

ARISS International meeting Houston, Texas 2016

ARISS Europe - EuroSchools WG



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EuroSchools Working Group Foundation

On 3 April 2015, the President of ARISS Europe, Mr. Gaston Bertels set up a working group with the school selection manager and the most active mentors in the European ARISS region.

The team was named “EuroSchools” Working Group (WG).

On June 18, 2015 the ARISS Europe Board of Directors approved the “EuroSchools” WG Term of References (ToRs).

“EuroSchools” WG ToRs include:

- the Terms of Reference of this working group
- the procedures which are detailed in the Terms of Reference



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EuroSchools Working Group Structure and Objectives of the Team

The “EuroSchools” WG comprises the mentors of the ARISS-Europe Region.

The “EuroSchools” WG is operating under the guidance of the European School Selection Manager, under supervision of the ARISS-Europe chairman.

The “EuroSchools” WG selects a limited number of schools for each operational period, taking into account the specific aspects of the ARISS European Region as well as:

- the regional guidelines provided by the ARISS-International Educational outreach and School Selection Committee
- requests by governments or major international institutions
- requests by ESA
- etc.



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EuroSchools Working Group

European Application/Selection/Contacts Windows

EU Applications window 1: SEP - OCT - NOV

Selection period 1: DEC

Contacts window 1 : SEP - OCT - NOV - DEC - JAN (next school year)

EU Applications window 2: FEB - MAR - APR

Selection period 2: MAY

Contacts window 2: FEB - MAR - APR - MAY - JUN (next school year)

Holiday window: JUL - AUG



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EuroSchools Working Group Summary of Rules and Tasks

The school selection manager collects applications during the two application windows and stores them in a password protected archive accessible by ARISS-Europe school mentors only, checks the documents, informs the schools about the status of applications, keeps a confidential archive of rejected requests, informs the schools that their ARISS school contact will be planned or that ARISS could not accept their application, communicates the list of selected schools to the ARISS Operations Committee.

The EuroSchools WG meets weekly per teleconference during each Selection Period (December and May) and selects a number of schools for the corresponding Contacts Window.

Selection decisions are taken collectively by the EuroSchools working group.



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New school selection process using window Call for candidate schools

On July 2015, Stefan Dombrowski, ON6TI – ARSPEX working group chairman sent a letter to IARU Region 1 Secretary in order to invite all IARU Region 1 Member Societies to publish the “ARISS School Contacts – Call for Candidate Schools” in their magazine in the autumn 2015, during the months preceding the Application period (Application window).

Similarly, Francesco De Paolis, IK0WGF – School Selection Manager of ARISS European region sent same invitation to the European AMSAT Societies.

The “Call for candidate schools” was published on ARISS International and on ARISS Europe websites.

The first EU submission window extended from February 1 to April 30, 2016 and the ARISS school contacts will tentatively be scheduled in the period extending from February 1 to June 30, 2017.



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New school selection process using window

Application window

From February 1 to April 30, 2016 the ARISS School Selection Manager of the European region checked, collected and shared with the national school mentors the applications, authorizations and educational proposals available in a password protected database (online at ZOHO web office suite).

During the applications window, 56 requests were received from several countries: 25 France, 8 Italy, 5 Poland, 4 Spain, 3 UK, 2 Germany, 2 Ireland, 2 Belgium, 1 French Guyana, 1 Monaco, 1 Montenegro, 1 Luxemburg, 1 The Netherland. In total 41 applications for direct contacts and 15 applications for telebridge.

All 56 requests were accepted in European applications database, in compliance with ARISS recommendations or after the mentors gathered missing information from the schools. 46 applications were accepted immediately, 10 more after action by the national school mentors.



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New school selection process using windows

Selection window

Before the School Selection, the EU Selection Manager was informed by the ARISS-International Educational outreach and School Selection Committee about 12 slots for the European region in the first semester 2017.

Considering that the European region had about 6 telebridge slots available in 2016, the “EuroSchools” WG admitted additional 8 additional applications (of which 2 shared events) from schools accepting a contact in 2016.

For the Pesquet mission, the “EuroSchools” WG agreed that 60% of the slots available for the European region be assigned to France, 8 slots to French schools and 4 slots to non-French schools.

In May 2016 the “EuroSchools” WG met weekly per web-conference and selected a total of 26 applications, to be distributed in 12 slots in the first semester 2017 and 6 (telebridge) slots before end 2016.



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New school selection process using window

School Selection – how it worked

12 slots were assigned to the European region for the first semester 2017, 10 slots for direct contacts and only 2 for telebridge. Moreover 9 of 15 schools accepting telebridge in 2016 were also admitted.

About the 2 telebridge slots available in early 2017, the “EuroSchools” WG decided to assign them to shared events or to new applicant countries.

Only 3 schools requesting a telebridge were not admitted (2 Italy, 1 Poland).

About the 10 slots for direct contacts in the first semester 2017, the “EuroSchools” WG decided to assign 8 slots to France, during Pesquet mission, as well as 2 slots to non-French schools or new applicant countries (or to oldest applications in pending list).

The ARISS team in France and CNES selected the French schools for the 8 slots for the Pesquet mission. 26 of 41 applications requesting a direct contact were not admitted in the ARISS program (7 France, 5 Italy, 3 Spain, 3UK, 2 Germany, 2 Ireland, 2 Poland, 1 Luxemburg, 1 The Netherland).



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Questions?

ARISS International Face to Face Meeting, November 15 - 18, 2016 – Houston, Texas