



Report of the Moderator of the Sub-Group on Community Media

WSIS Action Line C9 Media Geneva, 12 June 2014

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Introduction

1. The WSIS 2003 Plan of Action states, in Action Line C9 Media: “The media - in their various forms and with a diversity of ownership - as an actor, have an essential role in the development of the Information Society and are recognized as an important contributor to freedom of expression and plurality of information.”
2. At the 2007 WSIS follow-up meeting on Action Line C9, it was agreed to establish a Sub- Group on “community media, particularly radio and multimedia centres”. The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) was invited by UNESCO to act as Sub-Group Moderator and to prepare an annual report.
3. This is the seventh report of the Sub-Group Moderator. In the first report, which was presented in Geneva, 21 May 2008, we proposed a set of indicators for community media development, mapped against the objectives of the WSIS Plan of Action, and we reported progress against those indicators. Subsequent reports of the Sub-Group were presented in Geneva from 2009 until 2013. While using the same indicators, we also give particular attention to media regulation.

Overview

On a global scale, over the past years, radio has suffered a slow erosion. One of the major reasons is the changing citizens' environment during this period. The public audience is surrounded by digital and mobile platforms which make media more and more accessible. As a result, we have a new world of all sizes screens: laptop, mobile phone, tablet, GPS.

While in some regions the community media sector could benefit from cross-media approaches, in some others, Internet is still far from being an accessible communication platform and radio remains the main information tool for local citizens. In some other countries on line media represent the only way to overcome censorship and the impossibility to access to airwaves.

The community media sector has same values, but not equivalent approaches and possibilities. It continues operating differently across the World. Under the unifying concept of community media, there are an ever increasing number of communication experiences intensely deep-rooted in their cultural social environments. In this transformation phase, most of the countries wanting to embrace democratic governance are moving towards with media laws reforms but, in some cases, restrictions and unclear regulations are still limiting the development of community media (ex. MENA region, Central Eastern Europe, etc.).

In 2013, one of the main focuses of AMARC has been the political debate around access to airwaves, management of the spectrum and regulatory issues in order to keep promoting and ensuring cultural and linguistic diversity, poverty reduction, peace building and active citizenship.

In general terms, we noticed, in 2013, that the sector is still very often endangered by the lack of access to airwaves and clear regulatory frames, lack of adequate financial resources, lack of homogeneous professional paths, and a mere binary approach to communication rights: new media/old media, public service/commercial broadcasters, digital/analogue, North/South, central/marginal etc.. In 2013, AMARC continued to fill these dualities providing a third model to communication rights, challenging the global processes with national scale political lobbying, capacity building and empowerment of local communities through community media.

Globalization, the growth of Internet and web-based information, are also having a direct and detrimental impact on minority languages and linguistic diversity, as global communications and marketplaces require global understanding. Following the actions undertaken in 2012, AMARC continued, in 2013, working to reinforce pluralism and diversity through high level political meetings reflecting around the theme of identity and cultural wealth through the use of minority languages. The effective exercise of the right to communicate makes the languages of each people a form of exercise of the individual and collective identity right. In this frame, AMARC is promoting the recognition of cultural sovereignty of all the populations, which allows the full participation in the public space.

New community media services established

In respect to 2012, there are no relevant changes in regards to new community media frameworks. The following points are related to field assessment and monitoring actions put in place by AMARC through its network of members and experts. The most interesting development for the community media sector is currently taking place in Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA).

MENA REGION

The situation of independent media in the MENA region is achieving success on several fronts. Above all, the issue of liberalization of media became more popular among all the layers of society. Nevertheless, generally speaking, civil society and media remain under pressure. The experience of democratic transitions in other countries shows that media are a key factor in any process of transformation, in especially independent media which plays a role in shaping public opinion and giving a voice to the voiceless. All over the world, the tension between national security and freedom of expression and information is multifaceted. Without national security, basic human rights are always at risk. On the other hand, governments often use security as a reason for excessive restrictions on freedom of expression and information, as well as other fundamental rights.

