

Steering Committee Meeting - 5 June 2015

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

FOIANet Fundraising

The FOIANet Steering Committee (SC) first shared any previous contact with funders and were informed that the Konrad Adenaur Foundation in Bulgaria mainly focus on Eastern Europe and so the potential for funding from them would be limited but we should approach the central Foundation to see.

A completed Approach Note had been circulated to SC members before the meeting to be used to approach potential funders. It was agreed that after this contact stage, if potential funders have an interest and appear to want to fund any of the project ideas, the SC will follow up with them.

It was agreed that SC members will step up their work on approaching funders in line with what was agreed at the Madrid meeting.

ACTION: Andreas to work with Carole/TobyM to pursue funding from the Swedish lottery.

Impact Stories

Following email discussions since the Madrid meeting on the development of a standard template for collecting impact stories, the SC agreed to create a number of examples in order to begin the process.

The template was shared with the SC members, with Carole saying she would share an impact story for others to also replicate from their own experiences/knowledge. Sasho also agreed to prepare a success story from Bulgaria and Taranath would do one from Nepal. It was agreed the stories need to be recent, but might not be from 2015. Once we have agreed a final version of the template and prepared some examples, we will circulate to the membership to try to stimulate more widespread preparation of impact stories.

ACTION: SC members to collate a number of impact stories to begin process

Website Resources

The Steering Committee agreed that one part of the resources section of the website would contain training materials for activists. Toby and Andreas

would talk about what other materials and resources should be hosted there, following on from the discussion about this in Madrid.

Members would be contacted by email via the list by the SC to provide training materials if they have them.

ACTION: TobyM and Andreas to discuss materials and resources for the website and invite FOIANet members to contribute training materials.

RKTK2015

The SC reaffirmed that they will not seek to impose a theme on the day.

It was decided to run a Reddit AMA (Ask Me Anything) which could involve a variety of both SC and regular members participating from around the world. It was agreed this would help to multiply knowledge and awareness about RTI and hopefully inspire people to use it! Toby will lead on this.

Andreas agreed to write to Google to see if they would be interested in doing a Doodle (the changing image on Google searches) for RTKD2015.

The SC also discussed connecting RTKD to the 70th UN General Assembly (15-28 September 2015). Ideas included a letter from the FOIANet reminding the UN GA of the importance of the right to information. It was agreed that such a letter could be publicised via the networks and media contacts of members for maximum impact. Carole, Toby, Andreas and Adam will form a sub-committee to deal with this.

The SC also discussed the possibility of FOIANet working with media outlets like The Guardian newspaper to try to get them to profile RTKD, in the same way other communities have done so previously (e.g. Open Data).

The SC also floated the idea for some of the Impact Stories to be publicised on RTKD as well, if they are ready by then.

The SC confirmed that they would make sure they work with the membership as much as possible to include as much of the community in the developments and actions for RTKD.

ACTION: Organise Reddit

ACTION: Andreas to write to Google about Doodle for RTKD

ACTION: Draft letter for UNGA, work on publicity for it (Carole, Toby, Adam, Andreas)

ACTION: Contact media outlets to do joint articles on RTKD

ACTION: Publicise impact stories on RTKD

Branding

The idea of having clear guidelines about how and when to act as a representative of FOIANet was discussed by the SC. It was agreed that SC members should use their common sense when speaking as SC members and avoid getting involved in complex policy discussions in that capacity.

It was agreed that the creation of a charter for FOIANet would help to clarify roles and responsibilities and it was agreed to begin work on such a charter after RTKD events. The SC will of course consult broadly with the FOIANet community in the process of developing the a charter.

AOB

Intern

Andreas agreed to create TORs for a summer Intern activities and to share them with the SC to then decide if an intern would be needed/practical. Such an intern could either work from the Secretariat office in Madrid or from another location, such as the office of a SC member, depending on the focus of his/her work.

ACTION: Andreas to create TOR to share with Steering Committee and begin to find an intern

Archives

Andreas also agreed to investigate the problem of missing archives from the early half of 2015.

ACTION: Andreas and IT technician to investigate problem and report back to the SC as soon as possible.