

Steering Committee Meeting 18 November 2014

Meeting attended by Toby Mendel, Carole Excell, Toby McIntosh, Adam Foldes, Gilbert Sendugwa, Alexander Kashumov, Andreas Pavlou.

1. The Steering Committee (SC) was formally welcomed and presented brief introductions of themselves to one another.

It was agreed to continue to send the SC meeting minutes to the SC members for approval soon after the meeting before being sent also to the discussion list to help keep members informed.

2. The basic functions of the SC were explained to the members of the call.
 - **Membership** – Role of the SC to consider applications for membership and approve or reject every quarterly period via email. Criteria for membership are (i) a civil society organization (ii) with a significant area of work on promoting/defending the right of access to information.
 - **Coordinating RTKD** – Explained that 2014 had limited materials produced because it was felt they were not really being used, however new SC can decide what to do as it feels fit.
 - **Raise funds/project proposals** - Since FOIANet is not a legal entity it cannot raise its own funds, but has to do so through Access Info. Previous SC decided not to make a decision on the legal entity issue as their mandate was coming to a close. At the moment AIE applies for funds on behalf of/collaboration with FOIANet. Next tranche of funding is from OSF but this will not continue without further funding from different sources. It is also in the interest of the FOIANet to get funding from broader range of sources. Regarding previous project ideas that go beyond minimum maintenance include the 10-10-10 Statement, World Advocacy Update Report, and the recent Madrid meeting.

The SC was informed that money left over from current project period would be available for the funding of a physical meeting of the new SC in early 2015.

3. The SC discussed areas of work they thought could be prioritized during the new mandate including:

- Continue with current information exchange network.
- A better structuring/archive of information and previous discussions (eg. by topic). Maybe having this displayed somehow on the website.
- Better resources/library for members.
- Getting a better idea of active members and ensuring participation in the discussion list from a broader variety of members.
- World Advocacy Update 2.0 – maybe focusing on certain topics for further research, or using the report for advocacy in the national context.
- Litigation, Encouraging members to join legislative initiatives (especially at the regional level)
- Pushing fundraising

The ideas and priorities were well received and agreed they had good overlap with the previous ones raised by the last SC meeting in Madrid.

It was decided that some time needed to be spend before a physical meeting on researching further the topic of information collection and organization of the conversations from the discussion list. Then, more concrete ideas especially on the technical side could be proposed. A small working group was created to begin this initial research stage of such a proposal, made up of AP, CE, TMcI, (AF).

4. It was also agreed to have a meeting at some point in January or February, in Madrid of the new SC to work more solidly on funding and project proposals. A funders list was to be shared with the SC and each member was to research further opportunities available that they can add in order to have a better idea of what can be funded, in the meeting. It was also agreed to have a overview of the potential activities that could be discussed and attributed to funding opportunities. The idea of the meeting will be to create a comprehensive workplan that will lead to funding proposals and projects.

It was also agreed that members should be well informed and have the opportunity to feed into this meeting.