

# **"ICAR DIGITAL" project**

## **1. Starting situation**

Today, ICAR is an umbrella association with a global presence for mountain rescue organisations and their partner organisations and institutions in politics, business and science. With its current 107 member organisations and 24 partner organisations, ICAR has the world's biggest network in its core competence – mountain rescue.

The key strategic factors for ICAR are the transfer of know-how and the annual congress held in a member country with the involvement of the partner organisations. All communication needs are covered via the ICAR website. No print products or postal correspondence are employed today, and even the archive has been extensively digitised.

The current IT infrastructure for operating the website was acquired 20 years ago and has been continuously expanded in line with the doubling of membership numbers since 2010. It has now clearly exceeded its performance limit, cannot be used in response mode (mobile use), and has considerable security deficiencies.

Any interruption or even a total failure would inevitably lead to an interruption in communications for ICAR's core business and would seriously jeopardise the organisation's existence and its main benefit for member organisations – namely, the global exchange of experience and knowledge.

## **2. Grounds for action**

Our website is fundamentally acclaimed for its architecture, is right up to date in terms of its content and has a large archive section. Use of the website and communication via different apps with links to the website will be increasing in future and will represent a strategic success factor for ICAR as its membership numbers continue to grow. The added value of the annual congress can only be kept accessible and supported through a state-of-the-art and high-performance website with the associated digital communication channels (apps, chats, etc.). ICAR should thus invest in this infrastructure for its member organisations so that it is in a position to fulfil its responsibility towards member and partner organisations over the long term with a professionally edited website.

Dispensing with print products and granting member organisations full access to ICAR's intellectual property place specific requirements on the security of the IT infrastructure and on compliance with the European data protection provisions.

## **3. Motion**

The ICAR Board is applying to the Assembly of Delegates for an investment credit of EUR 30,000 for the development of a new web presence. Priority is to be given to the operating system. The architecture is to be left in its current design, with the same structure as the current website. Annual costs of EUR 5000 are to be budgeted for maintenance and licence fees outside the ICAR office.

The office, in its function of webmaster, takes responsibility for the operation of the website and the continual updating of its content and is under the editorial supervision of the Executive Board.

#### **4. Justification**

The ICAR website contains the organisation's entire intellectual property and serves as a hub through which the member organisations can exchange knowledge, experience and technology.

With its current membership numbers and the charging of an annual membership fee, ICAR must provide a measurable return for its members and ensure their security.

A once-only investment of EUR 30,000 and annual external costs of EUR 5000 will be in line with what members are entitled to. Through the activation of this investment with an annual depreciation of EUR 6000, the project marks a meaningful, affordable and necessary investment for all member and partner organisations and constitutes an acceptable burden on the annual accounts

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