

EURALO Annual report for the period November 2018 to October 2019

1. Regular activities

Since our last F2F General Assembly (GA) in October 2018 in Barcelona, the records of our regular activities on the basis of our monthly calls can be seen on EURALO's Workspace and in our monthly reports – see:

<https://community.icann.org/display/EURALO/EURALO+Monthly+Reports>

Therefore and like in previous years, we would like to concentrate this annual report on some highlights, special achievements and weaknesses / shortcomings during the reporting period. This report comes after the ICANN Annual General Meeting and therefore focuses on activities until the AGM.

2. EURALO representations

In the period between ICANN AGM 2018 and ICANN AGM 2019, the members at ALAC and ICANN were:

- Sébastien Bachollet, re-selected in 2017 for a term ending at AGM 2019,
- Bastiaan Goslings, re-selected in 2018 for a second term ending at AGM 2020,
- Joanna Kulesza selected by the Nominating Committee in 2018 for a term ending at AGM 2020.

Matthias Hudobnik has been selected by EURALO to serve on the ALAC for a three-year term by EURALO from AGM 2019 to AGM 2021.

EURALO welcomed Matthias in his new role, his first formal leadership position although he had already been extensively involved in outreach efforts both at ICANN meetings, through the fellowship, and elsewhere through the CROP and discretionary funding RALO programs.

Our representative on the ICANN Nominating Committee was Erich Schweighofer (and reselected for another and last term of one year).

The ICANN's Leadership Training (previously ICANN Academy), where EURALO contributed substantially to its creation is still expertly stewarded by Sandra Hoferichter.

It is also worth noting that

- Yrjö Länsipuro has been renewed by the ALAC to the position of ALAC Liaison to the Government Advisory Committee (GAC) – a recognition of his success in increasing collaboration between the ALAC and GAC since the position was created on a trial basis,
- Andrei Kolesnikov has remained SSAC Liaison – with praise from his colleagues for the work that he has undertaken.

The RALO's congratulations go to both of them for their sustained appointments to such key positions.

EURALO's leadership has also undergone a change with EURALO outgoing Chair Olivier Crépin-Leblond being replaced by incoming Sébastien Bachollet and outgoing Secretary Wale Bakare by incoming Natalia Filina. EURALO warmly thanks Olivier and Wale for their years of service as EURALO leaders and we hope to have them still involved with our community.

3. EURALO at EuroDIG / SEEDIG

EURALO members were among the founding members of EuroDIG and contributed substantially to the continuing events from Strasbourg 2008 (inception) to The Hague, Netherlands in June 2019. For many years, EURALO has been a EuroDIG institutional partner like the Council of Europe, Swiss OFCOM, EBU, RIPE NCC, ICANN, the Internet Society and the EU Commission. The Chair of EURALO (Olivier Crépin-Leblond) is a founder member of the EuroDIG Association and a member of its Board of Directors. EuroDIG is still considered as a key platform for EURALO's increasing outreach and recognition across Europe. It has grown to confirm its place as the European IGF and its 2019 edition was absolute successes.

In FY19 none of the CROP trips were allocated to EuroDIG.

However EURALO used the RALO discretionary funds (which total \$4000 per RALO) to support two travellers, Nenad Marinkovic and Matthias Hudobnik to attend SEEDIG in Bucharest, Romania. It is the first time that SEEDIG was specifically targeted instead of EuroDIG. This is in part due to the fact that several of our members were already well funded to join EuroDIG so we did not need more people on the ground.

Both participations brought new members to join, especially as individual users. EURALO is well known and respected in European Internet Governance circles.

4. Out-reach and In-reach

Our activities around EuroDIG and SEEDIG were among the best opportunities to constantly improve our outreach in the European region. Several EURALO members were closely involved in national IGFs (Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, UK, Ukraine, Switzerland) with some even visiting national IGFs, such as the visit of Roberto Gaetano for the length of Ukraine Internet week in September 2019, a visit supported by FY20 RALO discretionary funding.

EURALO had a strong representation in the Global IGF 2018 in Paris, France. A CROP travel support slot was allocated to Natalia Filina (Russia) who engaged a lot of people at the EURALO Both in IGF. This was a real success for At-Large as a whole.

