



Annual Report 2015



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Welcome to our interim Annual Report 2015!

This interim Annual Report now covers the year 2015 so far. It is expected that a final Annual Report will be presented at the 2016 General Assembly.

The Annual Report is a transparency effort, in order for the Member Organisations to see the progress and still outstanding tasks in particular in relation to the adopted 2014-2015 Plan of Action.

The format of the Annual Report will thus follow the same as the 2014-2015 Plan of Action.

The report further gives a direction on where the Bureau will concentrate its attention until the 39th General Assembly in 2016.

We look forward to discuss the Bureau's work and further direction following this interim 2015 Annual Report!

The IFLRY Bureau 2014-2015

1. IFLRY more Global

IFLRY has made some great, concrete achievements when it comes to being more global. First, IFLRY was granted a larger-scale project focusing on Latin America. The project has conducted several seminars with local and international participants. This have strengthened the Latin America Programme and put focus on a region that has not been a Bureau priority for a while. The grant is foreseen to end following the IFLRY EC in Santo Domingo, however, the Latin America Programme has already reached out to partners and donors to continue its work.

IFLRY has further ever closer relations to its regional member from Asia, CALD Youth in particular on Climate Change ahead of COP21 in Paris. As well IFLRY have attended and cooperated with its European regional member, LYMEC at IFLRY and LYMEC statutory events and seminars. Finally, IFLRY has further developed its relationship with its newest regional member AYUFD. Here several joint activities have been conducted throughout 2015.

Also, IFLRY's efforts on an advocacy level has helped making IFLRY more relevant to the broader world community. Here, IFLRY has been looking into its newly achieved Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC. This will enhance IFLRY's opportunities to influence world politics and take fully part in the international NGO world. Most notably IFLRY took part in the UN General Assembly that adopted the SDG's and attended key liberal meetings on this agenda in New York.

This leads to IFLRY's work in the overarching network ICMYO, where the world's international youth organisations gathers. IFLRY took part in the 2015 Annual Meeting in New York and influenced the network through proposals and engagement. The meeting was also an opportunity to coordinate with IFLRY Member Young Democrats of America, where it is foreseen to start a permanent effort in New York to deal with IFLRY's advocacy work.

All this underlines the IFLRY Bureau's aim for the Federation to be more global.

1.1. To appoint Bureau Members to follow up on the various (sub-)regions relevant to IFLRY

The Bureau has within the regional working groups, attached to the Plan of Action as Annex A, been enhancing its efforts in various (sub-) regions. The working groups will still function till its 2016 General Assembly. This is a point where the Bureau would have needed to focus more, however, the Bureau will prioritize this point before the 39th General Assembly.

1.2. To develop Regional Development Plans

No RDP's have been developed as of yet. The Bureau will drop this point for its two-year mandate and instead make the work less structure oriented and more doing-oriented in the regional working groups. The Bureau would like input from the Member Organisations to improve this point beyond its mandate and feed into the next Bureau elected in 2016.

1.3. To make the Federation more accessible

Steps towards making a membership benefits and obligations documents have been taken and should soon be finalized. The Bureau will need more time to clarify membership types, but at the 38th General Assembly a Statutory Working Group was created. The working group is expected to launch its work at the 39th General Assembly in 2016.

1.4. To follow and reinforce MO initiatives around the world

IFLRY has tried to reinforce MO initiatives and events through its newsletter the ISSUE and its online blogging platform Libel. Also, several IFLRY Bureau Members have visited local and national MO activities, like Summer Camps and Congresses.

IFLRY's internal International Officer group on Facebook still works as a sharing space for IO's.

The Bureau is still working on a new website and will thus launch the MO calendar with the new website. The MO calendar is not foreseen to be one of the first launching functions with the new website.

1.5. To have activities in hard to reach areas

The IFLRY Bureau has taken important steps towards having initiatives in hard to reach areas. For example, the earlier mentioned Latin America project or through its Belarus and Ukraine Programme as well as its educational activities where the theme for 2015 has been Conflict Transformation.

The Bureau is looking into activities in Africa in 2016 and beyond, especially focusing on the French community (as this have been a weak link for IFLRY in the past). The Bureau will work to further progress on having activities in hard to reach areas.

1.6. To ensure one event in each sub-region

IFLRY is not yet at the level with its Regional Teams or plans that this goal is reachable. The Bureau will further progress with the Regional Teams to strive towards this goal.

1.7. To promote diversity and encourage active participation

The Bureau sees this as a serious thematic goal that it will always try to incorporate. The Bureau recognizes that it needs to distribute calls for external activities at earlier stages, in order to achieve better diversity. With the establishment of the IFLRY Pool of Trainers in December 2014, the Bureau has benefitted from a Programme Manager to further ensure this point.

