

Breaking Barriers: how governments and ccTLDs advance UA

Tuesday, 10 June 2025 (13:45-15:00 local, UTC +2)

Session chair: Abdalmomen Galila | ccNSO UAC Chair, مصر.

- Looking back at ICANN82: drivers for UA Acceptance
Regina Fuchsová, ccNSO UAC Vice Chair, .eu, .eu and .eu
- Barriers to UA Readiness | Bart Boswinkel, ccNSO
- Breaking barriers
 - Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh)
 - Guðrun Poulsen (.fo)

We will use Mentimeter for live audience input during the session, so keep your phone or laptop handy to take part.



What is Universal Acceptance (UA)?

It ensures that all domain names, including new TLDs, Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), and email addresses are treated equally and can be used by all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems.

An Evolving Internet TLDs and Email Addresses



Instructions mentimeter

Q1

Please select how much you agree or disagree with the statement

My ccTLD is currently engaged in initiatives related to Universal Acceptance (UA) or Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)

(slider: strongly disagree to strongly agree)

**What are the most
important drivers for UA
readiness?**

Polling results ICANN82



Q1 | Is your ccTLD currently working on - or planning initiatives related to - IDNs or Universal Acceptance (UA)?

19

Yes



No



Not sure



20%

40%

60%

80%

100%

Polling results ICANN82



Q2 | Drivers: What motivates your ccTLD to work towards Universal Acceptance (UA) readiness?

15

Get more international customers



Be more competitive



Implement UA before next round new gTLDs



Respond to customer needs



Support local language communities



Act as a role model for local stakeholders



Stay compatible with recent standards



20%

40%

60%

80%

100%

Polling results ICANN82

Q3 | Beyond the drivers listed earlier, are there other important factors driving UA readiness for your ccTLD?

12

12

Digital inclusion

Support the digital transformation projects to do its role

Capacity within our organisation to understand and do the work

To bridging digital divide

Need for digital literacy

Needed for the nation that has 16 recognized languages

Digital inclusion

Inclusive digital development

Legal requirements

Create inclusive Internet Get unconnected connected
Develop local communities online

We have more than 800 languages in a single country,
how we accommodate oral languages in the IDN system?

National policy

Polling results ICANN82

Q4 | Please select how much you agree or disagree with the statement

8

> My ccTLD will expand its efforts in Universal Acceptance (UA) or Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)



Barriers to UA Readiness

2022 ICANN ccTLD UA Readiness Survey

Barriers for UA readiness (↩ technical, operational)

- Other priorities (58%)
- No need to support UA readiness (30%)
- Lack of UA technical expertise (26 %) ↩
- Critical 3rd party: supporting services not UA ready (15%) ↩
- Critical 3rd party: vendor not UA ready, but services are (11%) ↩
- Other (15%)
 - Lack of demand
 - Political situation in the region
 - No trust in open sources
 - Maintenance of EAI servers more manpower ↩

2024 UASG Report

Barriers for UA readiness (↩ technical, operational)

- Technical limitations ↩
- Software issues ↩
- Lack of awareness and education
- Resistance by companies
- Third party dependencies
- Policy-related hurdles

Barriers to UA awareness

Combined list (2022 to 2024)

- Lack of UA technical expertise
- 3rd party dependencies
- Policy-related hurdles
- Lack of demand
- Political situation in the region
- No trust in open sources
- Other priorities

Instructions mentimeter

Q3

What are the biggest barriers your ccTLD faces regarding Universal Acceptance (UA)?



Q4

What other challenges does your ccTLD face to become UA ready?

Q5

If you could change one thing to accelerate your ccTLD's UA readiness, what would that be?

Q6

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement

My ccTLD will increase its efforts in UA) and/or IDNs in the next 2-5 years

Very Unlikely

Certainly

Breaking Barriers

البحرين. & BH.

**Lead The Change
– Multilingual
Internet**

What is .bh and البحرين?

البحرين.



The .bh and البحرين domain extension is the official internet country code designation for the Kingdom of Bahrain. Whether you're an individual or a business, a .bh domain name gives you a single destination to set up a unique web address – because this domain name extension is new, there is currently great availability to get the exact name you want for your website.