Sadly we were unable to allocate CROP slots to visit Re:Publica again but there was presence from some of our ALSes at this event.

During the current period, we were able to broaden our base by one new member ALS, BIKLAB in Guadeloupe. This is an exciting development as we signed a [MoU](#) with LACRALO to guarantee the rights of members of that ALS to be able to participate in the discussions of LACRALO, its closest geographical region, whilst being fully involved and having a right to vote in EURALO.

Current No. of EURALO ALSes 38	
new ALSes in 2018 = 1	Foreseeable decertification in 2020 = 2
new ALSes in 2019 = 1	Decertified ALSes in 2019 = 0

In 2019 we have continued to strive towards our goal of “One ALS / member organisation per European Country”. This goal has been hard to achieve. Whilst we have received interest from organisations in Eastern Europe, where several countries do not have a local ALS presence, political and economic conjuncture have had a countering influence on this aim. Our collaboration with ICANN’s Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) for Eastern Europe and CIS has yielded a few names of people who, for the time being, have joined as individuals and might join in the future as an At-Large Structure (ALS).

Engagement from members to promote the EURALO cause has remained challenging. This could be caused by the high cost for attending events in Europe as well as the fact that the activity of our ALSes is not primarily one of outreach. Many of our ALSes have the skillsets and knowledge enabling them to participate in At-Large’s policy work but they lack the time needed to devote to lead on processes and members find it challenging to juggle a busy professional life with pro-bono activities.

This explains the difficulty to find and motivate volunteers to take part in the ALAC and its subject-related Working Groups.

Unfortunately, despite efforts to change this dynamic, the situation only improved slightly in this last reporting period.

That said, our Task Force on ALS Engagement is working to help remedy this problem. For more about this topic, please see Section 9 of this report.

Ref:

- EURALO CROP Space FY19: <https://community.icann.org/x/uIJHBQ>
- EURALO CROP Space FY20: https://community.icann.org/x/EI_jBq

5. Individual membership

EURALO’s Individual User Association ALS, chaired by Roberto Gaetano, assembles non-affiliated individuals across Europe and became an active part of our regular work. They created their own website and are an important complementary element in our membership structure. Individual user membership has grown at a steady pace since the last reporting period – see: <http://individualusers.org/about/>

This model is showing its advantages: all matters pertaining to individual members are delegated to the Association's Chair and Board. This provides a reliable leadership structure that makes involvement of non-affiliated individuals across Europe particularly dynamic as it provides for its own mailing list on which consensus can be reached for its Chair to convey in EURALO. Voting rules are clear. The workload of running a RALO is shared between the RALO leadership and the Individual Users leadership: the Chair of the RALO can remain neutral whilst the Chair of the Individual Users ALS can advocate for the non-affiliated individuals.

As usual, the EURALO Individuals Association has accepted members from other RALO, as observers. Their participation as observers has been welcome as we often work with RALOs or citizens from other regions of the world who visit the European region temporarily.

6. RIPE NCC Memorandum of Association (MoU)

Whilst the previous year collaboration with RIPE saw a number of activities, this period kept to the usual collaboration with RIPE on EuroDIG but no other events were organised. This is mostly due to none of this year's three ICANN meetings (Kobe, Marrakech, Montréal) taking place in Europe.

Ref: <https://community.icann.org/x/npVEB>

7. CENTR Memorandum of Association (MoU)

A search for a similar MoU of collaboration with CENTR, the Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries took place after the preparation work for RIPE. Thanks to RALO discretionary funds, several CENTR AGMs were attended by our representatives: Christopher Wilkinson in Brussels, Belgium in September 2018, preparing for the MoU and Sébastien Bachollet in Bordeaux, France in March 2019 to follow-up on the MoU.

The MoU itself was signed between CENTR and EURALO at the IGF in Paris. EURALO would like to thank AFNIC for having hosted the signing ceremony which was attended by a lot of people.

Ref: <https://community.icann.org/x/RQnVBQ>

8. Bylaws Review

After long discussions when some members asked for a review of our Bylaws some time ago already, we created a Task Force on this challenging issue after the Dublin GA. This TF started its intensive work at the beginning of 2016 with regular weekly calls to review our Bylaws and to adapt the bulky current version of bylaws to EURALO's actual functioning over the past years. It was found that an increasing number of clauses needed to be amended.

