

EURALO Annual report for the period July 2014 to October 2015

1. Regular activities

Since our last General Assembly (GA) in June 2014 in London/UK 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 new and current members at ALAC and ICANN (Olivier Crepin-Leblond outgoing, Sebastien Bachollet incoming, Sandra Hoferichter and Jimmy Schulz) besides our reselected NomCom representative Yrjö Lämsipuro and Wolfgang Kleinwächter on the Board 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 to its creation and conduct via Sandra Hoferichter's leadership, is now held in its 3rd year.

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 Sofia in 2015. With the next EuroDIG in June 2016 in Brussels EuroDIG is supposed to reach its next highlight with various institutional partners on board (Council of Europe, Swiss OFCOM, EBU, RIPE NCC, ICANN, ISOC, EU Commission, European Youth Forum besides EURALO). 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 were among the best opportunities to constantly improve our outreach in the European region. And several EURALO members are closely involved in national IGFs (Finland, France, Germany, Moldova, Portugal, UK, Ukraine, Switzerland), the ICANN-Studienkreis meetings (the last one in August in Amsterdam), the IGF 2014 in Istanbul and other relevant or related events.

During the report period, we could broaden our basis by two new member ALSes only (Internet Support Foundation and ISOC Chapter both Russia and a pending applicant LOAD, Germany). We are aware about our limited capacities and resources for any supplementary Outreach initiatives, but over the years we have noticed a worrying trend that we tend to lose as many ALSes as we can newly acquire:

Current No. of EURALO ALSes 33	
new ALSes in 2015 = 2 - 3	Foreseeable decertification in 2015-16 = 3
new ALSes in 2014 = 2	Decertified ALSes in 2014 = 4

Compared to other RALOs, EURALO's membership development is stagnant to 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 doesn't 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 – what 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. Maybe 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 two years. According to long-term observations, missing regular opportunities for F2F meetings may have been one factor for EURALO's continuing and increasing disintegration only. 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. Furthermore, there was some optimism after Lisbon that the re-selected EURALO Board would assume its role as a regular support body for the leadership. It became a matter of fact that the EURALO Board is a phantom and has never functioned so far. As a consequence we defined some performance criteria for the upcoming Board member selection with minimal engagement requirements. It looks more promising to have a small Board with few committed members than a large but dormant body.

These structural weaknesses of EURALO need to be taken into consideration more seriously by the Board and its members as a whole (what was always underlined in previous reports BTW).

5. Individual membership

After its creation, certification and some birth pangs the EURALO Individuals ALS, coordinated by Roberto Gaetano, became a promising accession and youngster assembling a couple of floating individuals across Europe. Meanwhile they organized a number of informal meetings during the last ICANN events and created their own website – see: <http://individualusers.org/about/>
At our Dublin GA they have a briefing slot on the agenda to present this complementary element in our membership structure.

6. EURALO Officers and Board

After the last EURALO leadership selection in Lisbon, the leadership and Board need to be re-/elected in Dublin for a two-years term. The nomination procedure for the next leadership was conducted in August – more details see: <https://community.icann.org/display/EURALO/EURALO+Elections%2C+Selections+and+Appointments+2015>

A call for candidates for the next EURALO Board was launched prior to the Dublin GA – together with the defined performance criteria for the upcoming Board member selection for consideration.

7. GA 2016 onwards

EURALO's General Assemblies in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were fully funded by ICANN as F2F meetings. The Dublin GA and meeting was enabled thanks to NARALO giving us primacy in our region. For the moment it is uncertain when we may receive a next funding for a F2F GA meeting in the next years? Probably we have to look for and organize interim solutions, as we did for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 when we mostly met inline with the annual EuroDIG events.

The draft version of this report was approved by an editing committee composed of Olivier Crepin-Leblond and Yrjö Lansipuro.

Neuchâtel, September 2015

Wolf Ludwig
Outgoing EURALO Chair