.bh is a critical steppingstone in realizing the vision of promoting Bahrain as the Digital Kingdom. It's a versatile domain name, and no registration restrictions on who can use a .bh domain – any individual or entity in the world can register.

Consumers can register the domain and get more information from the following links:

WWW.REGISTER.BH

WWW.DOMAINS.BH



- Universal Acceptance is key to achieve a digitally inclusive Internet by ensuring that all domain names and email addresses are accepted equally by all Internet-enabled applications, devices and systems.
- Implementing universal acceptance will prepare the systems for the future multilingual internet and to reach all the users.
- Developers who understand UA principles have a unique advantage in designing more inclusive systems, which presents a strong opportunity for business growth.
- According to a UASG study, conducted in 2017, the Universal Acceptance of Internet domain names is a \$9.8+ billion opportunity

TIMELINE

Domain Name Registry Service



Ministerial
Resolution
Published in
October 2018

Royal Decree
No 33 issued in
April 2019
Assigning TRA
the Authority to
manage DNS

Technical
Operations
Migrated from
Batelco on
August 2019

TRA and MTT worked on
the comments by LLOC
on Rules
November 2020

Technical
engaged for
technical
project in
March 2019

Operation
Rules submitted
to MTT in
April 2019

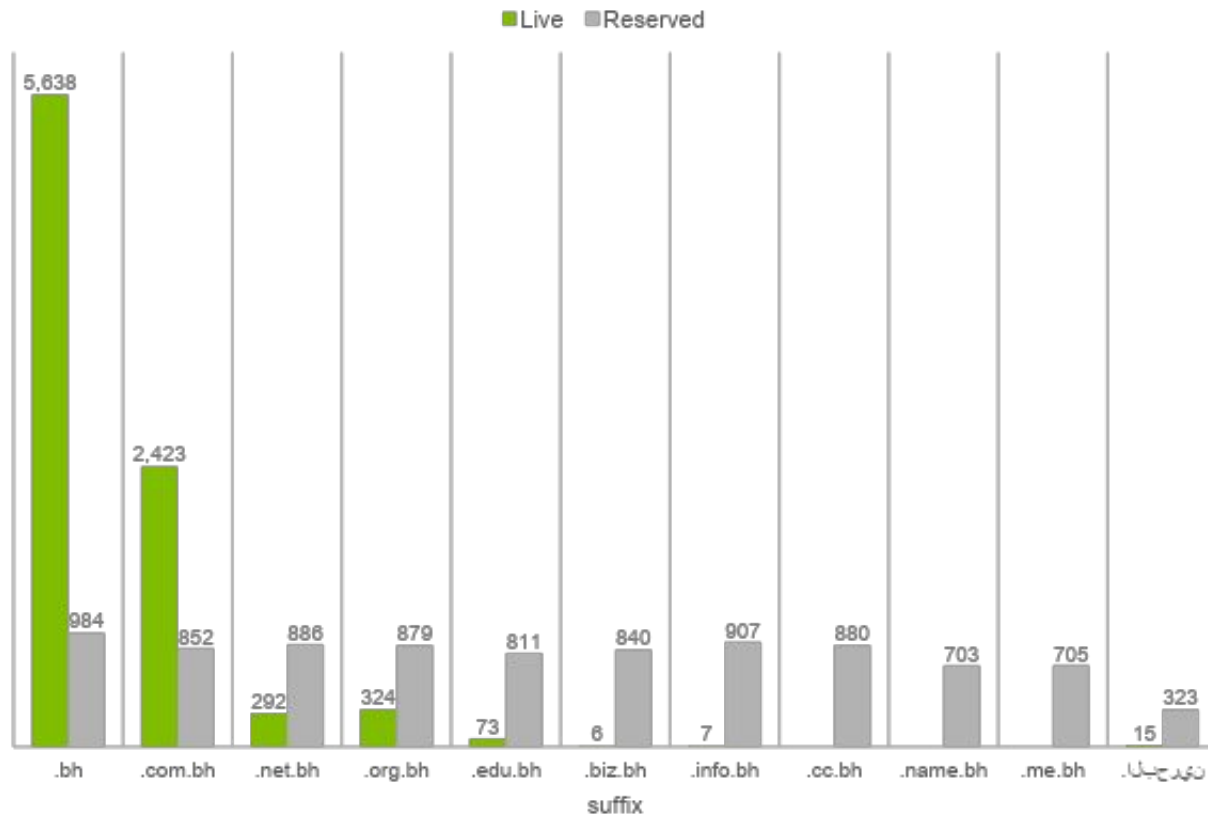
MTT started
Rules review
with TRA in
**November
2019** and
completed in
June 2020.