At the Helsinki meeting in June 2016, the decision was made to re-start drafting a brand new set of bylaws based on a Swiss form of bylaws, which allows for a much simpler document that aligns better with the mission and form of a Regional At-Large Organisation (RALO).

This work is now complete, with the new Bylaws having been adopted on 30th October 2019. These can be consulted on <https://community.icann.org/x/sYIzBw>

The next steps are for a Task Force to draft the EURALO Operational Rules. So far, these rules have been passed on informally from Chair to Chair but formalisation of the process is overdue. This work is expected in the forthcoming year.

9. Task Force on ALS Engagement

The Task Force, led by Yrjö Länsipuro, has conducted a survey of At-Large Structure Competencies and created a database that opens the door to targeting information better at our ALSes. The information can also be used to focus on calling for contributions on a per-topic basis. Work is ongoing to develop this process further and other RALOs have already expressed the interest to follow a process taking the EURALO work as good practice. Ultimately, such knowledge will be used in the longer term project of an At-Large Policy Management Process System designed to reduce email overload and increase direct engagement of members. The system was tested on two occasions, both relating to the Expedited Policy Development Process concerning General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) issues and has given rise to several Statements that had a high European input.

10. EURALO Officers and Board

The EURALO leadership was elected for a two-year-term until 2019. The new Board was selected via an Online tool, in 2017:

- Roberto Gaetano - Italy
- Yrjö Länsipuro - Finland
- Erich Schweighofer- Austria
- Annette Mühlberg - Germany
- Jean-Jacques Subrenat – France

The Secretary Olawale Bakare (Wale), EURALO individual member (United Kingdom) remained until ICANN AGM 2019. Wale has been very careful in keeping records up to date, including the [monthly reports](#) which are key to keeping members updated about the RALO's activities.

A New EURALO Board is expected to be selected after EURALO GA 2019.

11. EURALO Hot Topics

The EURALO Hot Topics list was updated on the Hot Topics of 2019. This document can be found on: <https://community.icann.org/x/PQXuBQ>

These Hot Topics were taken by the ALAC's Jonathan Zuck and Joanna Kulesza to produce an ALAC Hot Topic Document, the process of which is described on <https://community.icann.org/x/76ejBq>

12. General Assemblies 2018 onwards

EURALO's General Assemblies through 2013 to 2015 were fully funded by ICANN as F2F meetings. The 2016 General Assembly in Helsinki was not funded by ICANN as F2F meeting, the 2017 General Assembly in Copenhagen was not funded as F2F meeting either, and neither the current non F2F meeting General Assembly in Barcelona (as we did for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012).

In September 2018, the ICANN Board has approved the funding for a third At-Large Summit (ATLAS III) which unfortunately will not include a RALO General Assembly, at the ICANN Montréal Meeting (October 2019). Participation at the ATLAS III was restricted to an additional 60 traveller slots that was allocated according to participation in At-Large activities, which was tracked.

With only 6 ATLAS III travellers, EURALO was under-represented because of a lack of interest in our region to travel to the Montréal ICANN meeting. However our members present were very active in their participation, but we do need more volunteers and fresh people in particular to engage in policy in particular.

The next occurrence of an ICANN meeting taking place in the European Region will be ICANN69 in Hamburg, on 17-22 October 2020. The evolving policy of ICANN and Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) department is that RALO General Assemblies should take place, at least for this cycle, preferably outside an ICANN meeting. As a result, the time/date that was identified for a Funded F2F EURALO General Assembly could be EuroDIG in June 2021. The location for this is still being finalised.

In the meantime, EURALO's 2019 General Assembly will take place during the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Berlin in November 2019.

Finally the Chair and Secretariat would like to thank the responsiveness of the Board and all of their help in making fast turnaround decisions. This body of 5 members, mentioned in Section 10 of this report, has been solicited regularly. The EURALO Chair has taken every opportunity possible to consult with the Board when fast decisions had to be taken.

Berlin, November 2019

Olivier MJ Crépin-Leblond
EURALO Chair (until October 2019)

Wale Shakiru Bakare
Secretariat (until October 2019)