the New gTLD Program. Operational assumptions and considerations for implementation of SubPro Topic 17 were explored in the SubPro Operational Design Phase (ODP), which was completed in December 2022. Potential risks, anticipated cost, resource requirements, timelines, and dependencies for implementation were included in the Operational Design Assessment (ODA). With the delivery of the Operational Design Assessment (ODA) to the Board, the Board will consider the ODA in the context of its deliberations on the SubPro Final Report and any actions taken.

Timeline

Expected implementation date: Further implementation of CCT Recommendation 31 will be addressed by implementation of the next round of the New gTLD Program.

Final implementation date: N/A

Milestones

[Operational Design Assessment](#) (ODA) presented to ICANN Board on 12 December 2022