Egypt

Within three years, Egypt witnessed two revolutionary movements and 3 different government shifts. Despite the campaigns and the coalitions launched to promote freedom of expression, the society suffers the lack of access to basic official informations: administrative procedures, national data, decision making process, just as non exhaustive examples, are all subject to the “secrecy” culture established after decades of strong regimes. This has a deep impact not only between CSOs and authorities, but also between CSOs themselves and community/independent media, with a low level of mutual trust and few occasions to share common struggles. Traditional FM broadcasting is mainly still under the state monopoly. Six FM public channels are currently on air. Very complicate and extremely expensive procedures are put in place to access the airwaves. Interesting initiatives of on line radios are well established.

[Med Net Project – ENPI/2013/319-859]

OPT - Palestine

The sense of fragmentation of Palestinian society is reflected in the fragmentation and isolation of CSOs and independent community media. While there is a moderately facility to put in place new media outlets (although procedures can be long and articulated, due to the lack of a single authority dealing with the issue), in especially for private radio – commercial or non for profit-, their general editorial positioning seems more oriented in the entertainment industry rather than in the informative sector. Code of conducts in broadcast media are often unknown. Access to official information and data is still uncertain. **[Med Net Project – ENPI/2013/319-859]**

Morocco

In Morocco there is a long-lasting socio-political engagement and there is a great number of Civil Society Organizations. Despite the huge number of CSOs, there are very few independent media initiatives, in particular those related to broadcasting media. Some on line radio initiatives are developing but the phenomenon is still limited, in especially if compared to other MENA region countries. **[Med Net Project – ENPI/2013/319-859]**

Tunisia

After the opening process, and beside few examples, radios still “broadcast on the edge”, having troubles on different levels. The most important problem to face remains sustainability: technical and financial sustainability on one hand, but in especially social sustainability on the other hand (few contacts with other CSOs and limited social impact). These stations are still fragile and any inconvenience can have a domino effect on the motivation of radio practitioners and the overall project. Nevertheless Tunisia counts in 2013 round 10 FM radio stations.

Radio 3R is a community radio based in Regueb and born in the frame of an EU project between the local association ALD (Association Liberté et Développement), COSPE (Italy) and the community radio agency AMISnet (Italy). The radio project is meant to be a platform for other associations, with the aim to reinforce the link between media and civil society. **[Med Net Project – ENPI/2013/319-859]**

Legal and/or regulatory provision for community broadcasting

AMARC Europe representing the community radio sector within the Commission WG on Broadcast issues

The CBISS, the Working Group on Communications Broadcast Issues (CBISS), within their respective EU Member State, CBISS Members are responsible for regulatory and policy issues related to broadcasting infrastructure in their respective regulatory authorities or administrations. This includes responsibility for national matters regarding the (implementation of) procedures, regulations, etc. for broadcasting infrastructure. CBISS is a working group of the Communications Committee (COCOM) and is chaired by a representative of the European Commission. In the frame of the debate about Digital Radio AMARC Europe presented the perspective of community broadcasters. The presentation "The future of community radio" highlighted the need to manage the electromagnetic spectrum as a public good. Digitalization can be an opportunity if it corresponds to optimal management of public good and if enhances pluralism. In practical terms there is the need for multi-chip receivers with all standards; need to extensively use Band III in order to keep Band II for traditional FM in a transition phase; need for must carry rules in a DAB+ environment; need to ensure financial mechanisms to support the shift between technologies

**Council of Europe, Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society,
Belgrade, November 2013**

Resolution 2: Preserving the essential role of media in the digital age
[...]

9. The preservation of the essential role of media in the digital age justifies, alongside commercial media, further support for, on the one hand, a well funded, sustainable, independent, high quality and ethical public service media providing distinctive content on all services and platforms and, on the other hand, non-profit community media capable of addressing the specific needs of various communities and committed to inclusive and intercultural practices

In view of the above, we invite the Council of Europe to:

(v)
carefully consider, in the light of Council of Europe standards on media pluralism and diversity of content, questions relating to digital convergence, connected television and other new arrangements for the delivery of essential media content or information and, in this context, examine the role of public service media and community media services.

Declarations by Community Radio Broadcasters

Montreal Declaration, August 15th, 2013.

[...] We have learned in the last 30 years that, in order that the human right to communicate become a reality, we need to have technical resources. There is an individual and a collective dimension that should force the States to promote those rights because they make possible public debate, the expression of diversity and build societies that are more democratic and with more social justice.'