LLOC
published the
Rules on **10th
August 2021.**

**.BH Launch to
General Public
30th May 2022**

Domain Names Stats- Per Zone

Suffix	Live	Reserved
.bh	5,638	984
.com.bh	2,423	852
.net.bh	292	886
.org.bh	324	879
.edu.bh	73	811
.biz.bh	6	840
.info.bh	7	907
.cc.bh	0	880
.name.bh	0	703
.me.bh	0	705
البحرين	15	323
Total	8,778	8,770



Technical Compatibility

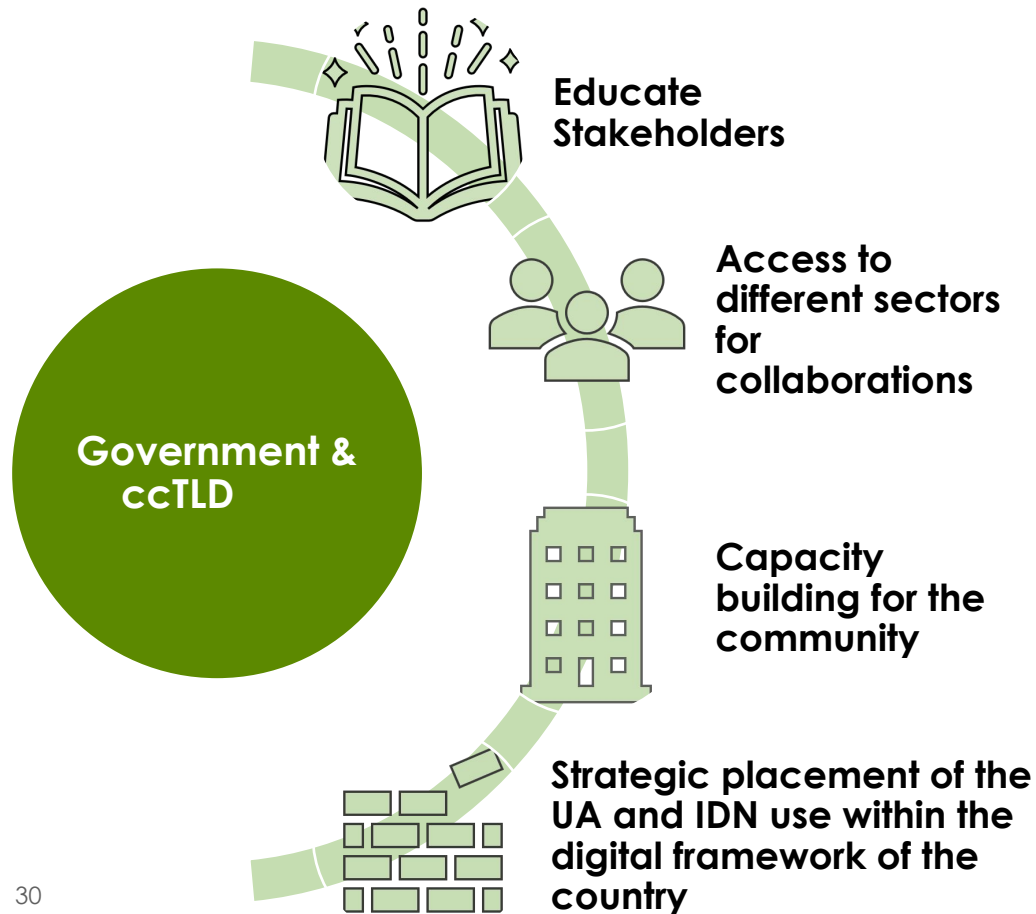
Standardization and Interoperability

Awareness & Education

Policy and Regulatory Challenges

Security & Stability

User Experience



CHALLENGES

- ☐ Lengthy approval procedures.
- ☐ Management prioritization of the UA projects.
- ☐ Citizens acceptance of the government initiatives.

ccTLD & Government Effective Mechanism to Support IDN

البحرين.

