



Brief notes: Board elections info session 3 April 2024

Board members present: Zlakha, Xavier, Moussa

Most people who attended were relatively new members who were interested in knowing how the board structure works at ENAR.

Responses to questions about the role & expectations of the board:

- 4 in-person board meetings a year. There are extraordinary board meetings online.
- Board members need time to devote to being on the board.
- Board members need to be prepared to tackle unforeseen issues.
- As per the Statutes, the board is responsible for the governance of ENAR, and overseeing the general functioning and longer-term strategy. The board is a supplement/support to the Secretariat who has the content expertise.
- On people management: to consider that ENAR is a large (and growing) organization
 - Incoming board members may need considerable time to acquaint themselves with the scope of the organization. Catching up is necessary to become more confident in the required decision making.
- Bringing experience/expertise from the ground (not necessarily needing advanced/academic diplomas)
- As per ENAR's Operating Manual point 3.3.2.12, each board member has a mandate of 3 years each. They can choose to go for a second mandate for a maximum of 6 years. Exceptionally, the mandate can be extended by 1 year for a total of 7 years.
- As per ENAR's Operating Manual point 3.3.2.4, candidates for the board should as far as possible: "Have the capacity to speak, read and understand English to adequate level. An adequate level of French is an asset".
- There are legal responsibilities as a board member.
- There was a question that arose around "how the board intends to deal with the issue that it is felt that certain issues may not get discussed if people from these backgrounds are not represented in the board membership, i.e. the Roma community."
 - And the board's response to this that the Secretariat/Director and board may work intersectionality and so include all experiences voices, but it is also an issue that is recognised as coming out of the way the current statutes and operating manual are set up and thus this is a piece of work for future board members.

General points:

- It was commented that it's great that ENAR considers the language inclusivity of board meetings and other events.
- ENAR has recently started the strategic planning process; an impact assessment survey had been sent out for members in the network to respond to (see newsletter sent on 27th March). It is important to answer the survey to ensure that the members' perspectives on ENAR's governance, structure, and advocacy work is incorporated into our future work and in assessing the need to change our Statutes and Operating Manual to better reflect current realities.