

EURALO Chair report for the period June 2013 to June 2014

1. Regular activities

Since our last General Assembly (GA) in June 2013 in Lisbon/Portugal 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 (Olivier Crepin-Leblond, Sandra Hoferichter 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 by these representatives. Furthermore, Wolfgang Kleinwächter was selected last year as another ICANN Board member from EURALO.

As already mentioned in the previous report, EURALO contributed substantially to the new concept and project to create an ICANN Academy. Sandra is the Chair of this cross community WG and brought the concept to recognition by ICANN and a success. The pilot leadership training programme to prepare and train current and incoming ICANN community leaders for their new functions was held at the ICANN 48 meeting in Buenos Aires in November last year. Besides this, EURALO is well represented at other levels like the IGF MAG, the ISOC Board of Trustees and other relevant bodies (AFNIC, EURid etc.).

Over the years we can note that EURALO had and still provides excellent representatives at various ICANN levels:

ICANN Board	Sébastien Bachollet(Seat 15)	Wolfgang Kleinwächter (NomCom selected)	
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 EuroDIG and contributed considerably to the continued events (Strasbourg 2008, Geneva 2009, Madrid 2010, Belgrade 2011, Stockholm 2012, Lisbon 2013 and Berlin 2014) and to a remarkable success of this project. Sandra Hoferichter and Wolf Ludwig are assuming the Secretariat function at EuroDIG. Without doubt, this became a key platform for EURALO's improved and 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 were involved or present at national IGFs (Finland, France, Germany, Portugal, UK, Ukraine, Switzerland), the ICANN Studienkreis meetings (the next one end of August in Sofia/Bulgaria), CoE conferences, the IGF 2013 in Bali and other relevant or related events.

During the report period, we could broaden our basis by two new member ALSes only (the EURALO Ind. Assoc. and ISOC Portugal). After decertification of four long-term dormant members (CLUSIT Italy, KEPKA Greece, Terre des Femmes Germany and Yinternet.org Switzerland) we are presently counting 31 member orgs. total. And as repeated every year, we are still far away from achieving our ambitious goal to have "one ALS / member organisation per European country" – on the one hand it may be difficult to attract and encourage civil society organisations to become members, on the other hand I have not seen much engagement by existing members in this respect! The regular regional outreach is still a mayor challenge (with rather limited means and institutional support) but it shouldn't be considered as a "leadership job" 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. And the highly specialized subjects

and discourse at ICANN and ALAC seem to attract insiders only but are too abstract for the wider range of our member's engagements in the daily policy issues in their countries. Admittedly, the long break for F2F GA meetings (from Mexico 2009 to Lisbon 2013) may have been a handicap for our progressive and successful community building in the past. But there was no improvement after Lisbon and before London at all! Therefore and according to my long-term observations, missing regular opportunities for F2F meetings are only one factor for EURALO's continuing and increasing disintegration. 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 obvious 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. And it needs to be noted here (after Lisbon again) that the EURALO Board in its broader composition doesn't offer much support in this respect. In my honest opinion EURALO's Board concept has never worked so far. As a consequence our work basis and structure is highly dysfunctional and vulnerable in a case of burnout, step down or end of term of the current leadership. 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 (what was always underlined in previous reports BTW).

From EURALO's Lisbon F2F GA until London there was no change or improvements at all and only a handful of people participated in and contributed to the various ATLAS II working groups. Unfortunately it must be noted that ATLAS II – in our home region – was not understood as a next challenge or best opportunity to revitalize and improve our members' involvement and org. dynamic.

5. Individual membership

After some critical remarks in the 2012-13 report there was one gleam of hope at least: After some birth pangs the EURALO Individuals ALS was created and certified in autumn 2013 and Roberto Gaetano and Veronica Cretu took time and energy to make it broader. Meanwhile they count a number of interested people and will convene their first GA inline with the London meeting. It seems to be a complementary new element among our ALSes and the baby / newcomer looks promising.

6. EURALO Officers and Board

The EURALO leadership and Board were re-/elected in Lisbon for a two-years term; therefore no re-elections are needed at the upcoming London 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>

As announced by the London GA agenda (point 9), re-selection and approval is only due for our ALAC member Sandra Hoferichter and our next regional NomCom delegate Yrjö Lansipuro. Both of them proofed excellent and reliable performance during their previous terms and deserve re-approval.

We are aware that a change for the EURALO leadership is overdue next year when the current chair won't be available for this function any more.

7. GA 2015 onwards

EURALO's General Assemblies in 2013 and 14 were fully funded by ICANN as F2F meetings. For the moment it is uncertain whether and when there will be a next funding and F2F GA meeting over 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 several Board members during the review period ending on Wednesday, 18 June.

Lisbon, June 2014 (final version)
Wolf Ludwig
EURALO Chair