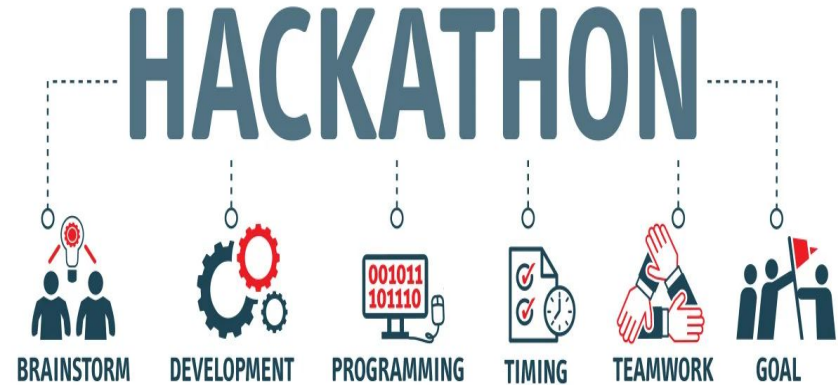
.bh
bahrain
domain
registry

هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات
ECCOMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
مملكة البحرين - Kingdom of Bahrain



Hackathon - 2025

- The Universal Acceptance hackathon is a joint effort between TRA and ICANN to increase UA awareness across the region.
- ICANN will provide training workshop followed by two days of Hackathon.
- The registration of the workshop is open for local University students.
- The students will work on creating UA ready systems with AI solution and submit the final projects at the end of the hackathon.
- The panel of judges (TRA, ICANN, AUBH and Industry leaders) will evaluate the participants outcomes.



Hackathon - 2025



Thank You

Sami Mohamed Ali
sami.ali@tra.org.bh

Digital Nation in the North Atlantic

The Faroe Islands





Faroe Islands

Population 54850

Land Area 1400 km²

Ocean Area 274.000 km²

.fo domains 9650

Domains per capita 17.6%



Universal Acceptance & .fo domains

How Governments and ccTLDs Advance Universal Acceptance

- .fo is the official ccTLD of the Faroe Islands.
- It is managed by a non-profit organization under the Ministry of Trade.
- We use a combined 2R/3R registration model — approximately 80% of all domains are registered directly through us.



- **Key initiatives to promote Universal Acceptance:**

- Promoting the Faroese language online
- Increase the number of .fo domains
- Encouraging Faroese citizens to use their native language on the internet



TÓRSVÖLLUR

đ ó ý á í ø æ ú

- in your .fo domain.

