

CO-ORDINATION OF REPEATER ACTIVITIES

Extensive 145 MHz and 435 MHz repeater networks are operational in Western Europe, and activity on 1.3 GHz is growing.

It is highly important that these developments are internationally guided, so that a coordinated approach is followed for the benefit of all IARU Region 1 amateurs.

The aim of repeater networks has been defined as follows (see chapter IIa, Principles of bandplanning):

FM repeaters provide a communication service to mobile amateur-stations (including hand-held equipment). In some cases they may be installed to aid the accessibility of stations in mountainous areas.

They are **not intended to make DX contacts possible**, and hence their coverage under normal propagation conditions should be limited.

The number of repeater stations installed should be determined by

- the required regional coverage
- the expected number of intended users

FM repeaters should not regularly be used as local chat channels for fixed (home) stations. This interferes with their defined use.

Careful bandplanning is required (section II), as well as timely agreement on the technical specifications of repeaters and equipment used with repeaters (section VI).

The problem of mutual interference (overlapping coverage pattern) makes it mandatory that in neighbouring countries the allocations of locations and especially of frequencies are coordinated.

For this reason at the IARU Region 1 Conference in Miskolc-Tapolca (1978) the following recommendation was adopted:

Coverage measurements shall be made for repeaters planned to be installed. In cases of international boundary crossing the VHF Managers concerned should co-ordinate repeater coverage.

A suitable way of presenting the expected coverage, set out in document M/T 59, submitted by ÖVSV, was recommended for this purpose, and is attached as Appendix 1.

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