



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



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Subject:	What is the future of amateur radio? What will be IARU Region 1 main target in the next years?		
Society	ARI	Country:	Italy
Committee	C3	Paper Number:	LA17_C3_46
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## 1. Background

On March 3rd Don G3BJ sent an email to all IARU Region 1 Members Societies with his personal view about how to focus Region 1 only on activities that are core to its mission. In particular, I want to point attention on these words:

*(omissis..)*

*At its core, IARU must focus firstly on its work with ITU and the Regional Telecommunications organisations on spectrum privileges and secondly on its spectrum protection work with ITU and the standards bodies. A third core aspect must be working with Member Societies to help grow the amateur radio numbers (which appears to be happening now) but even more importantly to make sure that new radio amateurs see their national Member Society as a relevant and a “must join” organisation.*

## 2. Key Points

IARU have to review its budget not with a linear cut for all supported activities but have to be careful to maintain those activities that could grant a future for amateur radio.

IARU has to focus on spectrum requests and protection, taking part to all ITU and RTOs meeting and working groups.

But all this effort will be useless if there will be no future for amateur radio with less and less operators on the bands.

So, another focus for IARU is to make known amateur radio to the future generations and youngsters with projects like YOTA.

An important task could be the creation of a partnership with the Education's Ministries in the way to give to students, at each level, educational credits if they take part at amateur radio workshops inside the school or if they have an amateur radio license, proving that to obtain it they have to study physics, radio engineering and electronics and pass an examination ministerial. These workshops are already done in some countries and IARU could coordinate documents and help those member societies without such activities to create the same project in their own country.

Another important task for IARU Region 1 is to facilitate access to amateur radio at early years to all youngsters; in many countries, this is not always possible, for example in Italy you can have your license at any age but you can obtain your own callsign only if you are over 16; and

many youngsters are frustrated about it and during that period could lose interest to amateur radio.

There is a lot to do in this area, we put a lot of energies on protection of our bands, but if in the next future there aren't operators our task is failed.

### **3. Recommendation:**

IARU should create a platform where to share knowledge in how to involve new operators and in particular youngsters; a platform where member societies can share documents about methods to create school and university projects to bring Amateur radio into students' world; and if necessary create a new role beside YOTA WG Chairman that can help in such matters.