Seoul Declaration, Republic of Korea, December 5, 2013.

[..] The participants of the 3rd Regional Assembly of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, Asia Pacific:

- Call upon the governments of the countries of the region to recognise community media as a third tier of broadcasting and to incorporate community media in planning, policy, regulatory and legislative measures.
- Urge the governments of the countries of the region to bring specific legislative provisions safeguarding the community radios in line with the principles of community broadcasting outlined in the 2010 AMARC "40 Principles of Guaranteeing Diversity and Pluralism in Broadcasting in Audiovisual Communication Services".
- Resolve to continue to participate in the promotion of equitable access to the airwaves for community broadcasters.

- Resolve to develop policy and strategic initiatives to engage with regulators and governing authorities with the purpose of ensuring that community radio has equitable access to digital spectrum and other emerging broadcast technologies.
- Continue to oppose violence against journalists and media practitioners and to resist legislative measures that would dilute the right to free and open reporting on matters of community interest or concern.
- Resolve to develop mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of resources for the enablement of community radio through the strengthening of institutional networks between donors, non governmental organisations, civil society organisations, inter-governmental bodies and community radio associations
- Resolve to work cooperatively to lobby governments for adequate funding to protect, support, promote and subsidise community radio infrastructure and operations.
- Resolve to strengthen capacity among community radios to develop independent funding initiatives and develop relationships with sponsors and donors.
- Resolve to develop strategies, programs and training opportunities for community radio stations to be better equipped to participate in disaster planning , mitigation, response and recovery.
- Renew our endorsement of and call for the implementation of Article 16 of the “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” which reaffirms the right of indigenous peoples to establish their own community radios in their own languages and have access to non-indigenous community radios without discrimination.

Port-au-Prince Declaration, Haiti, July 26, 2013

[...] After two days of lectures and discussions, approximately one hundred participants considered:

- 1) The central role of community radio stations around the world in promoting information and education that build cultural diversity, support the fight against poverty, and advocate social change and development processes that benefit the people, especially marginalized groups, and guarantee their safety;
- 2) The critical role of community radios alongside the social and popular movements in their struggle to transform society;
- 3) The need for national policy, legislation and regulations to protect Caribbean community radio stations and their teams of workers and volunteers;
- 4) The need for national policy, legislation and regulations which allow for equality of access and power to a significant number (30%) of the frequencies available:
and
- 5) The need for significant funding support from State and public budgetary allocations for community radio stations that meet invaluable and important public service needs and interests on behalf of the people.”

Montpellier Declaration, May 2013

[...] Nearly 100 community media representatives from over 25 European countries, convened in Montpellier, France, as part of the Third Pan-European General Assembly of AMARC Europe to celebrate the transversal and inclusive approach of community radio stations at all levels. (...)

Request:

- European states to meet the recommendations and resolutions of European and international institutions on community broadcasting.
- To guarantee access for community media to all available broadcasting platforms, so that the shift from analogue to digital technologies becomes an opportunity for more media pluralism rather than for further media concentration.
- That European bodies recognise that culture and technological innovation is a public good and its distribution should not be limited by commercial interests.
- To guarantee the existence of independent regulatory authorities.
- To establish consultative mechanisms between community media, policy makers and regulators to facilitate the participation of third sector organizations in the development of fair policies and regulations.
- To respect and support cultural and linguistic diversity of community, free and associative media.

Brussels Declaration, following the European Parliament Pulich Hearing on Minority Languages and Community Radios, November 2013

[...] AMARC considers that European Parliament and EU Member States should not only recognise the positive contribution of Community Media (CM) in terms of the social value that it provides in a very extremely cost-effective manner, but should consider the sustainability, growth and development of the sector by creating mechanisms that guarantee financial resources as well as the availability of frequency spectrum - analogue and digital- for community radio and television. (...)

Recommendations from AMARC to the European Parliament and the Commission

1. To promote the existence of a common European framework to guarantee the development, growth and sustainability of community media projects.
2. To encourage member states to reserve 33% of the electro-magnetic radio spectrum for community media broadcasting in regional languages.
3. To guarantee equality in terms of broadcasting power and access to airwaves to other local broadcasters (public or commercial).
4. To broaden the possibilities for community media funding, avoiding budget limitations and putting in place mechanisms to secure public funding at local, regional, national and

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international level. The European Parliament and Council of Europe praised community media role in ensuring social cohesion, cultural and linguistic diversity, pluralism and freedom of expression of citizens. This “public interest” approach should be fully recognised and supported by public funds.”