1.8. To focus on Regional Member Organizations and Regional Bureau Members

The Bureau has presented an initial draft to launch a Council composed of IFLRY's Regional Member Organizations and IFLRY's Programme Managers. The Council framework needs more experience and concrete ideas for improvement, which is why the Bureau wants to try it on an informal level, before eventually incorporating the Council into IFLRY's statutory documents. The Bureau hopes that the Council could strengthen IFLRY's regional and global work in general. The Council did not yet meet or interact in 2015 as Council, although adopted as a draft framework at the 38th General Assembly. The Council framework was mentioned to the Programme Managers Meeting in Copenhagen though and is further incorporated into IFLRY's 2015 grant proposals. As such it is foreseen to work further with the Council framework in the rest of 2015 and beyond (especially at the Council Meeting in Paris December 2015).

Below are some concrete activities that the Bureau have taken part of or facilitated with its regional members, structures and partners:

CALD Youth/Asia: IFLRY has voiced CALD Youth's activities in the ISSUE and its other communication channels. CALD-Youth was present at its 38th General Assembly and is expected to be a key partner at its delegation to COP21. Further IFLRY was invited to several CALD-Youth seminars in 2015. IFLRY and CALD Youth relations are looking to be further strengthened in 2016.

LYMEC/Europe: LYMEC had its Spring Congress, where the 'G3' of each LYMEC and IFLRY Bureau met. Following this meeting, positive steps towards further cooperation have been taken. IFLRY Regional Bureau Member Jeroen Diepemaat has worked on a daily basis in the IFLRY Bureau. IFLRY was represented at LYMEC's seminars and Congresses throughout 2015 and invited individual bureau members to IFLRY's Ukraine/Belarus Programme activities. Cooperation also took place at

the European Youth Forum COMEM in Spring 2015. IFLRY needs to further engage and coordinate with LYMEC with its activities in 2016 and beyond.

AYUFD: AYUFD became an official Regional Member at the 38th General Assembly and IFLRY and AYUFD has worked closely ever since. Several joint activities have taken place and it is foreseen to further its cooperation in 2016.

Latin America Programme/Latin America: The IFLRY Latin America Programme was set up with previous IFLRY Treasurer Joao Victor Guedes in front. Together with the Programme Manager, the Bureau launched a successful call for team members speaking Spanish. A dedicated Spanish speaking team have begun work and have for example translated IFLRY's manifesto into Spanish. The awarding of the Latin America project have further helped the Latin Programme grow. It is the Programme's and the IFLRY Bureau's hope that the Programme on a long-term basis could develop into a formal regional network for the liberal youth organizations in Latin America.

OALY-LEAD/Africa: The Bureau has looked into different grant opportunities for projects in Africa, no application steps have been taken yet though. Meetings between IFLRY Officials and the Africa Liberal Network (OALY-LEAD's mother parties' network) have highlighted how IFLRY could have a big potential in revitalising OALY-LEAD. The Bureau look forward to enhancing its focus on OALY-LEAD and Africa in 2016 and beyond. The IFLRY President attended the LibDems Autumn Conference, where discussions on further cooperation took place with the ALN Coordinator and ALN partners. It is the Bureau's belief that Africa should be a region of focus in 2016 and beyond.

YDA&YLC/North America: Representatives from IFLRY's two member organizations in North America have attended IFLRY's events during 2015. Further, talks on bringing an IFLRY event to North America in 2015 begun between the Bureau and MO Officials, however no concrete steps were taken. Following IFLRY's increasing work in New York, the IFLRY Bureau will look into engaging its country-based MO's in the UN framework.

2. IFLRY as an Effective Advocate

IFLRY has made some good achievements this year when it comes to its advocacy work.

IFLRY was highly present during the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy and is expected to further its presence in 2016.

The IFLRY Bureau enhanced its cooperation with Liberal International by attending several LI Bureau Meetings, its New York events and other activities.

IFLRY largely engaged in the European Youth Forum to several events and was at the Spring COMEM re-elected for the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

The Bureau finally enhanced its presence in ICMYO, where the world's international youth organisations gathers. Here it looks forward to take advantage of its newly received ECOSOC status and also bilaterally cooperate with other international youth organizations.

2.1. To establish a Policy Book

A Policy Book is about to be finalized and should be presented in connection to the new website before the 39th General Assembly.

2.2. To set up an Advocacy Team

The Advocacy Team is strongly connected to the newly achieved ECOSOC status and should thus be further investigated in 2016. It is currently foreseen to rebrand IFLRY's Human Rights Programme into the Advocacy Team and thus the Advocacy Team will assist the Bureau and the member organisations in IFLRY's advocacy efforts.

2.3. To enhance policy discussions at statutory events

The Bureau has worked on these points in 2014, however, not as much in 2015.

The Bureau took resolutions forward from the 36th General Assembly to the 59th Liberal International Congress. It was successful on incorporating a reference to the step backwards for abortion rights in the World Today Resolution and a separate resolution on upholding basic Human Rights standards in Mega Sporting Events.

2.4. To create a forum for its MOs to share political views and knowledge

IFLRY finally launched Libel in 2015, an online blogging platform for liberal young people all over the world. The blog has proven successful. The starting manager left in the autumn in 2015 and therefore a new editor team is expected to be soon elected.

