



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2017 General Conference – Landshut, Germany



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Subject:	The IARU Region 1 Youth Programme		
Society:	Youth WG	Country:	IARU Region 1
Committee:	C3	Paper Number:	LA17_C3_16
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## 1. Background

As agreed at the IARU Region 1 Conference in Albena 2014, a new Youth Working Group has been formed. In addition, the Youngsters on the Air programme has become fully a part of IARU Region 1. Over the last 3 years this programme has been developed further and has attracted great interest from many Member Societies and young amateurs. Around 30 Member Societies have taken part in the yearly summer event and YOTA December month. In the tri-annual report of the Youth WG, which is attached as **Appendix 1**, you will find the detail of what has been achieved in the past 3 years.

In addition, as a related initiative, we started YCP (Youth Contesting Program), where young radio amateurs learn how to operate a major contest station, improve their technical skills and aim for the best results as a team. Details of the YCP are attached as **Appendix 2**

## 2. Key Points

As the Youth WG, it is important that we make our youth activities sustainable. Having a single central event, whilst very valuable, places a finite limit on the number of participants. Its focus so far has been to broaden the perspective of the participants on the wide range of activities within “amateur radio.” The event has not had as its prime objective, to equip those attending with the skills to run in-country or sub-regional events and so multiply the number of potential participants (although some participants have been able to do this in their countries). The Youth WG now believes that the time is approaching where the focus of the event should be adapted to build capability to run youth events in-country and so hopefully increase the in-flow into our hobby. In such a reshaped programme, the participants will be our future leaders, ambassadors of amateur radio promoting this beautiful hobby. In the upcoming years we want to spread, through these youngsters, even more the message about amateur radio and to support and guide them in organizing local, national and regional youth amateur radio (YOTA) camps.

To the existing YOTA programme we should add activities which focus more on stimulating Member Societies in cooperation with young radio amateurs to develop a sustainable youth programme on national and sub-regional level (e.g. Scandinavia).

One idea is to challenge Member Societies to come up with a national YOTA summer camp (this could be a weekend instead of a week). An alternative would be for groups of societies to run sub-regional events. These events should focus on newcomers.

It is important that we provide guidance to the youth coordinators. A focus of the revised central event will be to develop a platform where knowledge and experiences can be shared. IARU Region 1 and youth coordinators of Member's Societies can help in advising these coordinators with setting up a youth programme.

To continue with the success of YOTA, it is recommended to proceed with one main YOTA summer event. It is proposed to change the objective and focus more on the future of amateur radio, future leaders and organizers and ambassadors of the amateur radio hobby.

We should make clear that a prime objective of a YOTA camp is to give the skills to young people to stimulate similar activities in their home country and that by sending young people to YOTA camps, the MS is committing to support such initiatives

Following up on this we will challenge Member Societies to come up with national or regional YOTA camps. The "contract" between the Youth WG and the Member Society would need to evolve into a commitment from the MS to support those it sends to the central YOTA week to develop and run in-country events. This probably will mean a review of the age range of those attending the YOTA week, as a degree of maturity is needed to develop and run an in-country programme on returning home.

At this stage, we are looking for an in-principle commitment to this direction for the development of the YOTA programme.

### **3. Recommendations**

- That that YOTA programme should be sensitively refocused to strengthen the development of skills which will allow in-country (or sub-region) programmes aimed at drawing new people into amateur radio
- That the Youth WG Chair should create a small steering committee to be available to act in a consultancy capacity to support Member Societies in developing their programmes
- That the Youth Contesting Programme should continue in parallel with this

At the Conference, we challenge Member Societies to deliver constructive feedback on the current youth programme, the above proposal, and to comment on what support would be appropriate to help establish in-country programmes.

## Appendix 1

### Tri-annual report of Youth WG

#### 1 Introduction

This report gives an update on the activities of the youth working group of the last 3 years. A focus is how to continue with certain activities, as YOTA and YCP. The organized youth activities are popular and many (young) radio amateurs are willing to take part. As Youth WG it is important to make these activities sustainable and to focus more on the future of amateur radio. The participating youngsters will be our future leaders, ambassadors of amateur radio promoting this beautiful hobby. In the upcoming years we want to spread through these youngsters even more the word of amateur radio and to support and guide them in organizing local, national and regional youth amateur radio (YOTA) camps.