Community media organisations and community media workers faced various threats, harassment and attacks around the world, including in:

Even in 2013, many independent media journalists have received threats, harassment and have been jailed. This year AMARC proposes a reflection about the state of community media within Europe, a continent where freedom of expression and access to airwaves should be guaranteed.

CASE STUDY: Europe 2013

In 2013 the dichotomy between International resolutions and the situation on the ground became an evidence. Despite the great regulatory advancements of the community media movement at the European and International level, on the local and National level there are still uncertain situations. In Asturias, a region in northern Spain, community radios have been threaten with fines of up to 500,000 euros. And, in the Basque Country, the first call for applications for licenses since 1986 favoured political and commercial interests over the fundamental right of citizens to communicate, which hindered licensing to community radio. In the Flemish part of Belgium, the community radio sector has no official recognition. The same happens in Finland. In Sweden, the frequencies reserved for community radios are been privatised and commercialised. In Hungary the new audio-visual regulation requires radios to provide regular detailed information about their musical content and compliance is difficult even for media organisations with extensive administrative resources . In Greece, the radio stations with strong ties to social movements are target of government repression, and two of them have been closed in recent weeks.

SWEDEN: Community Radios Frequencies Commercialisation

In Sweden commercialisation and privatisation of community radio is a deep and increasing problem. Commercial radios on community radio frequencies are still operating and also that a niche market is on the increase. Especially in the region there are several commercial outlets being organized into networks. A new commercial network “Retro FM” in Malmo will be using the community radio frequencies in neighbouring towns (Vellinge, and Landskrona). Two others commercial radio stations running as “naarradio” Guldkanalen and “Fun Radio” together have reached six percent of the total radio audience in Malmo. People and organisations behind those radio stations in Sweden do not pretend themselves to be anything else than “kommersiell naarradio”. This clearly indicates that community radio in Sweden is becoming less a resource for non-profit associations and more an opportunity for commercial operators who can circumvent the formal commercial radio sector and its official responsibilities including concession fees to the government. A letter supporting the community media movement has been drafted by AMARC.

SPAIN: Closure of community TV La Tele

AMARC – World Association of Community Radio-Broadcasters expressed serious concerns and strongly protested against the closure of the community television La Tele in Barcelona. “LaTele” spent many years fighting legal and economic adversity it faced since its constitution. When the project began in 2003, the Social Communication Assembly worked to achieve a legal framework for community media broadcasting and access to the airwaves. Although the collective was acknowledged by a legal recognition under the category of ‘non-profit media’, mentioned in the Catalan and Spanish law, the TV never obtained a frequency. The TV has the right to broadcast but not a frequency duly allocated. The 14th June 2013 the transmitter of the community TV station was closed down following a decision of the General Director of Media of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

GREECE: Entasi fm Athens Community Radio and 98 fm Athens radio shut down

Radio Entasi was created during the occupation of the Law School of Athens, as part of the revolt of December 2008. Since its birth it has covered a wide scale of social struggles, among them student’s and worker’s demonstrations, being the voice for everyone resisting. Radio Entasi stands for independent journalism, which has become a necessity since all mass media either hide or distort actual facts and spreads out the demands and ideas of those that are in a state of exemption. This connection of the radio to the social movement made it a target for governmental repression. The pressure came in the form of court complaints and lawsuits, pressed by the authorities of the university hosting the station. On Wednesday 10 of April it became clear that ADA was prosecuting Entasi and its use of the facilities of the university. The prosecution began after complaints of broadcaster SKAI. On Thursday 11 of April, power was cut down and as an immediate result both 98Fm and Entasi Fm community radio were (and still are) off the air.

HUNGARY: other sanctions for community radios

Hungary: the new audio visual regulation obliges community radios to regularly provide full data about their broadcasts. The regulation was introduced despite the Hungarian Constitutional Court's earlier opinion that it would place unreasonable burden on broadcasters and threaten the freedom of the press, and despite the Court abolishing the article on data provision in the current Hungarian media law.

