

What are trades and transfers and how do they work?



Most registries have procedures in place allowing you as a domain name holder to give or sell your domain name to someone else, or to change the registrar with which you have your domain name. For .eu these procedures are called trades and transfers. It is a swift process, but for privacy and security reasons it does require an active confirmation from the parties involved. This is to ensure that no one can take over your domain name without your knowledge.

EURid manages all trade and transfer requests via email. A trade is when the ownership of the domain name changes and a transfer is when a domain name is transferred between registrars but the owner remains the same.

Trades

When you want to sell your domain name to someone, a trade is initiated. It is up to the buying party to request a trade. An accredited registrar, authorised by the new registrant to make the request on his or her behalf, relays the request to EURid.

Once EURid has received the trade request, two emails are sent out. One email is sent to the current domain name holder and the other email is sent to the future holder of the name. Both parties then have to confirm via a link in the email that they want the trade to proceed. If, after seven days, only one or neither of the parties has confirmed the trade, a new email is sent out to the registrar of the future domain name holder in which they are informed that the trade has not yet been confirmed.

It is then up to that registrar to inform the relevant parties that confirmation is still needed. If, seven days after the second email was issued, either party has still failed to confirm the trade, the trade is cancelled. If however both parties have confirmed on time the trade is carried out. The trade is carried out either 2-5 working days after the confirmations have been received or on the future date that was requested by the new holder. The new registrar is charged for the execution of a trade and they are only charged if the trade was successful. Once a name has been traded, a new one-year registration period begins.



Transfers

If you would like your domain name to be managed by another registrar, you have to request that the domain name be transferred. Your new registrar, who will be the future manager of your domain, has to initiate a transfer request on your behalf. The process works in a similar way to the trade process.

Once EURid has received the transfer request, an email is issued to the holder of the domain name. They then have 7 days to confirm via a link in the email that they would like the transfer to go ahead. If EURid does not receive a confirmation within 7 days of issuing the confirmation email, a new email is sent out to the new registrar informing them that a confirmation is still needed. It is then up to the new registrar to inform the domain name holder that they still need to confirm the transfer. If, 7 days after the second email was issued, the holder still hasn't confirmed the transfer, it is cancelled. If, however, the registrant has confirmed the transfer timeously, it is carried out – either 2-5 working days after confirmation from the holder was received or on the future date that was requested when the transfer was initiated.

The new registrar is charged for the execution of a transfer and this only if the name was successfully transferred. Once a name has been transferred, a new one-year registration period begins.

The details of the new registrant/registrar are visible in the WHOIS immediately after the trade/transfer has been approved.