TÓRSVÖLLUR

đó ý á í ø æ ú



- over night we registered 1680 IDN .fo domain names

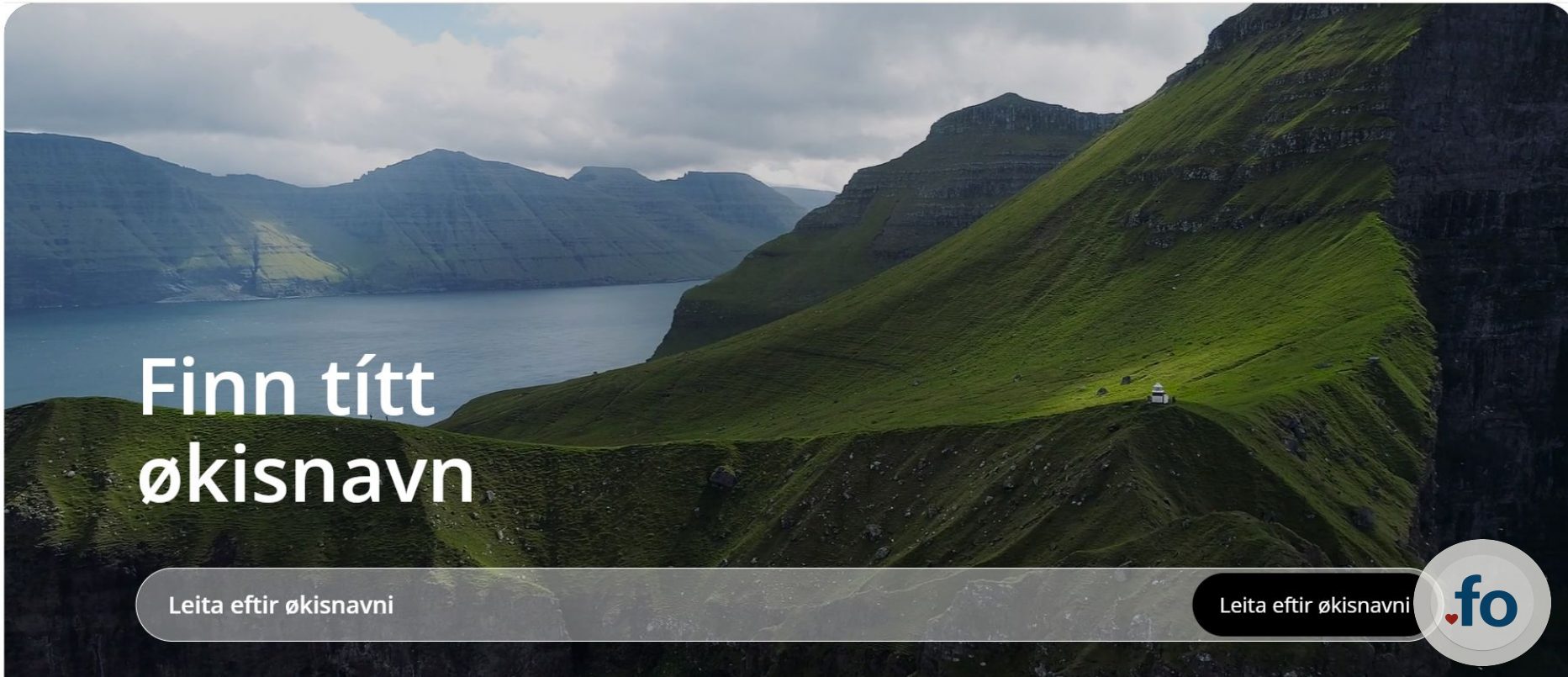


Økisnøvn Trygd Vegleiðingar

økisnavn.fo

Um okkum

👤 Rita inn



Finn títt økisnavn

Leita eftir økisnavni

Leita eftir økisnavni

fo

Find your domain name

landið.fo

Search for domain name



landið.fo

DKK 400 incl. VAT
for 1 year

Buy Domain →



landið.fo + landid.fo

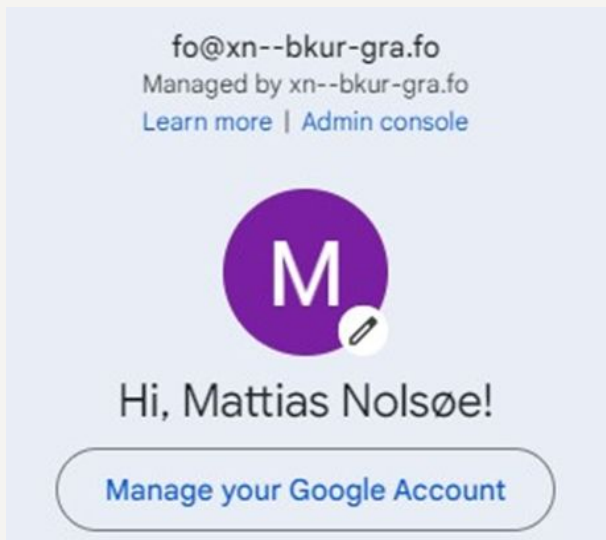
DKK 800 incl. VAT
for 1 year

Buy Domains →

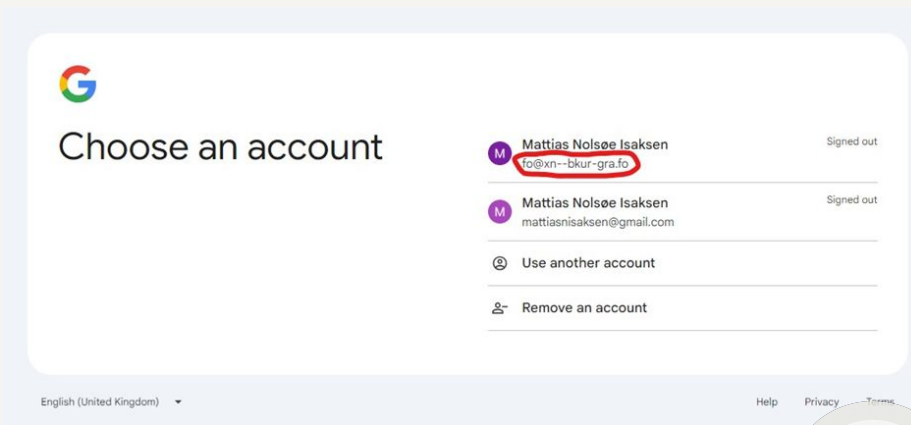


Emails and IDN's

Google Workspace



from: **Mattias Nolsøe Isaksen** <mattias@bøkur.fo>
to: guðrun@poulsen.fo,
mattias@okisnavn.fo,
mattias@bøkur.fo
date: 3 Jun 2025, 11:54
subject: Faroes IDN test
mailed-by: xn--bkur-gra.fo
📧: Important mainly because it was sent directly to you.



Emails and IDN's

Microsoft Business

Subscription & account details

Sign-in details

Add payment, confirm & complete order

How you'll sign in

This username is what you'll use to sign in each time you use your apps. The domain name is a suggestion. You can change your domain now, or later at any time with your own custom domain.

Username *

mattias

@

Domain name *

bakur

.onmicrosoft.com

Save

You can only use the letters a-z or numbers here. Spaces and other types of characters or punctuation won't work.

Password *

Confirm password *

Next

Tell us about yourself

First name *

Mattias

Middle name (Optional)

Last name *

Isaksen

Company name *

Økisnavn Testar

Company size *

2-4 people

Business phone number *

00298898900