#### 2 History

YOTA started in 2011 with a European youth exchange in Romania as part of the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission. In 2014 YOTA became part of IARU Region 1, which made it possible to focus fully on amateur radio and invite member societies outside the European Union.

This overview shows all YOTA summer camps which have taken place.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Organizing MS</b>	Zamolxes foundation	UBA (+ VERON members)	ERAU	SRAL	ARI	OeVSV	RSGB
<b>Country</b>	Romania	Belgium /Netherlands	Estonia	Finland	Italy	Austria	UK
<b>IARU MS taking part</b>	7	9	15	15	24	29	30
<b>Participants</b>	40	45	85	75	76	105	80
	+1 team non-radio amateurs				First IARU Region 1 event		
					2 participants Region 2	2 participants Region 3	

#### 3. Work done so far

Here is an overview of all IARU Region 1 youth activities:

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
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First youth coordinator in IARU Region 1	New Youth WG + Chair
YOTA summer camp	
Start promoting youth coordinators and youth committees in MS	
International Youth meeting HAM Radio	
YOTA December month	
YOTA part of IARU Region 1 since conference in Varna	
Youth contesting programme	
YOTA website Redesign	Redesign

Later in the report several activities will be explained more thoroughly.

## 4 Objectives

### 4.1 The original objectives of YOTA summer camps

YOTA summer camp attendees are young radio amateurs or young people interested in amateur radio aged 15-26 years. The format of the camp is that these youngsters will have a week involved in many amateur radio related topics alongside others from many other countries. In this week, they will learn new parts of the radio hobby and will learn from each other. There is also a cultural aspect to the camp, where the youngsters will learn about the host country and the other participating countries. In addition, they will work on their presentation and language (mostly English) skills.

A principle aim is that after the camp, when youngsters are back home, they become active in their member society, will show the radio hobby to other youngsters and there will be more youth amateur radio activities organized in the MS by the youngsters who took part in YOTA.

So, the objectives can be summarised as:

- To gain a broader understanding of the many aspects of amateur radio and the enjoyment these can bring
- To develop an understanding of other nations' cultures
- To develop English language and presentation skills
- To gain the competence and confidence to transfer some of the learning gained into national programmes for young people in their home country and thereby to stimulate interest in amateur radio amongst young people

### 4.2 Did we achieve these objectives? (and how achievements have been measured)

We achieved the objective that youngsters are having a week with many radio topics, together with persons from the same age. They learned more about cultures and improved their language and presentation skills, which is a great advantage for their professional development. Since last year, we start measuring these objectives by sending a form after the event.

Over the years that camps have been held, most of those attending have entered into the camp programme with enthusiasm. A small minority have chosen to use the opportunity of the Camp as a holiday trip and have not participated actively. Sadly this has included team leaders from time to time.

In terms of the final objective above, the situation is mixed. Some countries have adopted the Youth initiatives with enthusiasm. But the position on local programmes mirroring the YOTA camp is variable.

I would propose we focus future programmes more on developing youth programmes on a national or regional level. We have achieved starting a programme on a regional level. This has not always resulted in active programmes in all MS. There are some good examples, but we can gain more results if we stimulate and help with programmes on national level, with the objective to gain more active young radio amateurs and more new persons joining the hobby.

Unfortunately, there is no SMART measurement being done, which is difficult on this subjective topic.

## **5 Future Strategy**

### **5.1 The Focus for YOTA**

The YOTA summer camps' target group is young radio amateurs. We open their eyes to the wide range of amateur radio activities and get them interested in other parts of the radio hobby. In addition, we hope to activate these young amateurs to start organizing radio activities back at home and become active in their Member Society with the goal of attracting more youngsters to amateur radio.

To the existing YOTA programme we should add activities which focus more on stimulating member societies in cooperation with young radio amateurs to develop a sustainable youth programme on national and regional level (e.g. Scandinavia).

