

ICAR Prevention Workgroup- Notes from the videomeeting in the 13th of June 2016

Von: "Wikberg, Per-Olov" <Per-Olov.Wikberg@naturvardsverket.se>
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An: "'kklassen@avalanche.ca'" <kklassen@avalanche.ca>, "Joe Obad (jobad@avalancheassociation.ca)" <jobad@avalancheassociation.ca>, "'mike@wiegele.com'" <mike@wiegele.com>, "dan.hourihan@alpine-rescue.org" <dan.hourihan@alpine-rescue.org>, "dominique.letang@anena.org" <dominique.letang@anena.org>, Frédéric Jarry (frederic.jarry@anena.org) <frederic.jarry@anena.org>, "Manuel Genswein" <manuel@genswein.com>, "dusan.polajnar@telemach.net" <dusan.polajnar@telemach.net>, Rikspolisstyrelsen <stephen.jerand@polisen.se>, "Kristensen Krister (krister.kristensen@ngi.no)" <krister.kristensen@ngi.no>, CIFRO 2014 <rickard.svedjesten@gmail.com>, "peter.borg@polisen.se" <peter.borg@polisen.se>, "Mikael Amlert (SBO)" <mikael@amlert.se>, Haraldsson, Hördur V <Hordur-V.Haraldsson@naturvardsverket.se>, "Hallberg, Nils" <Nils.Hallberg@naturvardsverket.se>, "gian.darms@slf.ch" <gian.darms@slf.ch>, "jonas@landsbjorg.is" <jonas@landsbjorg.is>, "gebhard@barbisch-vlbg.at" <gebhard@barbisch-vlbg.at>, "duerr@slf.ch" <duerr@slf.ch>, Stephanie Thomas <stephanie@tetoncountysar.org>, "Palmgren, Petter" <Petter.Palmgren@naturvardsverket.se>
Kopie: Hörnell Willebrand, Maria <Maria.Hornell-Willebrand@naturvardsverket.se>

Dear ICAR prevention participants!

A short work meeting was finally arranged with 4 participants present yesterday on the 13th of June.

Here is the notes from the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Participants

Manuel Genswein, Switzerland
Krister Kristenssen, NGI, Norway
Nils Hallberg, SEPA, Sweden
Per-Olov Wikberg, SEPA, Sweden

3. We went through the different tasks that the group has decided to work with the last years.

It seems that not so much progress has been made since the last meeting so Manuel took the responsibility to set up a new webservice on the domain of mountainsafety.info (if I got that right) regarding the project that will collect and communicate useful mountain safety related info for travelers with information from as many countries as possible.

This webservice shall be up and running just before the ICAR congress in Bulgaria and will be presented there.

4. We had a longer discussion regarding how to work in the future and everybody agreed to, that the most successful meetings the last years, has been when we have arranged longer separate workmeetings and at those meetings been able to concentrate on issues that all the member organizations could benefit from. As for an example, Innsbruck meeting in 2012, Split meeting in 2013 and Kilarney/Ireland in 2015. Very few people seem to be able to participate at the video meetings and very little progress is made between the meetings.

So our proposal is to start to plan and arrange a 2-day work meeting in the spring of 2017 instead of trying to arrange a proper workmeeting at ICAR in Bulgaria.

This proposal has also a good support from the survey that was conducted in 2014 regarding what to focus on in the working group. Over 80% of the participants chooses the alternative that we should focus on to "Arrange annual meetings focusing on sharing experience and knowledge with each other regarding mountain safety related issues, sharing data and following relevant research projects"

5. At the meeting we decided to aim for to arrange a rather short, around 1 hour meeting on Thursday afternoon in Bulgaria to sum up all the possible issues that could be subjects and themes for the meeting in the spring in 2017 and also to discuss the funding issue in order to be able to get some more power to the development.

One subject that was mentioned was the task that was discussed in Innsbruck in 2012 regarding how develop international standards and recommendations regarding to measure success in prevention programs as for an example avalanche forecasting services.

6. We also discussed the Icar Mountain Safety Foundation and other possibility's to find external funding for future activities which will

hopefully lead to increased engagement and improved work efforts. Within the EU there is many possible ways at the moment to find funding to cover as for an example, meeting costs, new innovations, international collaboration projects and so on.

The group should set the goal so that we within 1-2 years should both have applied and received enough funding for cost covering. This is really needed to be able to really set up necessary speed and power to the group.

With appropriate fundings we should be able to increase our possibility to both identify future challenges and to find the possible solutions in order improve our national prevention programs, both for mountain rescuers as well as for the visitors of the mountains in the name of ICAR.

I will invite you all to a new videomeeting in end of august/beginning of September when we know more about the program in Bulgaria and the funding efforts that shall be made.

Wish you all a great summer and take good care of you!

/POW

Per-Olov Wikberg
National Coordinator
Mountain Safety Council

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency SE-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden

Visitors adress: Forskarens väg 5 in Östersund

Tel. 0046-10-6981053

per-olov.wikberg@naturvardsverket.se

www.naturvardsverket.se