

Subject: Implement Technology Working Group (TWG)

Society: USKA

Country: Switzerland

Committee:

Paper number:

Author: Willi Vollenweider HB9AMC

1. Proposal

We propose that the Technology Working Group (TWG) shall be implemented in 2022 without further delay, in order to support our overarching goal to make Amateur Radio relevant again.

2. Motivation

Today, IARU, "Amateur Radio" and some Member Societies (including ourselves) are NOT at all perceived as techno-scientific "centers of expertise" by outside observers.

Based on SARL's proposal NS20_C3_20, General Conference 2020 approved this new permanent IARU R1 body "Technology Working Group" (TWG).

The Executive Committee (EC) then decided to postpone its realization for good reason till after the Strategic Workshop that took place in October 2021.

EC has, however, no authority to cancel or delay this GC decision any further.

IARU R1 and IARU traditionally lack contacts to the "real world" with the exception where standards, spectrum regulations and legislations affect Amateur Radio directly. The result of abstaining from public relations to the "real world" whatsoever has been proven to be most unfavorable. What Member Societies consider existential for themselves, seems not to bother "us" at IARU R1 level.

Another severe consequence of lacking such a "techno-scientific center of expertise" was missing out on technological progress in our indigenous technologies for decades, resulting in syllabuses, curricula and the like to be now outdated by up to thirty years. Recognised in IARU already at GC 2005 in Davos (A Foresight Project DV05_C3_50_EC by Dr. Bob Whelan G3PJT). IARU is not to be blamed here alone, Member Societies bear responsibility for this as well.

Pretending radio amateurs to be the "Ambassadors of modern Communication Technologies" without really committing to doing 21st century techno-scientific activities at center stage would make Amateur Radio untrustworthy.

In order to meet the challenge to make Amateur Radio relevant again, we just cannot afford to delay the already approved TWG any further. Decisive action is urgent.

3. Objectives

We propose that the details of the approved "Technology Working Group" be refined in 2022 by the people who already volunteered at GC 2020, and that the TWG be implemented very soon. All in order to serve the strategic objectives of IARU R1 as set by the Strategic Workshop.

We should not wait until "Amateur Radio has become relevant again"! This will take years. This TWG will complement the work under way in the various STF teams. It will require a few years to bring TWG to full production anyway. The effects thereof will be sustainable.

4. Proposed Scope of TWG (details, refinements, adjustments open for discussion)

SARL's proposition approved by GC 2020 is an excellent start. But it does not exploit the full potential of this excellent idea.

We therefore propose an enhanced concept of this TWG:

1. **Monitor, analyze and follow technological and scientific developments**, focusing on communication technologies (ICT) and scientific fields being of interest to our target groups. Thereby taking into account major movements (currently "Digital Transformation") as well as major behavioural changes in society, especially youth.
2. Some goals as already described in aforementioned **SARL's proposal NS20_C3_20**.
3. Establish and Maintain Official Contacts with international **Scientific Organisations** such as ESA, NASA (apart from ARISS), CERN, etc
4. Establish and Maintain Official Contacts with international **Humanitarian and Cultural Organisations** in our areas of interest such as UNESCO, IFRC, AUNSTO, UNIDO, UNOOSA, etc
5. Establish and Maintain Official Contacts with international **Professional Organisations** in our field, such as IEEE, ACM, W3C, etc
6. Establish and Maintain Contacts with important international techno-scientific **Citizens' Movements and NGO's**, e.g. Citizen Science, FOSDEM, various Open Source communities and organisations, GNU Radio, HamSci, Hackerspaces, Makerspaces FabLabs etc.
7. Establish and Maintain Official Contacts with important governmental or nongovernmental **Global Initiatives** for the motivation of young talents for STEM/ICT, such as foundations that are furthering techno-scientific education of youth etc
8. **Defend our Freedom of Experimentation** (other than spectrum, EMC)
In some countries, the rights to freely experiment with hard and software are endangered by increasingly restrictive legislation intended to "regulate" free exchange of goods between countries.
Continuing Lawmakers' stubborn refusal to differentiate "experimenters" from pure "consumers" ("end users") often has disastrous effects on Technical Experimentation (as warned by the 2nd progress report on EU's R&TTE Directive 1999/5/EC already in 2010!). This includes intimidation and punishment of creative and innovative people including young STEM talents.
The mania to "certify" everything has already extended from hardware to software. We must fight for free experimentation with hard and software as fundamental right of radioamateurs and groups with similar interests, especially youth.
Cooperations with other bodies who are defending such rights as well, are indispensable, e.g. FSFE.org and others.
9. **Facilitate Member Societies** to cooperate with national chapters of international organisations and bodies mentioned above.
And vice-versa: Contacts first established on national level can motivate international bodies to follow suit.

10. Internationally push forward, coordinate and support HamProjects.

Ambitious ham project ideas often exceed the resources that local clubs or small Member Societies possess: such as specialized skills, expensive measuring equipment, specialized hardware, software, expertise, project management skills, money and the like.