In fact, the regular provision of detailed information on radio programs causes difficulties even to national and commercial media with ample administrative resources. The same expectation places extreme burden on community radios. Similarly to all member states of the European Union, radio stations in Hungary are obliged to archive their programs for a certain period of time. According to the well-established European practice these archives provide adequate information to authorities, making regular data provision unnecessary. Another limitation for broadcasters is the domestic music quota, a full set of rules about the weekend news service. and a percentage of weekend program's public life content. Not having respected the law provisions, Radio Tilos in Budapest has been sanctioned.

SLOVENIA: Community radios under pressure

In June 2013 AMARC Europe officially wrote to the Slovenian Prime Minister, Minister of Culture, Minister of Education and to the Presidency of Republic in order to stress the threats for the autonomy of Radio Student. Operating of Radio Student Institute in Ljubljana and the proposal of its founder Student organization of the University of Ljubljana to move other two media outlets that do not belong to the community media sector - web TV *ouvizija* and the newspaper *Tribuna* - in the working spaces of Radio Student organization and community. Such unstructured proposal of joining diverse and incompatible media showed a lack of understanding of the functioning and social meaning of community media. On this occasion AMARC Europe also expressed its deep concern over forecasts of Student Organization of the University of Ljubljana of reducing the financial support to Radio Student Institute, what may seriously endanger the continuation of its 44 years long tradition of independent community radio.

Development of codes of practice

January 17-19, 2013, New Delhi, India: «South Asian Consultation: Enhancing Access to Community Media, Promoting Positive Social Change and Peace Building through Community Broadcasting», a one and a half day seminar that brought together community radio practioners, civil society groups, academics, policy-makers and media activists.

From February 4-5, 2013, AMARC attended the Second Conference of Local Media in Tunis, Tunisia. A presentation of the diagnostic of community radios broadcasting on FM band in Tunisia realized by AMARC was done.

On February 27, 2013, representatives of AMARC's international network and IBOD participated as panellists in session 31: Community Media: Enabling Policies, Legislative Environments and Sustainable Measures at the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS+10) in Paris, France. The session was organized jointly by AMARC and UNESCO. The panel called on governments to ensure that legal framewol for community media, particularly community radio, was non-discriminatory, free and fair among other recommendations.

In Latin America, AMARC implemented the Legislative and Communication Rights program. Besides the National advocacy initiatives led by senior professionals, the program also published a regular watchdog *INFO Derechos* on the state of freedom of expression, communication right and audiovisual policies in the whole region.

Representatives of Finnish community radios and the Vice President of AMARC Europe met together on February 28th in order to establish a common political path towards the full recognition of the sector in Finland. The meeting took place at the Finnish Parliament in order to meet the Minister of Culture, Paavo Arhinmäki and Minister of Communications, Krista Kiuru.

On May 3rd, World Press Freedom Day, AMARC salutes thousands of community radios around the world who exercise their right to communicate. AMARC seized the opportunity of this



international event to recall the international treaties that guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of the press. The theme for 2013 was "Safe to speak: Securing freedom of expression in all media". On this occasion, AMARC called for a broader recognition of community media.

From June 28-29, 2013, AMARC participated to a conference in Tunis, Tunisia "A New Tunisia is Possible with Other Media". This conference facilitated networking and exchanges between emerging radio stations, regulator, policy makers and other media and civil society actors. A presentation was made by AMARC on its gender equality policies.

October 4-5, Santiago, Chili. The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC), the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Union of South American correspondents of the press invited Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to the freedom of opinion and expression. M. La Rue met with a group of communicators, journalists and academics. Together, they wrote a proposal establishing the twelve points for a communication policy based on freedom of expression and the right to communicate. M. La Rue also met with multiple civil society organizations and community radio broadcaster's representatives.

October 9-10, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Invited by the Demos Institute, a group of experts, among whom the President of AMARC, shared their ideas and experiences to contribute to the concepts of political communication and access to information in the broader context of freedom of expression.

