

EURALO Budget proposal for FY 2012-13

This project proposal for the planned EURALO activities and projects was first submitted in January 2011 in regard of ICANN's FY 2011-12 planning and ALAC discussions. This version is just an update with some more specifications on point 1 concentrating on the current year.

1. EURALO GA in 2012

As suggested already in previous FY budgeting, EURALO would like to convene an inclusive General Assembly (GA) again with all its members (30 ALSes total, 27 considered as active), as we could do in June 2008 during the ICANN meeting in Paris and in March 2009 in conjunction with the At-Large Summit in Mexico-City. These face-to-face meetings proved to be essential for EURALO's community building, participation and cooperation in our RALO. According to our Bylaws, EURALO has to conduct one GA per year, as we did in September 2010 in Vilnius/Lithuania (in the course of the IGF) and at the end of May 2011 in conjunction with the 4th European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) in Belgrade. It is worth to mention that the EURALO GAs in 2010 and 11 were organised by ourselves - with some support of At-Large Staff -; however participants had to assume travel and stay-over costs by themselves what proves to be rather prohibitive for the majority of our volunteer members / ALSes.

Therefore, we are suggesting ICANN support and to enable our next General Assembly in line with the planned ICANN meeting in Europe – end of June 2012 in Prague. Three years after the Mexico GA (2009) such an inclusive F2F meeting is crucial for any further community building, encouragement and work dynamic at EURALO. Organizing a 2nd EURALO Showcase (after Brussels in June 2010) at the last European ICANN meeting – but including all members this time! – could be a major challenge for our community.

We are aware that the usual costs for such F2F GAs are considerable, if the same provisions will be given / granted by ICANN for travel expenses involved (inside Europe), stay-over costs (hotel accommodation) besides per diems during the meeting for representatives of 27 ALSes (or around 20 members max. who may make use of an invitation). To keep such costs as low as possible, we would like to suggest a "low-budget type of GA", what means that ICANN will provide a limited frame of financial support of maximum 25'000 US-Dollars. On such a basis EURALO can – the sooner the better – make an announcement to its members, calling for a speedy registration (within four weeks) for the participation at this GA and the intended Showcase. Once we know, how many ALSes are interested to participate (approximately not more than 20), we can fix a maximum support amount / grant for each member (what would be around 1'250 US-\$ on the given calculation basis – all inclusive). According to this low-budget model, members would be asked / obliged to organize their own travel and to book cheap hotel accommodation for the Prague meeting – with support of EURALO.

The suggested low-budget model spares additional (booking) work and costs for ICANN's Constituency Travel and saves on usual (expensive) hotel and per diem costs. As far as potential "liabilities" are considered, we would suggest and ask our participating members to sign a sort of declaration "that besides the fixed amount / support offered any further commitments by ICANN are excluded". The EURALO Officers will take the responsibility to collect bills for all travel and related expenses and to care for a proper accounting of the total amount (max. 25'000 US-\$) supported by ICANN.

EURALO is aware that such a low-budget model creates a kind of precedence but any potential risks involved are foreseeable and manageable in a European context. Furthermore, EURALO leaders provide proven skills and experience in any kind of conference organization.

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2. Regional Outreach and EuroDIG 2012

From the very beginning in 2008 EURALO members were part of the planning and organizing team of the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG): in October 08 in Strasbourg, September 09 in Geneva, April 10 in Madrid and May 11 in Belgrade. In recent years, EuroDIG became a key event for the European Internet related community including all stakeholders (an approach stipulated by ICANN as well). Over the last years EURALO members contributed and participated "on behalf" of our RALO but in their individual volunteer capacity (investing hours for planning and organizing, travel and stay-over costs). We are convinced that it is in the strategic interest of ICANN to become a key actor, reliable and constant supporter of EuroDIG and its impact on the European Internet debate and governance.

So far, five EURALO members contributed annually in the preparation team of EuroDIG. We do not ask for any compensation of working time involved in the preparation process – and for the moment – we do not ask for allocation of travel and hotel reimbursements for the next EuroDIG meeting in June 2012 in Sweden neither. But it is worth to note that any further ICANN support for such focused outreach initiatives like EuroDIG (and other major European conference events) could attract some more EURALO members for active participation in this important European outreach process; the related costs would be rather modest (around 2'500 to 3'500 US\$).

We ask ICANN for a favourable consideration of our project specified under point 1 for the current Fiscal Year 2012.

Neuchâtel/Switzerland, January 12.

Wolf Ludwig
EURALO Chair