

TRUSTEE REPORT

R9 Assembly October 2021

Submitted By: Vasiliki T, R9 Trustee

	August 2021	July 2020	July 2019
Affiliated Groups	899	759	721
Unaffiliated Groups	100	111	158
Total Number of Groups	999	870	879
Intergroups	49	50	50
National Service Boards	13	11	10
Language Service Boards	1	1	1
Total Number of Service Bodies NSBs+ IGs + LSB	63	62	61

A. Region Nine Composition and Language Diversity

Region 9 serves OA in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Western Asia, including the whole Russia. It covers an area of over 70 million sq km, with over 100 countries.

- OA has a presence in 40+ countries, with active OA Service Bodies, Meetings and/or OAs speaking 40+ languages:

Afrikaans, Arabic, Catalan, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finish, Flemish, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luxembourgish, North Macedonian, Norwegian, Maltese, Persian (Farsi), Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Scottish, Sepedi, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, Turkish, Ukrainian, Yiddish, Welsh, Zulu.

From the 40+ R9 countries, **over 37 are non-English speaking and 3 English- Speaking**, but 2 of them have also other 7 official languages.

- **Language Diversity is the main challenge** to receive and carry the OA message in our Region.
- **Over 15 meetings per week are held in each of the following 11 languages**, listed in degreasing order of meetings: English, Persian (Farsi), German, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish, Greek, Dutch, Russian, French and Polish.
- Meetings in these 11 languages represent about 79% of the Region 9 meetings.

- **Affiliation with a NSB or IG speaking a local language, and participation in an international LSB** have been of vital importance for meetings and individual growth in this 11 languages, through translations, connections with others and representation at all the service levels:
 - In 7 countries, meetings are served by NSBs and IGs.
 - In 6 countries, meetings are served by NSBs.
 - In 9 countries, meetings are served only by IGs.
 - In 4 of these countries, participate also in LSBs.
 - **In total, 899 affiliated meetings** (90% of the total meetings), **are served by 63 Service Bodies in 23 R9 countries:**

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Iran, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK.
 - Over 80% of the R9 meetings are served by 13 NSBs and 1 LSB.

Three new NSBs, Iranian, Latvian and Russian, were formed last two years. They developed immediately impressive translation projects, some with international funds. They brought in the WSBC and international committees, the Experience, Strength and Hope from over 140 meetings, and carried back OAs' ESH to tend the hand to struggling compulsive eaters in a population of over 229.931.590.
- R9 encourages meetings to form an NSB in each country and an LSBs for each common language** in more than one area, regardless of proximity. These service boards translate, publish and distribute the OA literature and materials.
- Sometimes Service Bodies serve over one country: e.g. German LSB serves OA in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. Spain's NSB collaborates with service bodies in R2 and R8 through the Spanish LSB, Flemish speaking meetings in Belgium find translated literature from the Dutch IG, French NSB collaborates with meetings in Belgium and Switzerland, the Russian literature committee collaborates with volunteers in Belarus, Lithuania and other former Soviet Union countries, Greek NSB facilitates OAs in Cyprus etc.
 - **In total, 100 meetings remain unaffiliated.**

Over 24 R9 countries, without any NSB or IG, have each 1-5 unaffiliated meetings:

Bahrain, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech, Egypt, Estonia, Gibraltar, India, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, UAE, Zimbabwe.

Challenge: Share with meetings in these countries, sometimes registered on the virtual meetings list, the **benefits of affiliation and representation** on all levels of the OA service structure. Facilitate the flow of information. Support them to connect through an NSB or other service body.

- **Challenge of “unregistered informal meetings”, using the OA name, trademark or literature.**
An unknown number of “informal groups/meetings” work unregistered long time, without receiving the proper information, due to enormous difficulties to understand in a “foreign language” service structure, registration forms etc, and participate in service bodies, WSBC, or Region’s Assemblies.
Some countries have only unregistered meetings (e.g. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan). Some others have some “unregistered meetings”.
- **Over 140 meetings registered in R9 this year.** Most of them thanks to Iran’s NSB who passed from 15 to over 100 meetings.
- Compulsive eaters in **over the half of the Region 9 countries** remain without access to the OA program because of **language barriers**. All collaborations with OAs in recovery, living outside their country of origin and willing to tell their story in their language of origin are welcome.
- My service as Region Nine trustee is composed from actions to understand and lighten different R9 aspects (as described in A), actions to present these particularities to the BOT and the WSO contributing in better solutions (as will be presented in B) and actions to bring these new solutions back to R9, to meet more efficiently the needs of the compulsive eaters of different areas (as will be described in C).