An idea is to challenge member societies to come up with a national YOTA summer camp (this could also be a weekend instead of a week) and give the best 3 proposed programmes a stimulation fee.

*In the beginning of the paper you read more about the future focus for YOTA.*

### **5.2 Measurement**

So far it has been difficult to measure the success of YOTA summer camp activities, since this is very subjective. However, it is clear that more attention has been given to youth and amateur radio and there is more PR and more youth activities are being organized. If we now focus on stimulating activities on national/regional level, it will be much easier to measure success, through the number of events and programmes running at national level.

### **5.3 Summary of YOTA summer camps**

The investment in YOTA over the last six years has shown that it is possible to build effective week-long events to stimulate young people to enjoy the many aspects of amateur radio. These events have been successful and the organisers have learned a great deal about how young people interact with the hobby.

Much of the value of the events can be replicated at national or sub-regional level, and it seems sensible to adapt the existing YOTA camp format to focus somewhat more on transferring the skills to run such national and sub-regional events. This requires an understanding from Member Societies proposing attendees at YOTA camps that the expectation is that the MS will actively support the development and running of similar events nationally. That is the challenge for the next few years.

#### 5.4.1 YOTA month

It is easy for all MS to take part in the December YOTA. We invite young people to get on the air and show the radio hobby to others. The main rule is to use a callsign with YOTA in suffix.

The following overview shows the activity in YOTA month. We set a limit of 2 callsigns per country. Awards can be requested by persons who contacted several YOTA stations, so showing a general interest in this activity.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016
# IARU Region 1 MS taking part	14	24	31	33
# IARU R 2 MS taking part	n/a	1	1	1
# IARU R 3 MS taking part	n/a	1	0	0
# YOTA callsigns	19	36	42	39
# of QSOs	n/a	37 073	83 280	83 981
# of awards requested	~150	n/a	2 178	1 531

In YOTA month we have a team which is helping out with the website, awards, QSL card and more. Next to the youth coordinators, a lot of work is done by ON3YH, ONL11943, HA8RT, IZ5DIY, OM2FY, ON2TD who are working closely together with the Youth WG chair.

#### 5.4.2 YCP (Youth Contesting Program)

In 2015, we started with YCP. Young radio amateurs are invited to take part in a contest from a so called “top-gun” station. These young amateurs learned how to operate the contest station, improve their contest skills and aimed for the best results together as a team. The youngsters got the chance to share amateur radio knowledge with (local) youngsters. Stations 4O3A, ES5TV and 9A1A are part of the programme. There have been 3 YCP contest activities in 2015 and 2016. We are thankful to the organizers of these contest events and would like to name: ES5TV, 9A1A team (9A9A, 9A5W), 4O3A team (S52X, S53X, S50XX who joined as instructors).

We have seen that the interest is on average 4-6 international youngsters per contest, which made it happen that we never had to exclude youth. Our aim is to make more PR for YCP, to get more applicants who are willing to take part in the programme.



YOTA summer event 2016 Austria

### **5.4.3 International youth meeting at Ham Radio**

Since we want to create more awareness of amateur radio amongst youth and want to give the opportunity to build a YOTA community, we are well represented in Ham Radio Friedrichshafen. Every year there is an international youth meeting where several topics and discussions about youth related topics as amateur radio exams, local youth activities, how to become a radio amateur and many more. Next to this a kick-off of the next YOTA summer camp is being organized by the host country.

### **5.4.4 Website [ham-yota.com](http://ham-yota.com)**

To share the message to the rest of the world we are maintaining a website where many pictures, articles and videos are available of all activities. This is also shared on twitter, facebook and other social media.

### **5.4.4 YOTA sked**

Every month there is a YOTA sked led by a group of enthusiastic young HAM's.

### **5.4.5 Youth coordinators**

It is important that every MS has a youth coordinator. This youth coordinator will be the contact point for IARU Region 1 youth activities. Now, there are around 25 youth coordinators.

At this moment, the youth coordinators are part of the Youth WG. Reality learned that youth coordinators are important as contact point and responsible for youth activities in their own member society.

