



Minutes of the LOLA (Europe) meeting 28/29 of September 2008 – Brussels

Attendance:

ACTION

Peter Ryder (Socitm) - Chair
Torbjörn Larsson (KommlITS)
Christian Bonfré (KommlITS)
Arend van Beek (VIAG)
Antoinette van Leeuwen (VIAG)
Eddy van der Stock (V-ICT-OR)
Louis Massage (V-ICT-OR)
Hedwig Daineffe (V-ICT-OR)

Notes and Minutes produced by Peter Ryder (Socitm)

Sunday 28th September

1. Minutes from meeting on 3/4 February - Agreed.

2. Matters Arising – covered by following agenda

3. Updates

3.1 KommlITS

The changes to the KommlITS were outlined and there is a new board with 4 new members. They had a good conference and the board are pulling together. This was helped by all the board visiting GMIS.

KommlITS have been having some very good contacts with their association for local authorities and the two bodies are getting closer together.

3.2 Viag

Changes to the Viag board were outlined where three have left but up until now only two new members have joined.

In the Netherlands there are two big issues – National Urgency Programme and e-Democracy. There has been some differences with the central organisation and it may appear that they wish to take over some roles from Viag. However Viag are getting involved with their association for local authorities and have been helping them especially in programme delivery.

3.3 Socitm

The financial situation has led to Socitm reviewing all its services and it was stated how Socitm are going through great changes. The new board set up was explained. The outcome of the changes will be known later this year/early next year but the signs are very encouraging. In the meantime Socitm continues to push ahead with professionalism and support of its members. It retains good contacts and influence with central government.

3.4 V-ICT-OR

The V-ICT-OR board is now smaller – two have left and there are no replacements – there is a new President as well but this has created a new momentum.

V-ICT-OR have bid for and are involved in several major projects where their daily work is incorporated into the project. This is in conjunction with their association of local authorities. One of the projects is knowledge base for local authorities which attracted European funding of 676,000 euro. Another project is to produce a local government product catalogue.

4. Socitm and LOLA (following email from Richard Steel President Socitm)

4.1 The meeting confirmed the commitments made by all societies at the last LOLA (Europe) a.g.m. and the last international conference at Algim to support LOLA until at least 2010. It was agreed that one society pulling away would cause immense problems for international co-operation. It was stated that Socitm has a very high profile and presence within LOLA.

4.2 It was confirmed that the next international conference is scheduled for Socitm 2009 (Edinburgh 11-13 October 2009).

4.3 It was also confirmed that not all countries need to get involved in each project which should help in not forcing resources and funding for societies that were not involved.

4.4 With respect to the Professionalism and competence profiles project whilst Socitm are not taking part any information that can be shared on its Aspire project would be most welcome.

4.5 Peter Ryder expanded on the email from Richard Steel:

- Socitm is currently undertaking a detailed review of its organisation and restructuring to modernise and develop greater efficiency and rebuild its financial reserves. This has been going very well and further information is expected by the end of the year or early next year.
- In these circumstances, Socitm cannot give LOLA and international developments a high priority and currently cannot make any financial commitments over and above general support.
- Socitm will continue to support the goals of international co-operation and sharing information and services, and expects to be able to commit more fully when it has completed its current restructuring and regained a healthy financial profile. However Socitm will honour its basic commitments to LOLA and International
- However for the time being Socitm are unable to financially support LOLA work-streams, including the development of professional competencies. Although professionalism and competency is a high priority for the Socitm membership, we already have an established approach to competency assessment based upon the Aspire model developed by Leeds City Council on behalf of UK Government.
- Socitm will encourage its membership to engage, as appropriate at an individual level, and will support in whatever ways we can that do not involve financial commitments or conflict with other resource priorities.
- Socitm will honour existing commitments to host international colleagues at its 2008 conference, and expects to continue to participate in the international conference programme and maintain its relationship with its international sister societies.
- Socitm believes that there is still great scope for International co-operation, relevant campaigns and information sharing.

To sum up Socitm will continue to support LOLA and International and fulfill its commitments however at this time Socitm cannot put a priority on International activity and cannot fund projects. In the interim however Socitm is very passionate about the prospects of an international campaign to combat social injustice and inequity. This position will be reconsidered when the Socitm review is completed.

5. Chair LOLA (Europe)

5.1 A year ago it was proposed that the chair would be rotated between countries. However it was unanimously agreed that it would be far better if the right person at the time of the agm be appointed as chair.

