

# EURALO Annual report for the period October 2015 to June 2016

## 1. Regular activities

Since our last F2F General Assembly (GA) in October 2015 in Dublin 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+Secretariat+Monthly+Reports>

Therefore and like in previous years, we would like to concentrate this annual report on some highlights, special achievements and obvious weaknesses / shortcomings during the reporting period.

## 2. EURALO representations

With our current members at ALAC and ICANN (Sebastien Bachollet, Sandra Hoferichter and Jimmy Schulz) besides our NomCom representative Yrjö Länsipuro EURALO is well represented at these levels and gained broad recognition for their work.

ICANN's Leadership Training (previously ICANN Academy), where EURALO contributed substantially via Sandra Hoferichter to its creation and conduct, is continuing.

## 3. EURALO at EuroDIG

EURALO members were among the founding members of EuroDIG and contributed substantially to the continuing events from Strasbourg 2008 (inception) to Brussels in 2016. Since multiple EuroDIGs EURALO finds itself among various institutional partners like the Council of Europe, Swiss OFCOM, EBU, RIPE NCC, ICANN, ISOC and the EU Commission. And EuroDIG is still considered as a key platform for EURALO's increasing outreach and recognition across Europe.

## 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), the ICANN-Studienkreis meetings (the last one in August 2015 in Amsterdam), the IGF 2015 in Brazil and other relevant or related events.

During the report period, we were able to broaden our base by three new member ALSes only (Austrian Computing Society, WZRI, both based in Vienna and Plug-IN, Serbia). We are aware about our limited capacities and resources for any supplementary Outreach initiatives but over the years it looks like a worrying trend that we tend to lose as many ALSes as we can newly acquire:

Current No. of EURALO ALSes 37	
new ALSes in 2016 = 3	Foreseeable decertification in 2016 = 2
new ALSes in 2015 = 3	Decertified ALSes in 2014 = 4

Compared to other RALOs, EURALO's membership development is between stagnant or decreasing. And as repeated year by year, we are far away from achieving our ambitious goal to have "one ALS / member organisation per European country"! A key observation or assessment of this problem clearly is that Outreach is seen or misunderstood as a solely duty of the leadership – and not as a challenge and task for ALL existing members. Under the given conditions EURALO may not progress and grow in future. It does not seem to be presumptuous that existing members try to identify and encourage other potential ALSes in their home countries at least by using their national knowledge and language – something that cannot be achieved remotely by EURALO's leadership only.

What proved to be equally difficult and challenging over the last years is **to keep our existing members committed and involved** at EURALO (in-reach). Our regular monthly calls and other Online meetings are usually attended by the same few members only (or "the usual suspects"). And it seems to be evident that this working method and current exchanges by our existing communication channels do not offer sufficient incentives for broader community participation. Could it be that the highly specialized subjects and discourse at ICANN and ALAC seem to attract insiders only and are too abstract for the wider range of our member's engagements in the daily policy issues in their countries?

One prior interpretation for lacking member's engagement was the long break for F2F GA meetings from Mexico 2009 to Lisbon 2013. Since Lisbon however we could provide three subsequent F2F GAs again (Lisbon – London – Dublin) without remarkable changes or increasing engagement over the last three

years. And the consequences for any RALO and its leadership are obvious: Instead of concentrating our capacities on outreach initiatives and strategic projects, we need more time, energy and resources for in-reach, or keeping our members involved. And any efforts always rely on a handful of people and over years.

Another symptom at EURALO for this worrying development is the fact that it is almost impossible to find and motivate members for ALAC and its subject-related Working groups while not always counting on the same few regional representatives. A major shortcoming at EURALO is our chronic underrepresentation at ALAC WGs. These structural weaknesses of EURALO need to be taken into consideration more seriously by the Board and its members as a whole.

These challenges have been recognised as being significant enough for us to create a Task Force on ALS engagement which will start its work in Helsinki. We look forward to the first reports of its findings and recommendations.

## **5. 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 has 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's a time-consuming work in progress and the TF members are keen to present a reviewed version to all members by the end of year.

## **6. Individual membership**

EURALO's Individuals ALS, chaired by Jean-Jacques Subrenat and assembling non affiliated individuals across Europe, became an active part of our regular work. They created their own website and are an important complementary element in our membership structure – see: <http://individualusers.org/about/>

## **7. EURALO Officers and Board**

The EURALO leadership was elected in Dublin for a two-year-term until 2017 while the nomination and voting for the Board was postponed and conducted at the end of last year. As it was a matter of fact that previous EURALO Boards never functioned so far, we defined some performance criteria for the Board member selection with minimal engagement requirements. The new Board was selected via an Online tool at the end of last year. Since we have a small Board with few committed members from across our region, the starting period was more promising.

## **8. GA 2016 onwards**

EURALO's General Assemblies through 2013 to 2015 were fully funded by ICANN as F2F meetings. For the time being, it is still uncertain when we may receive a next funding for a F2F GA meeting in the next years. The ALAC's proposal on multi-year planning for face-to-face meetings was recently adopted by the ICANN Board. That increases the chances for all RALOs to convene F2F meetings at regular intervals. The 2016 Helsinki GA was organized as a virtual meeting (as we did for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012) where presumably only few members will be physically present complemented by proxy votes and remote participation.

Cannes / Basel, June 2016

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EURALO Chair

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