B. Region 9 Trustee’s actions at the WSBC and BOT

The 17 trustees of the BOT act as the guardians of OA as whole. The 11 regions’ trustees present to the BOT the reality and needs of their Regions, and, vice-versa, present to their Region the other Regions’ ESH and the BOT common new OA solutions, guided by the whole fellowship.

- As Region 9 Trustee, I participated at the WSBC and in all:
- Formal BOT meetings, held every three months, prepared by
- Regions’ trustees informal meetings,
- BOT informal meetings,
- Consensus meetings
- Trustees and Region chairs meetings
- Committees’ monthly meetings
- As International Publication and Committee chair
Organized monthly meetings. Submitted reports. Checked Glossaries, translations lists and charts. Discussed translations and publications guidelines. Collaborated for Designated Asset Funds for translation and Translation Assistance funds distribution and priorities.

- This year, **twenty-three translations** have been added to the digital archives of the WSO Publications Department. Contact the Publications Department for a copy of the Digital Translations List.
Several licenses to translate were submitted. Between them the first licenses for translations in three new R9 languages: Slovenian, Romanian, and Latvian.
- NEW translation funding priorities. Application may be submitted at the WSO at any moment for:
- The “*12 Steps and 12 Traditions of OA*” *second edition, book and workbook* (available translated only in four languages: Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, and Portuguese).
- “*12 Steps of OA Workshop and Study Guide*”
- “*Where Do I Start?*”
- NEW: For other literature and materials translation, applications for TAF at the WSO: February 1st and June 1st.
- As Ad hoc WSBC Interpretation /Translation Committee member,
Provided info on the distribution of languages in OA. Checked automatic interpretation devices’ and applications’ possibilities. Learned from professional interpreters’ offers. Prepared questionnaire for the fellowship.
- As Unaffiliated LSBs (Spanish LSB) trustee liaison. Checked bylaws and provided info about Spanish speaking OA in R2, 8 and 9.
- As MAC (Materials Approval Committee) member:
Checked different new or updated materials before uploading to oa.org. Between them New Service Structure Flow chart clarifying WSBC 2021 decisions on Affiliation and Participation
- As BAL (Board Approved Literature) Committee member
Work on different items. Between them directions for the new graphics in STC Manual, including a more inclusive new Regions’ map, Structure pyramid etc
- Literature review Committee member:
Provided check and comments for several Literature review items
- DSF Committee member:
Discussed applications for Delegates’ Support Fund. All R9 applications were approved.
- In informal collaborations with trustees worked_for motions, language, diversity and traditions matters.

C. Region 9 Trustee’s action in Region 9

- Participated in all R9 board monthly meetings, bringing ESH from the BOT, other Regions, and Region 9 countries.
- Assisted R9 representatives and WSBC delegates
- Collaborated with the R9 chair when needed.
- Contacted areas or countries without SBs or working toward an SB or legal OA entity. Gave info on service structure, affiliation, participation, bylaws etc in Q&A meetings, assemblies, or/and e-mails to groups or service bodies from Austria, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Italy, Russia, Greece, Iran, Israel, Slovenia, Switzerland etc. Checked local bylaws for conformity with OA bylaws. Several R9 bylaws remain pending. NEW: the local website is checked too with bylaws.
- Connected individuals and professionals with OA members near their areas. An article from a journalist in Dubai on men's anorexia bulimia with reference in OA, resulted from connections between a professional, the WSO, R9 Trustee and OA members in countries of East Mediterranean and the Middle East, especially Israel, led me to realize how necessary is to add to the find-a-meeting list of all kinds of virtual meetings' criteria of search: COUNTRY. I suggested it to the international web review committee.
- Participated in local committees' meetings and service bodies meetings when asked. Encouraged new translations and PIPO events.
- Answered interesting questions from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Iran, Israel, U.K, US, Spain, Italy, Russia, Latvia, Slovenia, Greece. Most of them on traditions' practice, virtual meetings registrations, service structure, translation issues. Some on Tradition 7 contribution, PIPA and special focus meetings
- Participated as speaker in inspiring conventions, workshops, or events in Italy, Ireland, Germany, Greece, Poland, and the USA.

Grateful for the opportunity of this challenging service

Vasiliki T,
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