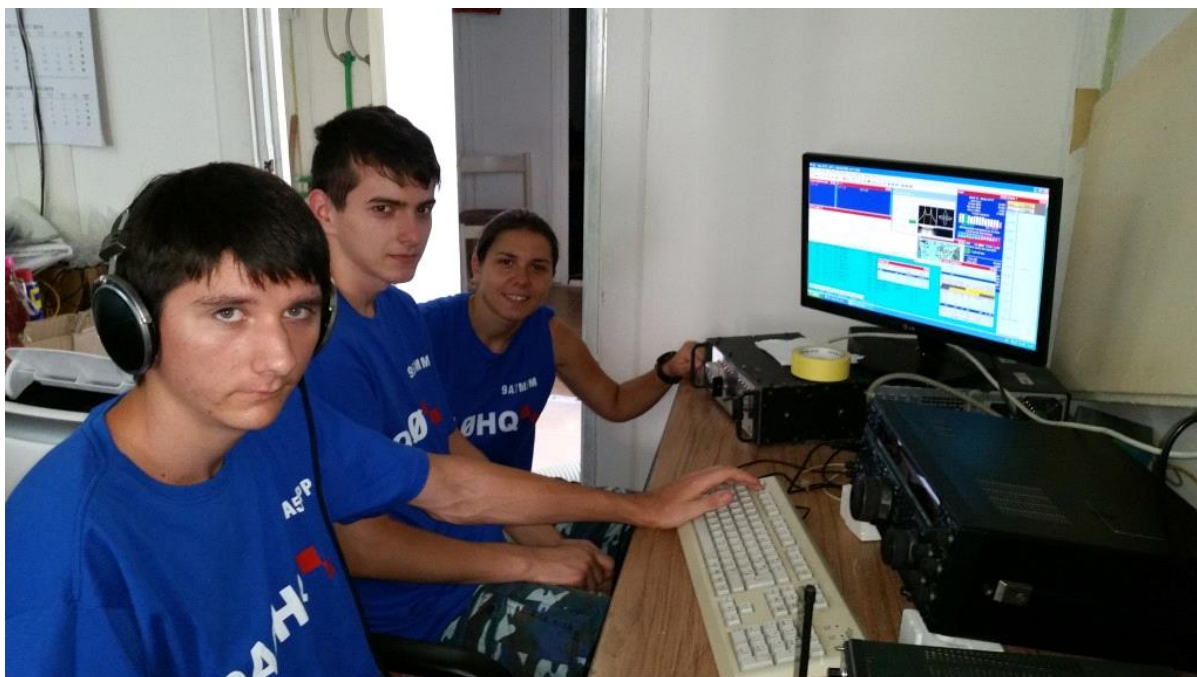
## **6 Management and resourcing**

Since the start of the new Youth WG in 2014, in addition to the Chair, many youth coordinators are part of this group. In addition to the youth coordinators, we rely heavily on a small group of YOTA “active supporters,” who are helping a lot in activities as YOTA month, YCP and more.

It is therefore proposed to change the YOTA WG. The youth coordinators will remain in this WG, but in addition there would be a “steering committee.” This committee would consist of the Chair together with those who are actively helping out in IARU Region 1 youth activities. This would include for example the YOTA website developer, award manager, designer etc.

### 1. YCP programme objectives

The YCP programme arose from the YOTA programme and the need to provide a significantly higher level of contest knowledge to youngsters. It has been a remarkable success on every level.



Unlike the YOTA programme, which gathers a larger number of young radio amateurs in an early stage of interest, the YCP programme gives them the opportunity to learn from the most experienced testers at the best contest stations in IARU region 1.

Profiles of the youth interested in the YCP programme is exactly what every organization is looking for. Interested and talented, which is not the case of all the YOTA participants. They are certainly going to become world class amateurs, and will remain active in the hobby. Several of them will surely become leaders and developers of the hobby in their areas.

### 2. How does the programme operate?

The programme operates in the following way:

Hosts and mentors are our best and most recognized testers who also have big contest stations: 4O3A, ES5TV, 9A1A and SK3W.