Bruxelles, AMARC and European Parliament: Public Hearing "Radio broadcasting in minority languages: where are we, where should we go", 16/18 October. The European Charter for Regional and Minority languages adopted by the Council of Europe in 1992, recommends Member States to undertake any measure in order to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one radio station in the regional or minority languages, or to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis (art. 11). Following the initiatives of 2012, the public hearing provided an overview of the work for the promotion of minority languages from the community media and radio perspective, best practices exchanges between media experiences of the third sector and the institutional frame put in place by International Organizations. 20 different radios, representatives of UNESCO and 4 Members of European Parliament attended the Hearing, A strategic plan of action has been adopted.

In November, AMARC participated at the Civil Society Convention in the MENA Region. In the frame of the Civil Society Facility South (CSF South), more than 55 organizations in Europe and the southern shore of Mediterranean, gathered in Istanbul, Turkey, on the 28th and 29th of November. During the two days, three main perspectives on civil society work have been applied, namely those of the supported projects, the thematic policy areas, and the country challenges and opportunities. The aim was to identify the key issues in the respective thematic areas, to assess the contribution of CSOs to policy making (from policy formulation, to implementation, monitoring and evaluation).

Research and Academic sector

On 1-2 July 2013, the Conseil Supérieur de l'Audovisuel of the Wallonie.- Brussels Region, Belgium, and ReSIC (Centre for Research in Information and Communication) of the Free University of Brussels (ULB) co-organised a two-day international workshop "*By the People, for the People, Community Radio – Current Status and Perspectives*" on status and perspectives of Community Radio. EPRA (European Platform of Regulatory authorities) was a partner of the event with the organisation of a plenary session on the challenges of regulating associative and community radios. The workshop has been implemented by representatives of AMARC, of the University of Brasilia, and community radio players from Belgium, Europe and Africa.

In September, AMARC participated to the Academic initiative: "Transforming Audiences, Transforming Societies" in Belgrade. Participation produces tensions in different areas (e.g. participation in journalism, in the media industry, in political communication). How are these tensions played out in the field of community media, and how can academic research help you to deal better with these tensions? How can the audience/citizens, as a stakeholder, become more involved in these fields? Despite a series of dialogues with stakeholders, often reduced to showing the differences of academia with the stakeholders, there is an attempt for a different approach, with a long self-reflexive phase about societal relevance and a dialogue with stakeholders based on specific texts and on the acceptance of the diversity of the different field of the social.

In November, Université Lille 3, in Lille, France, organized: the round table discussion "Radio mutations in Africa, opportunities and threats". This roundtable opened a reflection about contemporary dynamics of community broadcasters in Africa. AMARC participated through an intervention about the digital switch over opportunities. This seminar aimed to reflect and discuss the evolution of the community radio movement in Africa in terms of participation, access and legal framework.

International partnerships and networks

Throughout the year, AMARC, through a partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), produced, broadcast and facilitated a number of programmes on the theme of family farming and food security. This partnership ensured that rural radios received relevant information through community radios. A Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and AMARC is in place in order to further develop joint initiatives in the frame of Communication for Development.

In February, AMARC, along UNESCO and radios everywhere, celebrated the 13th World Radio Day. Focussed on raising the understanding among the public and the media of the value of radio, including in the context of new media, this day is a show of support to radios, a way to encourage policy-makers and decision-makers to engage issues related to communication, media, development and gender equity. More information and programmes [here](#).

The World Social Forum was held in Tunisia from March 26-30, 2013. AMARC did the coverage for the event. The material recorded was distributed through the global community radio network in Spanish, English, French, Arabic and other language. In total, about 23 hours of programming was produced. The radio forum was also broadcasted. In Tunisia, the audience for the programmes produced by AMARC are estimated to have reached about 36 million listeners. More information and programmes

The World Food Day Campaign, on October 16th, 2013, was focussed on the theme "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition". AMARC received 7 and a half hours (457 minutes) of programming from Cameroon, East Timor, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Peru, Kenya and United States of America. The programmes were uploaded onto AMARC's website along documents related to food security and nutrition.

AMARC was responsible for the coverage of the High level meeting of African and International leaders. Titled «Toward African Renaissance: Renewed partnership for a Unified Approach to end Hunger in Africa by 2025 under the Framework the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme», this meeting was held in in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from June 30 to July 1st, 2013. The radio programmes were distributed in eight (8) African countries with an estimated audience of 2 million listeners.