5.2 It was felt that at this time continuity was very important and that Peter Ryder had done an excellent job as chair.

5.3 A motion was proposed by V-ICT-OR that Peter Ryder (Socitm) should remain as chair of LOLA. This was agreed unanimously. Peter Ryder explained his current circumstances and stated that he would have to go back to Socitm before he could accept. PR

6. Website

6.1 It was agreed that we should continue to share information and keep the web site alive. It was also agreed that Socitm would start of a discussion on social Injustice and Social Exclusion and they would also post some information on these subjects. Socitm President stated that “he is hoping to co-ordinate the launch of a UK project with its international sister societies through LOLA where the LOLA website could host articles, discussion and collaboration forums supporting an international campaign concerning Social Injustice”. SOCITM

6.2 At least two best practice case studies should be submitted by each Society asap. ALL
The responsible member for each society will be Arend, Christian, Louis, Peter.

7. Financial Issues

7.1 Each society should continue to look for sponsorship particularly for meetings and lunches. ALL

7.2 Each society should be setting a base budget for their continued involvement in LOLA. It was agreed that when suitable projects had been identified then interested societies could look to committing relevant funds.

7.3 Joke Hofmans should be contacted to look at how EU funds could be obtained.

8. Social injustice/exclusion

8.1 Further discussion took place on the proposal to back the social injustice project proposed by Socitm. The basic aims were described as:

- Raise awareness of social injustices (slavery, exploitation etc.) perpetuated for the benefit of ICT
- Lobbying ICT manufacturers to introduce ethical procurement practices to starve exploitative suppliers of the trade
- Highlight how ICT can be used to disseminate information to combat social injustice and empower those who are being exploited

8.2 It was agreed that this would make a good workshop for a future meeting in order to determine exactly what each society should be doing. SOCITM

9. EU Projects

9.1 It was agreed that if we could obtain details of what EU funding could be bid for then we could look at suitable projects. ALL

9.2 Professionalism and identity security were still identified as important to all societies.

10. Future Meetings

10.1 It was agreed that to get the most benefit from future meetings then time could be given over to workshops where potential projects were discussed in greater depth. The society who is sponsoring that subject should pay for any additional costs i.e. attendance at the meeting by the person/expert facilitating the discussion.

10.2 It was agreed that the next three LOLA meetings would provisionally be:

- 8th – 9th February 2009 Stockholm Sweden
- 15th – 16th July 2009 Glasgow UK
- During International Conference 11th – 13th October Edinburgh UK
- There is provision for an additional meeting on 27th – 28th September if needed in the Netherlands.

KommITS
SOCITM
SOCITM
VIAG

11. International Conferences

Provisional dates were given as:

- Algim 23rd – 26th November 2008
- VIAG 28th November – 2nd December 2008 (including international days)
- KommITS 6th – 7th May 2009
- V-ICT-OR 12th – 14th May 2009 (including international days)
- GMIS 23rd – 27th August
- Socitm 19th – 14th October 2009 (including international days)

Details and dates to be confirmed.

ALL

12. Set the goals for 2009

ALL

- Best practice continues to an import part of the website content – a main goal for 2009 is for each society to post at least two case studies/best practice onto the website preferably by the next LOLA meeting
- The knowledge database should be continued to be populated
- Social injustice/exclusion should be added to the website
- Invite appropriate vendor(s) to LOLA meetings to give their view about the future of ICT in Europe. This could then lead to an open and friendly discussion between the board and the vendor. However we have to focus what we want to out of it. This meeting could take up one of the half days allocated to LOLA meetings with the other half being LOLA business. The vendor could sponsor the meeting or hold it on their premises. We should ask the vendor:
 - what can you do for our members
 - is there sponsorship money available.
- Eu funding to looked at

ALL
SOCITM
ALL

ALL

13. Consider applications to join - There has been no progress however any links should be collowed up by ewach society

14. Consider any resignations - None

15. Date/Venue of next meeting – The next LOLA meeting will 8th – 9th February 2009 Stockholm Sweden

KommITS

16. Venues for LOLA international meetings - UK 2009

SOCITM

17. Any other Business - None

18. Project on Competency Profiles

18.1 Socitm stated that they were involved with an adaptation (Aspire) of the Sofia system and that this would be launched at Socitm 2008 therefore would not be involved with the project being developed by LOLA. However Socitm will share information about Aspire via the website.

18.2 Interested parties stayed to discuss the project and progress in detail