(open for supplementation)

5. Human Resources

It is important that TWG staff are selected very carefully according to the qualifications required. Be it technical, scientific, diplomatic, political, humanitarian, influencer, marketers, opinion leaders etc.

We profit that there are many radio amateurs who are already inside the above mentioned organisations (partly in senior positions, sometimes retired but with remaining relationships)

TWG shall be a team, not a single person: Chair, several experts, several staff persons.

6. Finances

TWG will need money from the IARU R1 (STF?) budget in order to establish and maintain these activities. Some partner organisations will expect us to pay membership fees, at least in the beginning before mutual benefit is recognized by both (“win-win”).

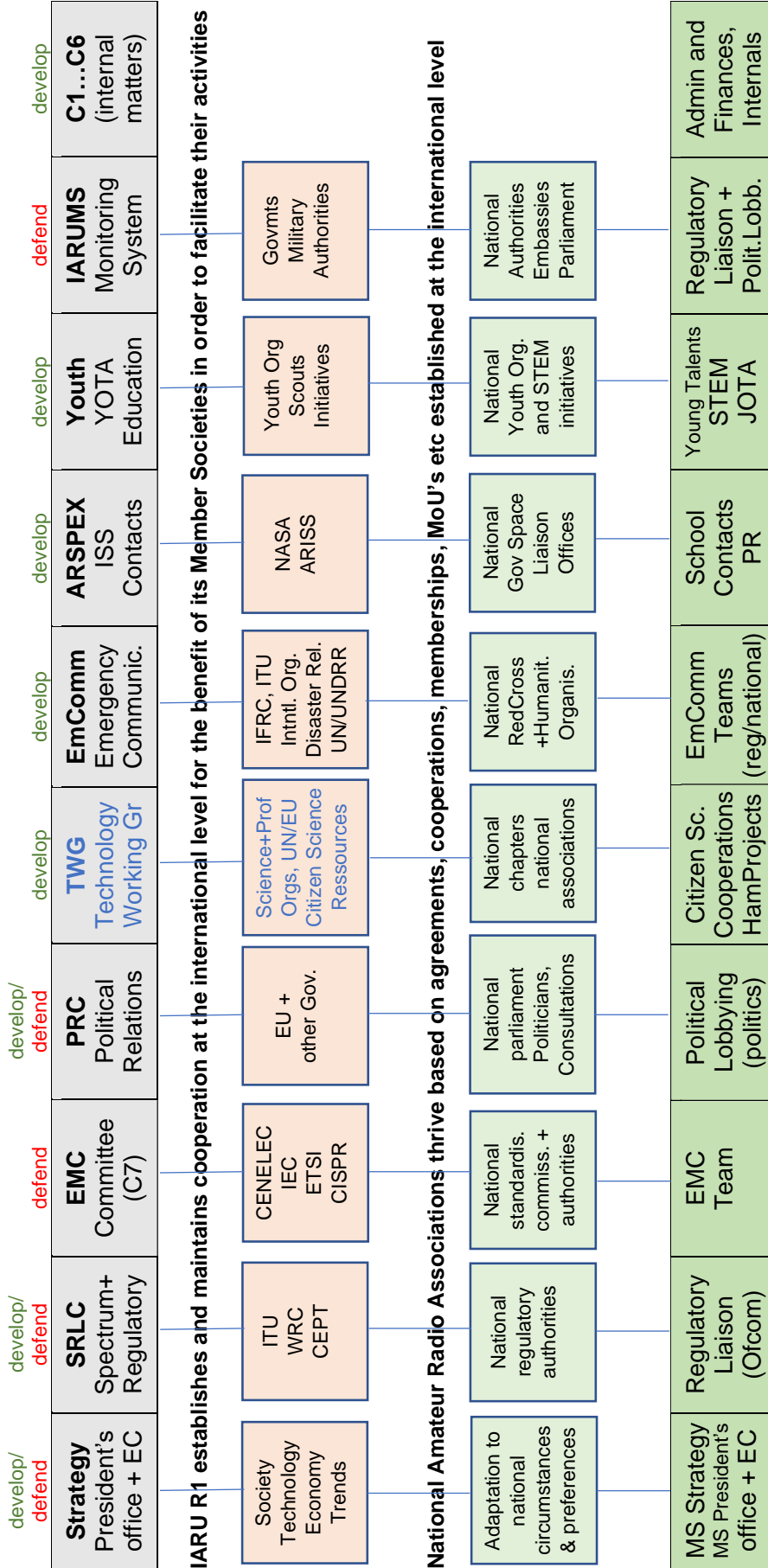
7. Final remark

Technology Working Group is not a “PR Department” for IARU R1, although TWG’s achievements will be made public in order to develop recognition of Amateur Radio with society, industry, science, education, authorities and politics.

Annex: Organisational chart (Organigram) of IARU R1 including TWG.

IARU R1 Organigram (external relations only) – where does TWG fit in?

IARU R1



Member Society

Source: <https://www.iaru-r1.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WG-Terms-of-Reference-March-2021.pdf>

USKA/HB9AMC/28 March 2022