3. IFLRY as a Capacity Builder & Education Provider

IFLRY has had busy educational year with a Study Session on youth participation in decision-making processes (to be the educational theme in 2016) and one international seminar on conflict transformation as well as several local activities on this subject.

Further, IFLRY launched its Pool of Trainers in December 2014.

3.1. To promote Member Organisations to exchange best practices

As 2.4 has not been finalized yet, this goal is still pending.

3.2 To store educational knowledge and publications

The IFLRY Bureau has not delivered on this point and urge the next Bureau in 2016 to look into this.

3.3. To establish and use the IFLRY Pool of Trainers

This is a goal that the current IFLRY Bureau focused on following the 38th General Assembly. The Bureau acknowledges that important work was undertaken by the previous Bureau here and it is therefore essential to build further on the 2013 Training for Trainers. The Bureau did choose to value this training by inviting three educated trainers from the 2013 ToT to its Study Session on Conflict Transformation.

The Bureau finally launched the Pool of Trainers framework in December 2014 with a Programme Manager being appointed. The Programme Manager was involved in several IFLRY activities in 2015 and the PoT should be further developed in 2016.

3.4. To further enhance IFLRY as a recognized leader in Non Formal Education

This area ties with the former and thus needs more attention. However, the IFLRY Bureau has taken advantage of IFLRY's leading role in NFE methodology through its various funding applications.

4. IFLRY Sustainable for the Future

The IFLRY Bureau has generally taken important steps towards making IFLRY more sustainable for the future.

On an organizational level, the Bureau has first worked on increasing IFLRY's administrative funds and done so with great success for 2015 and beyond. Further, the Bureau has optimized its MO database (and cleared out the status of good and bad standing for several MO's), its MO fee invoicing system, its accounting system etc..

The Bureau further discussed and talked several important statutory reforms and topics for the MO's to decide upon with the establishment of the Statutory Working Group.

Communications-wise, the Bureau launched an interim website to be able to use its website, while developing and finalizing the new IFLRY website. Also, the Bureau focussed on frequent communication via its Social Media channels and its renamed external newsletter the ISSUE.

Finally the Bureau improved internal communication with its internal IO mailing, "Bureau Mail" and engaged much more directly with MO's around the world.

4.1. To review current membership and improve the membership application process

The IFLRY Bureau decided to present a 2014 memorandum to allow some of the big bad-standing member organizations to avoid 2015 suspension and return to good standing in the Federation. Further, the Bureau advertised and improved the procedure for the Solidarity Fund and Reduced Membership Fee applications. The Bureau reviewed its current membership and has put forward a serious list for suspensions and disaffiliations in 2015 at its EC in Santo Domingo. No concrete steps have been taken to improve the membership application procedure yet, however, this ties with the new website and is thus expected to improve late 2015, start 2016.

4.2. To introduce clear and useful types of membership

The IFLRY Bureau has interacted on this point with the Statutory Working Group. The outcomes will be presented at the 39th General Assembly in 2016.

4.3. To review the use of languages in IFLRY

With the Latin America Programme, the IFLRY Bureau took a big step in using one of its official languages (Spanish) on a daily basis.

The IFLRY Bureau looks into engaging its big French community more and hopes to improve the use of French in 2016.

Further, IFLRY should look into using and adopting other official world languages in its daily work. The Bureau has started with translating its manifesto and now holds a draft in Spanish and Arabic. IFLRY will conclude further translate its official documents into its official languages and other important world languages.

4.4. To introduce Internal Memory / Continuity Assurance

The IFLRY Office has started and is set to finish in late 2015 a set of important manuals on what to do with basic IFLRY matters.

4.5. To have a consistent approach to Alumni

The IFLRY Bureau participated the ongoing planning for a formal structure of the Liberal Youth Foundation. The Bureau still needs to send out its quarterly or half-year Alumni updates and will enhance this field in late 2015.

4.6. To have healthy finances at its core

The IFLRY Bureau has followed and is ongoing in implementing the recently adopted Financial Protocol. The Bureau has further worked towards increasing its administrative funding through partner/funding applications and its collection of MO fees and other fees. Further, the IFLRY Bureau has looked into insurances and other basic budget posts and enhanced where possible. The Bureau hopes to continue its success and build up higher savings for the IFLRY accounts in 2015 and beyond.

4.7. To acknowledge financial supporters as partners

The IFLRY Bureau has worked closely with its various partners in 2015. Some shortcomings were unfortunately made due to lack of resources, however, the Bureau and Office have been able to overcome these. The Bureau feels that this is a continuous goal and will therefore work to further progress this area in 2016 and beyond. It is foreseen to have a public partners section in the new IFLRY website, where quotes and information about IFLRY's partners is shown.

4.8. To implement and further develop its Communication Plan

The Communication Plan was updated in connection to the presenting of the 2014-2015 Plan of Action. Several points in the Communication Plan have been carried out and will be continued to do so in line with the plan.

4.9. To develop a vision on IFLRY in 2020

The Bureau started discussions on this point at its In-Person Bureau Meetings in July, October and December 2014. Concrete steps towards developing a vision on IFLRY 2020 will be taken at future IFLRY statutory events.