

# Draft EURALO Annual report for the period June 2016 to March 2017

## 1. Regular activities

Since our last F2F General Assembly (GA) in June 2016 in Helsinki 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 (Sébastien Bachollet, Sandra Hoferichter (until AGM 2016, then replaced by Veronica Cretu, then Bastiaan Goslings in February 2017) and Jimmy Schulz (until AGM 2016, then replaced by Andrei Kolesnikov) besides our NomCom representative Yrjö Länsipuro (until AGM 2016 then replaced by Sandra Hoferichter) EURALO is well represented at these levels and gained broad recognition for their work.

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

It is also worth noting that Yrjö Länsipuro has been selected by the ALAC to take the position of ALAC Liaisons to the Government Advisory Committee (GAC).

## 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. The Chair of EURALO (Olivier Crépin-Leblond) is a member of the EuroDIG Board of Directors. EuroDIG is still considered as a key platform for EURALO's increasing outreach and recognition across Europe. In 2016, all 5 Community Regional Outreach Pilot Programme (CROPP) slots were used for EuroDIG (Walter Hötendorfer: recent ALS having applied from Austria; Yrjö Länsipuro: very experienced volunteer who acted as a mentor to all other 4 candidates; Nenad Marinkovic: recent ALS having applied from Serbia; Ovidiu Popeti: potential ALS from Romania - ISOC Romania; Erich Schweighofer: recent ALS having applied from Austria.

The next EuroDIG will take place in Tallinn, Estonia, in June 2017, and it is likely that CROPP slots will be made available for a select number of individuals to apply and to perform outreach.

## 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 October 2016 in Dubrovnik, Croatia), the IGF 2016 in Mexico and other relevant or related events.

During the report period, we were able to broaden our base by one new member ALSes only (Article 19, United Kingdom). 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 38	
new ALSes in 2016 = 3	Foreseeable decertification in 2017 = 2
new ALSes in 2015 = 3	Decertified ALSes in 2014 = 4

As mentioned in the 2016 report: *"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."*

A segment of last year's annual report is unfortunately also valid for the past period:

*"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."*

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

That said, our Task Force of ALS Engagement is working to help remedy this problem. 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 database 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.

## **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 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 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). Work is ongoing with new volunteers having joined the group. Wolf Ludwig and Florian Hule are working on a new draft that will be presented at the ICANN Copenhagen meeting.

## **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. Individual user membership has grown at a steady pace since the last reporting period – 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. The new Board was selected via an Online tool at the end of 2015:

- Jordi Iparraguirre - Spain
- Matthieu Camus - France
- Yrjö Länsipuro - Finland
- Annette Mühlberg - Germany
- Mikhail Medrish – Russia

Two of the five Board members have resigned since their selection due to their changing professional circumstances. They were replaced by:

- Olawale (Wale) Shakiru BAKARE - United Kingdom appointed by consensus on 19/01/2017 (replacing Jordi Iparraguirre who stepped down on 14/12/2016)
- Erich Schweighofer - Austria was appointed by consensus on 13/09/2016 (replacing Mikhail Medrish who stepped down on 14/08/2016)

A selection process will take place approaching ICANN's AGM for the next EURALO Board selection. This process will take place online.

## **8. General Assembly 2017 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 and neither is the current F2F meeting (as we did for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012). 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 and At-Large Summits was approved by the Board last year, but with the current At-Large Review, it is unknown whether this rotation will be sustained.

Cannes / Basel, March 2017

Olivier Crépin-Leblond  
EURALO Chair

Wolf Ludwig  
Secretariat