

Forming an Intergroup within Continental European Region

November 2017

Continental European Region (CER) aims to serve all English-speaking AA throughout the Region – that is both Intergroups, and those AA Groups that are not a part of an Intergroup. This document provides some of our experience for the benefit of those Groups that might be considering joining an Intergroup or forming into an Intergroup (note: for more information on CER please refer to our [website](#) here).

The first thing to consider is how many AA groups would like to join an Intergroup, and in what area of the Region they are located. If there is the possibility of joining an existing local Intergroup, then in the interest of unity this would be encouraged. Where there is no Intergroup, a Group is also welcome to participate in Regional activities directly.

If there are a number of groups who, in the spirit of Unity, wish to work together to do service and carry the message, providing they have enough members willing to do service, they may decide to form an Intergroup. It is suggested that where there are other Intergroups in the same location or nearby, this is done in consultation with them, bearing in mind our Twelve Traditions, particularly Tradition 4.

More detailed information on Intergroups is available in the 2017 AA GB Structure Handbook (available online [here](#)), and even though each Group and Intergroup is autonomous, it is suggested to read the Intergroup section in the handbook and utilise the experience of those who have gone before.

For example, the aims of an Intergroup can be found here:

“The aims of an intergroup are to aid the constituent groups in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic and, by using their combined strength and unity, to improve and maintain good relations with all organisations in the community.”
Page 87.

And the handbook also suggests that:

“An intergroup should appoint a chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer and members with other responsibilities as its officers. These officers should have an established period of sobriety, ideally not less than two years. It is recommended that they should serve for not less than two years and not more than three years.” Page 88.

At least as important is that each group belonging to the Intergroup is represented by a Group Service Representative (GSR) to ensure the conscience of the Group is heard at Intergroup. As Bill W. said:

“The strength of our whole structure starts with the group and with the General Service Representative that the group elects. By choosing its most qualified man or woman as GSR a group helps its own future and the future of AA as a whole... [and] working via the intergroup the GSR is the groups’ link with the General Service Conference, through which groups share experiences and voice AA’s collective conscience.” Structure Handbook, Page 80.

Registering with the General Service Office (GSO) in York UK, with the names and postal addresses for all Intergroup Officers, is considered common practice. This is so GSO can send important information via the post and keep them informed of all AA correspondence such as the AA Service News, details of the annual Conference, and specific information that might be of use to some of the service disciplines. This is done this way to ensure that those who do not have internet access are not prevented, as far as possible, from doing service.

It is also suggested that Intergroups appoint a Regional Representative to attend the quarterly CER Assemblies, the dates of which are published online [here](#), where they can hear experience from other Intergroups around Europe, share their own experience and meet with Region Officers, who are available to provide help and support if needed. It is recommended to inform the CER Secretary who the 'Region Rep' is, so they can then be informed of the dates of the upcoming assemblies and be provided with assembly agendas, minutes, and other regional documentation.

In addition, Intergroups and their officers, once registered, may also apply for AAmail service email address online [here](#). The benefits of using AAmail are that it gives a more professional appearance, especially when emailing to recipients outside the Fellowship, and ensures continuity as the AAmail address is transferred to the next office holder when rotation occurs.

Yours in service,

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Links

About CER <https://alcoholics-anonymous.eu/about-aa/about-cer/>

AA GB Structure Handbook 2017 <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/download/1/Library/Documents/Handbooks/AA%20Structure%20Handbook%20revised%20April%202017.pdf>

Application for an AAmail email address <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Service/Helpdesk>

Dates for CER Regional Assemblies <https://alcoholics-anonymous.eu/membership-of-a-a/cer-service-meetings/>