

EURALO Board report for the period June 2012 to June 2013

1. Regular activities

Since our last General Assembly (GA) in June 2012 in Stockholm/Sweden 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 (partly in Russian – thanks to Oksana Prykhodko, assuming the Secretariat)

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

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

2. EURALO representations

With our current members at ALAC and ICANN (Olivier Crepin-Leblond, Sandra Hoferichter, Medienstadt Leipzig, and Jean-Jacques Subrenat) besides our current NomCom representatives Yrjö Länsipuro, ISOC Finland, and Veronica Cretu (Moldavia) EURALO is still well represented at these levels and gained broad recognition.

In the reporting period, EURALO contributed substantially to the new concept and project to create an ICANN Academy to prepare and train incoming ICANN community leaders (elected or NomCom selected) for their new functions and challenges. Sandra is the Chair of this special WG and brought the concept to recognition by ICANN and a success, supported by Avri Doria for the curriculum part. The first pilot of this project is foreseen for the ICANN 47 meeting in Durban in July this year. For further infos see

<https://community.icann.org/display/Improve/ICANN+Academy+Proposal>

Three EURALO members are currently serving at the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) at the IGF (Veronica Cretu, Bill Drake and Yuliya Morenets). Rudi Vansnik was elected to the ISOC Board of Trustees last year. Christopher Wilkinson serves at the EURid Board. Over the years we can note that EURALO had and still provides excellent representatives at various ICANN levels:

ICANN Board (Seat 15)	Sébastien Bachollet		
ALAC Chairs	Vittorio Bertola	Annette Mühlberg	Olivier Crépin-Leblond
NomCom Chairs	Wolfgang Kleinwächter	Adam Peake	Yrjö Länsipuro
GNSO -- NCUC	Bill Drake and Avri Doria		

3. EURALO at EuroDIG

EURALO members were among the founding members of the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) and contributed considerably to the continuous events (Strasbourg 2008, Geneva 2009, Madrid 2010, Belgrade 2011, Stockholm 2012 and Lisbon) and to a remarkable success of this project. Sandra Hoferichter and Wolf Ludwig are assuming the Secretariat function at EuroDIG. And it is justified to note that EURALO members are still among the driving forces of this project what became a synonym for the regional European IGF and a model case for other comparable initiatives. EURALO is recognized as one of the "carrier organisations" of EuroDIG, representing European civil society besides the other stakeholders. The concept of this EURALO involvement at EuroDIG was repeatedly discussed at our monthly calls and other meetings. And without doubt, this became a key platform for EURALO's improved and increasing outreach.

4. Out-reach and In-reach

Our activities around the EuroDIG were among the best opportunities to constantly improve our outreach in the European region. And several EURALO members were involved or present at national IGFs (Finland, Germany, Ukraine, Switzerland), the ICANN Studienkreis meetings (the next one in September in Pisa/Italy), CoE conferences, the IGF 2012 in Baku and other relevant or related events.

During the report period, we could broaden our basis by two new member ALSes (1 in Germany, 1 in Bulgaria = 33 total – one applicant from Switzerland withdraw unfortunately). But we are still far away from achieving our ambitious goal to have "one ALS / member organisation per European country" and it's still difficult to attract and encourage civil society organisations to become members. The regular regional outreach is still a mayor challenge – with very limited means and institutional support – even counting on the broader EuroDIG network and various contacts.

What proved to be equally difficult and challenging over the last years is to keep our existing members involved at EURALO (in-reach). Our regular monthly calls and other Online meetings are usually attended by a few members only (or "the usual suspects"). And it became evident that this working method and current exchanges by our existing communication channels do not offer sufficient incentives for broader community participation. And the highly specialized subjects and discourse at ICANN and ALAC seem to attract specialists and insiders only but are too abstract for the wider scope of our member's engagements in the daily policy issues in their countries. Another aspect permanently underestimated is a common precondition for any progressive and successful community building: regular opportunities for people or members to meet face-to-face (F2F) what obviously works well at the ICANN and ALAC level via three meetings a year. A regional At-Large organization (RALO) what offers such opportunities once in 3 to 4 years intervals will face some considerable deficits in this respect and has to deal with increasing disintegration effects among its members. And the consequences for any RALO and its leadership are obvious: Instead of concentrating our scarce (volunteers) capacities on outreach initiatives and strategic projects, we need more time, energy and resources for in-reach, or keeping our members involved.

One but obvious symptom at EURALO for this worrying development or dilemma is the fact that it is getting more and more difficult 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 almost chronic underrepresentation at ALAC WGs. And it needs to be noted here that the EURALO Board in its broader composition doesn't offer much support in this respect. As a consequence, the multiple tasks of the RALO leadership need to be handled by a rather small group of people (what may lead to certain burnout effects sooner or later and endanger our limited personal substance). As a matter of fact, a RALO cannot solidly grow while its organizational basis is fragile. This structural weakness of EURALO needs to be taken into consideration more seriously by the Board and its members as a whole.

To overcome these evident problems and shortcomings, EURALO will discuss strategies and next steps at its 6th GA in Lisbon F2F with most of its members again, incl. to define and set thematic and other priorities. The next At-Large Summit foreseen for summer 2014 in London may be another best opportunity to revitalize and improve our members' involvement and org. dynamic.

5. Individual membership

Since our Belgrade GA (2011) when we adopted the Bylaw modifications to allow and include individual members at EURALO (incl. voting rights) almost no progress was made in this respect. The Working group assigned in Belgrade to work out practical modalities for this did not follow up their mandate. This shortcoming has to be noted under pending issues or our 2013-14 action items (same procedure as last year).

6. EURALO Officers and Board

The EURALO leadership and Board were re-/elected in Belgrade for a two-years term; therefore re-elections need to be conducted at the upcoming Lisbon GA. The list of current leadership and Board members you can see on our Workspace:

<https://community.icann.org/display/EURALO/EURALO+Regional+Officers>

and

<https://community.icann.org/display/EURALO/The+current+EURALO+Board>

After modification of our Bylaws in spring 2011, the Chair (Leadership) could stand for prolongation of his terms "depending on the needs of the organization". It was my intention at the time to serve for a last term **preparing a handover and change of generation in the leadership**. Unfortunately, the foreseen constellation didn't work or "time was not yet ready for this". We repeatedly discussed this issue with Board members and Yuliya Morenets to step in for the next Secretariat and to prepare the handover until 2015 together. We are aware that a change of generation at EURALO's leadership is overdue.

7. Funding for GA 2014

Most probably, the following EURALO GA 2014 will be convened in line with the next European ICANN meeting in summer 2014 in London and the ATLAS 2. As for ATLAS 1 (March 2009 in Mexico-City), all our members will be invited to this Summit again what provides ICANN-funded opportunities for our next F2F GA in London. Unfortunately, our repeated funding request to provide travel support for EURALO members to attend the ICANN Studienkreis meeting in summer in Italy was not approved again.

Neuchâtel, May 2013.

Wolf Ludwig for the EURALO Board