They host the youngsters from various MS for free. The schedule for available contests is published on our website: <http://www.ham-yota.com/>



When they arrive, the youngsters are introduced to the station and equipment. Then their mentors prepare them for the contest.

Strategy, schedule, specifics and the way of operating are subjects analysed before the contests starts.

Oversights, upsides and ways of improving are subjects discussed after the contest.

### **3. Main goal: Transferring knowledge**

The main goal of working these contests is not the score, but transferring knowledge. It is for this reason that the senior operators are not working the contest, but only the young ones. Seniors monitor operating and offer advice during the contest, so they can later make an analysis of the whole process and suggest improvements.

And in spite the score not being in focus, the results of the last few YCP contests were phenomenal – first place or among top three.

### **4. How does the programme integrate with YOTA**

YCP participants are in most cases participants of the YOTA programme as well. During YOTA activities, the youngsters whose interest exceeds the content of the YOTA programme, are working out who's going to apply to which contest and where, what category to work and exchange experiences, make strategies and forming teams.

YOTA group processes applications and arranges the number of participants with the station owners.

YCP programme represents a direct upgrade to the YOTA activities and the youngsters are experiencing it in the same way.

## **5. What does it cost?**

The costs of the YCP programme are very modest, thanks to the volunteer approach of the top gun station owners. It is also clear that the YCP programme delivers a much better return on investment.

So far, the contests were mostly covered by donations of the hosts. However, if we wish to develop YCP long term, direct expenses should be covered by IARU.

## **6. What measures are we using to determine the effectiveness of the programme?**

Three parameters describe the programme's benefits:

- Quantity
- Quality
- Expenses

### **1. Quantity**

In the previous period, we had the following activities:

#### 2015

4O3A, CQWW RTTY, 9 participants ( 2<sup>nd</sup> place WW, 1<sup>st</sup> EU ) - 4 mentors

9A1A, SAC SSB, 8 participants – 4 mentors

SK3W, WPX SSB, 11 participants – 3 mentors

#### 2016

9A1A, CQM contest, 7 participants – 4 mentors

ES5TV, ARI contest, 8 participants, 1. WW – 4 mentors

4O3A, CQWW RTTY, 6 participants, (1. EU and 2. WW place ) - 5 mentors

During a period of one year (half of 2015 to September 2016) we had a total of:

- 49 youngsters from
- 13 countries (E7, 4O, IT9, G, S5, YU, ES, YL, ON, SM, 9A, PA, HA)
- supported by 24 mentors.

That's about 50% of the total number of YOTA participants in 2016.

In YOTA programme we hosted 45 participants in 2011, 45 in 2012, 85 in 2013, 75 in 2014, 76 in 2015 and 105 in 2016.

## **2. Quality**

Results and quality of stations and hosts carrying this programme speak for themselves.

## **3. Expenses**

Total expenses for IARU for the listed contests is 1000€. That is 20 € per participant, which is 12 times less than the expenses of the YOTA programme, which is 260 € per participant.

Thus, I conclude:

- The educational level of the programme is very advanced
- Efficiency of the invested money is far greater than that of the YOTA programme
- Effects of the programme on the participants are likely to be more permanent. These participants have already entered serious amateur radio waters



Besides general effects, the benefits of the programme are manifest in the results made by the participants, our youngest amateurs, their great joy and comments that they leave on the social networks.

YCP gives an opportunity to the young members to feel the advanced dimension of our hobby and a way to apply these lessons in the fastest and most efficient manner, from the best contesters and in the best stations.

Their scores so far earn them great respect.

The amateur radio community will surely feel the benefits of the YCP programme. Most of participants will likely become amateur promoters and instructors for their territories.

## **7. How do we want to develop the programme into the future?**

We need to continue developing the programme using same principles as thus far, with securing additional funds for unobstructed financing of 4000 € per year which will serve exclusively for covering direct expenses.

## **8. Protection policy are fully integrated with the programme**

Hosts completely accept the principles adopted at EC IARU Region 1 and it is in that sense that child protection policy is implemented.

We hadn't had a single problem of this kind, or any other. The programme enjoys great popularity among the youngsters, and great support of everyone involved in it in any way.