Job title *

Address line 1 *

Tinghúsvegur 59

Address line 2 (Optional)

City *

Tórshavn

Postal Code *

100

Country/Region *

Faroe Islands

Does your company have a website? *

Yes

Enter your website

www.økisnavn.fo

Please enter a valid website address.



Social Media and IDN's

Facebook

Step 1 of 5

Finish setting up your Page

Success! You've created Økisnavn Testar.
Now add more details to help people connect with you.

Contact

Website

https://www.xn--kisnavn-p1a.fo/



FO+298 ▼

Phone number
898900



Email

økisnavn@økisnavn.fo



Location

Address

Tinghúsvegur 59

City/town

Tórshavn

ZIP code

100

Instagram

Instagram

Sign up to see photos and videos
from your friends.

 Log in with Facebook

OR

Mobile number or email address

mattias@okisnavn.fo



Password

.....



Show

Full Name

Mattias Isaksen



Username

ØkisnavnTestar



Names can only include letters, numbers,
underscores and full stops.

People who use our service may have uploaded
your contact information to Instagram. [Learn more](#)

By signing up, you agree to our [Terms](#), [Privacy Policy](#) and [Cookies Policy](#).

Sign Up

fo

The Future of Universal Acceptance

Collaboration is key.
Native languages matter.
We need global frontrunners — now.



<https://www.idnworldreport.eu/post/country-case-study-faroe-islands>



Join at menti.com | use code 8104 0691

ICANN | ccNSO

How would you rate this session?



Excellent

Very
good

Neutral

Bad



Thank you!

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Next session: **ccTLD Financial Contributions**