For the World Indigenous Day, on August 9th 2013, around 3 hours (169 minutes, 11 programs) of programming was submitted. Seven countries participated. They are: Basque Country, Argentina, Cambodia, Philippines, East Timor, Colombia, Mexico. The programs were disseminated among our network and their audience.

From August 12-30, 2013, an electronic forum on family farming was conducted on AMARC's website in cooperation with FAO. This attempt proved that on line communication technologies are sometimes difficult to implement between AMARC and members, but also among members themselves.

From November 11-22, 2013, in Warsaw, Poland, AMARC representatives participated in the Conference of the United Nations on Climate Change (UNFCC).

On March 22nd, AMARC's community radio network came together in all region to produce, broadcast and share content on the theme of "Water cooperation" for World Water Day. It is estimated that 5 million listeners in all continents had access to the two (2) hours of content produced.

During the whole year 2013, in Latin America AMARC focussed and campaigned around the theme of Environment: production of two cycles of radio programs (6 and 12 audio features) and a live show produced and disseminated in three regions of the Peruvian Selva: production and dissemination of a cycle of 9 radio programs in Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba. Environmental awareness campaign through radio spots in Paraguay, Colombia and Panama. Training workshops in 9 regions of Peru.

Gender equality

74 women participated in the «Capacity Building Training for Women Community Radio Broadcasters» held in New Delhi, from 19-22 January, 2013. This ensured that 76 community radios from India, Nepal, and Bangladesh reinforced their quality of content and radio production and that there were stronger voices in defence of women rights addressed to their community radio audiences.

Four (4) training workshops took place in Tunis, Tunisia (February 4-6, May 28-29 and June 29-30, July 2-6, 2013). 87 community radio practitioners and civil society representatives, willing to establish community radios participated in these workshops. Productions were prepared to be broadcast at the World Social Forum (March 26-31). 45 women, including the first Women Network of the STRL, were trained by the AMARC Tunisia program on content and radio production. The outcome was the establishment of the Women radio RFM (Radio Femme at the 102,3 FM in Tunis).

The First Pacific Community Radio roundtable coincided with the FemLINK PACIFIC Annual Young Women and Advocacy Skills Training Programme from February 11-14, 2013 in Suva, Fiji Islands. 43 women community radio practitioners were trained on how to reinforce access to community radios. The participants were also encouraged to produce programs for the March 8 Women's International Day campaign

On March 8th, AMARC and the Women's International Network of AMARC (AMARC-WIN) celebrated the 2013 International Women's Day. The theme was "Ending violence against women". Over forty (40) programmes were submitted in French, English, Spanish and other languages. A total of 5 hours and twenty-six minutes (5h26) of programming was made available on AMARC's website.

From November 25th to December 10th 2013, the Women's International Network of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC-WIN) actively participated in the 16 days of activism against gender violence with an Internet campaign to denounce all kinds of gender violence comprising radio shows from around the world. The 2013 international theme of the campaign was "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence against Women!" The 2013 16 Days Campaign advocates for awareness and action on the multi-faceted intersections of gender-based violence and militarism, while highlighting the connection between the struggle for economic and social rights and ending gender-based violence. For the «16 days campaign against gender violence», we received a total of 11h 52 min of programming (25 programmes). Seven countries participated: Mexico, Canada, Uruguay, Indonesia, United States of America, Ireland, Spain.

Access to ICTs and connectivity

App for Community Radio on Smartphones

The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) applauds the launch of the application RadCom Radios earlier this week to facilitate access to community radios. The tool, created through freeware is available in versions for iOS, Android and web. It can be downloaded for free. The application actually contains 64 community radio stations in 17 countries. It is still possible however for community radios worldwide to benefit from being added to this application. The initiative also allows navigation through an interactive map.

The RadCom radios application was developed by the journalist, researcher and representative of AMARC Brazil Arthur William during workshops given in the framework Rebaixada project that is part of the State University of Rio de Janeiro. Mr. William said that "there are other applications for radios for smartphones, but it is difficult to specifically choose community broadcasters. And we know that the majority of options in these applications are commercial". The journalist noted that these radios give space to local cultures, with the accents and voices of the community.

Indeed, the main concept of the application, according to the researcher, is that new technologies allow a new idea of the community. "It is no longer territorial" said Arthur William. Under this line of ideas, communities can cross borders and cultures, learn from new experiences and give value of their own roots.