



Shaping the Future

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International Amateur Radio Union - Working for the future of amateur radio



Future of amateur radio

***Is amateur radio set up for meeting the future
and attracting new radio amateurs?***



Challenges for IARU

- Educating a new breed of regulators
- Speed of response – modelled too much on ITU
- Generational change – we all need to “get” the new world of amateur radio and interworking with different domains
- Resourcing the EC with new generation amateurs
- Member Societies have declining membership or even going out of existence

So, how do we meet “the Future”??



What can IARU do for the future of amateur radio?

- For quite some years it was discussed about “the future for amateur radio”
- There is a general agreement that amateur radio need to change with the general changes
- In 2019 it was decided in IARU-R1 EC to send out a questionnaire to all region 1 member societies (MS)
- The result was “scary” since very few initiatives towards the future was identified by the MS
- It was decided to meet and discuss the future at the next General conference
- What does IARU need to do to meet the future?
- What does the MS need to do to meet the future?



Prepare for a workshop

- It became clear that IARU and its MS need to meet and discuss the future
- To be well prepared for a discussion, a task was given to all MS: Make an evaluation of amateur radio in your country
- The method used was a SWOT (Strengths Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- The MS results was summarised in a common SWOT to be used as base for the workshop discussions. This was presented in June 2021

Strengths		
1	Strong community	National organisation, international representation, clubs, international fraternity
2	Relationships with the regulator (some)	Good relationships in some societies
3	Diverse technical hobby / know how	Technical expertise, diverse activities, STEM linkage
4	Public service	Good examples of public service
Opportunities		
1	Growing our recruitment pool.	New scientific and technical communities offer new recruitment opportunities
2	Technology	Wide range of technologies are available to increase attractiveness of amateur radio
3	Emergency communications	Fragility of our modern communications infrastructure in the face of crisis situations
4	Image	Social networks and web allow a wide dissemination of a new image of amateur radio
5	STEM	Rising popularity of STEM = opportunity to attract younger people to Amateur Radio
Weaknesses		
1	Motivation and capability within the amateur radio community	Coherence of purpose, internal issues, availability of resources
2	Amateur radio and how we portray it	Relevance, promotion, relationship with regulator
3	Recruitment and retention	Recruitment focus and barriers
4	Ageing amateur radio population & recruitment of new radio amateurs	Age profile
Threats		
1	Increasing noise levels in spectrum	EMC issues in the spectrum
2	Loss of amateur spectrum	Commercial interests / pressures & local restrictions on spectrum
3	Amateur radio loses in competition with other areas	Ease of access issues, costs and general perception
4	Relationship with authorities	Regulator attitudes, security concerns, antenna restrictions in some societies



2021 virtual conference and workshop

- Due to the pandemic, a virtual General Conference was organised 2020. Some items was moved to 2021.
- The planned workshop 2020 was moved to 2021 hoping it could be in-person
- Due to the pandemic, again the second part of the General Conference had to be virtual 2021
- It was decided to also do the workshop virtual, we could not wait any longer
- An experienced conference consulting company was used to make the workshop successful





2021 virtual workshop

- The workshop was held in October 2021, 7 sessions over 6 days
- 47 MS and about 100 persons participated in the workshop
- The actual workshop was divided between sessions for all, and group discussions (up to 16 different groups)
- The result was split up in
 - A common vision
 - Strategic Objectives (8 different)
 - Each Strategic Objective was divided into smaller pieces





Workshop result

- For details see www.iaru-r1.org. Links from the home page

Strategic objectives


- 1 — Amateur radio is continually redefined and refocused to be relevant and appealing to a wide range of science and technology interest groups
- 2 — Amateur radio is seen as a welcoming and accessible activity for people of all backgrounds, genders, and ethnicities, providing fun, social community and personal development
- 3 — Amateur radio is seen to be providing social, economic, educational, and cultural benefits
- 4 — Experimentation, innovation, and creativity are central to amateur radio community on wireless communication
- 5 — Amateur radio provides a supportive environment for self-development and the development of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)
- 6 — Governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), professional organisations of the amateur service and its benefit to society
- 7 — Amateur radio has an extensive media presence from its accessibility to the public
- 8 — IARU has an active program and supporting tools to strengthen member societies, their mutual cooperation and growth.





What's next?

- A program organisation of over 60 persons was set up working with the 8 SO
- Now projects are being defined within Scope Areas. Seeking volunteers to join
- This is the largest program in the history of IARU
- It's all built on engagement of the MS and individuals
- This program will go on “for years”
- Both IARU and MS need to change to meet the future



Identified “Scope Areas”

6 main scope areas

1. Build a public relation program to promote Amateur Radio
2. Be recognized as useful to society
3. Establish and maintain connections with other communities
4. Training & self development for amateurs
5. Broaden the technical focus of Amateur Radio: 21st century technologies
6. Include Amateur Radio in public education

- Additional horizontal projects – “Supporting projects” (see later)

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Current focus

- Define and set up a new world wide website for interested non-amateurs and individual amateurs. Focus on promotion and support.
 - The IARU websites are primarily focused on member societies, not individual amateurs
- Start to define projects for promotion of amateur radio (SA #1):
“Build a public relation program to promote amateur radio”

The screenshot shows the IARU website interface. On the left is a yellow navigation sidebar with the IARU logo and links: Home - Region 1, Shaping the Future, HAMChallenge, News and Events, About IARU, Amateur Radio, Spectrum, On the Air, Reference, Committees and Working Groups, and Contact. The main content area has a white header with the IARU logo, the text 'International Amateur Radio Union Working for the Future of Amateur Radio', and navigation links 'Global R1 R2 R3' and a search icon. Below the header is a blue banner with the text: 'The International Amateur Radio Union has been the worldwide voice of radio amateurs, securing and safeguarding the amateur radio spectrum since 1925.' and a 'Read more about us' link. Underneath is a yellow banner for 'SHAPING THE FUTURE' with the tagline 'PROPAGATING OUR PASSION' and a 'Read more about our initiative' link. The main content area is divided into 'News' and 'Events' sections. The 'News' section features a '23cm Band' article with a globe icon and the text: 'IARU simulations confirm the low probability of interference into RNSS receivers in the 23cm band.' dated Mar 7, 2023. The 'Events' section features the '26th IARU Region 1 General Conference' from November 1, 2023 to November 4, 2023. At the bottom right, there is a 'Connect With Our Community' section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.



Will we succeed?

- This is very difficult
- The alternative not to do anything cannot be accepted – we must try!

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Thank you!

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