



CONIFA ACTIVITY REPORT 2017



CONIFA

Annual activity report for fiscal year 2017 created by the
CONIFA Executive Committee.

Confederations of
Independent Football
Associations

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SUMMARY

The fiscal year of 2017 has been the most active uneven year in the history of CONIFA so far. CONIFA grew on all continents, except for the Americas and Oceania, which means that we are more a truly global organization than ever before. Unfortunately, we could still not welcome a Latin American member in CONIFA, which remains the only blank spot on the CONIFA world map.

Media-wise 2017 can only be described as a huge success for CONIFA. While the global media buzz about the World Football Cup 2016 could naturally not be repeated entirely, we did still reach millions of people in the world, with a strong focus on Europe, where most major news outlets covered the European Football Cup in Northern Cyprus.

The Achilles heel of CONIFA remains its financial sustainability and stability, unfortunately. A growing team of passionate fundraisers inside and outside the Executive Committee were able to establish more valuable links and open many promising talks with potential donors and sponsors, but, even though first sponsorship deals could be signed off, we are still far off from a financial situation reflecting the weight and scale CONIFA has today fairly.

The European Football Cup 2017, the highlight of the sporting year 2017 for CONIFA, in Northern Cyprus was a real huge milestone for our European Committee and our European members. As the 2nd CONIFA European Football Cup it clearly raised the bar in aspects for future hosts, especially due to the perfectly smooth and thoroughly professional of the host organization. The feedback from all participating teams was absolutely encouraging and they all reported back that the tournament might be the most professional ever seen outside FIFA and that their local region/country recognized the high level accordingly.

Due to our first ever World Football Cup qualification system, the CONIFA members were active as never before. More friendly and competitive matches than ever before have not only been played, but also been reported and thus presented to the global audience CONIFA built over time. This constant activity hopefully continues over the next year and towards the 2020 World Football Cup, which the CONIFA Executive Committee already started to plan.

The Executive Committee members of CONIFA have been as active as never before as well, not only in administrative meeting, but also during many member visits across the world, coaching courses, exhibitions, guest lectures, conferences and countless meetings with stakeholder across the world. Finally, more Executive Committee members than ever before were able to gather a strong team behind them, making the operational capacities much stronger.

The Executive Committee elected and which has been operational in 2017:

President:	Mr. Per-Anders Blind (Sapmi / Sweden)
Vice President:	Mr Dimitri Pagava (Abkhazia / Russia / Sweden) Mr Kristóf Wenczel (Hungary)
General Secretary:	Mr. Sascha Düerkop (Germany)
Director of Media:	Mr Kieran Pender (Australia)
Director Commercial:	Mr Paul Watson (United Kingdom)
Director Africa:	Mr. Justin Walley (United Kingdom)
Director Asia:	Mr. Jens Jockel (Germany)
Director Europe:	Mr. Alberto Rischio (Padania / Italy)
Director Latin America:	Mr. Zam Gutierrez (Mexico)
Director North America:	Mr. Noah Wheelock (Cascadia / Canada)
Executive Committee Member:	Mr. Safeen Kanabe (Kurdistan / Iraq)

Out of the six continents, three continents did build a Continental Committee by now:

The European Committee operational in 2017:

President:	Mr. Alberto Rischio (Padania / Italy)
General Secretary:	Mr. Lorenzo Bernadini (Padania / Italy)
Disabled Football Manager:	Mr. Claudio Girardi (Padania / Italy)
Cultural Manager:	Mrs. Giorgia Decarli (Padania / Italy)
Youth Football Manager:	Mr. Alexander Harrison (Isle of Man)
Sponsoring Manager:	Mr. Matteo Poretti (Switzerland) Mr. Hiratch Yagan (Western Armenia / Switzerland)

The Asian Committee operational in 2017:

President:	Mr. Jens Jockel (Germany)
General Secretary:	Mr. Leonardo Sierro (Argentina)
Marketing/Sponsoring Manager:	Mr. Kim Lange (Singapore)
Media Manager:	Mr. Daniel Gindin (Singapore)
Business Development Manager:	Mr. Oscar Mussons (Vietnam)
Social Media Manager:	Mr. Silambarasan Devraj (India/Latvia)
Regional Social Media Manager China:	Mr. Frank Zhou (PR China)

In addition, several managers supported the operational work of CONIFA on multiple levels:

International Relations Manager:	Mr. Christian Michelis (Monaco)
Global Development Manager:	Mr. Orcun Kamali (Northern Cyprus)
Referee Manager:	Mr. Roger Lundbäck (Sweden)
Women Football Manager:	Mrs. Cassie Childers (USA)
Science and Research Manager:	Mr. Johannes Sauerwein (Germany)
Official Photographers:	Mrs. Lavinia Parlamenti (Italy) Mr. Manfredi Pantanella (Padania / Italy)

This is an impressive number of very active people who worked day-in day-out for the future of CONIFA and football outside football. Never before has CONIFA had such a not only huge, but also very active and strong team.

The Executive Committee has conducted 12 meetings in 2017, 11 via Skype and 1 in person during in Northern Cyprus.

MEMBERS – NEW MEMBERS 2017

At the end of 2016, CONIFA had 44 members. In early 2017, one member left CONIFA (Heligoland), while 3 (Barotseland, Kabylie, Rohingya) members joined during the fiscal year 2017. Thus, CONIFA today has 46 members from 5 out of 6 continents.

AFRICA: Barawa, Barotseland, Chagos Islands, Darfur, Kabylie, Matabeleland, Somaliland, Western Sahara, Zanzibar (9)

ASIA : Arameans Suryoye, Kurdistan, Lezgians, Panjab, Rohingya, Ryukyu, Tamil Eelam, Tibet, United Koreans in Japan, Uyghurs (10)

EUROPE: Abkhazia, County of Nice, Delvidek, Donetsk, Ellan Vannin, Felvidek, Franconia, Greenland, Karpatalya, Luhansk, Monaco, Nagorno Karabakh, Northern Cyprus, Occitania, Padania, Raetia, Romani People, Sapmi, Skaneland, Szekely Land, South Ossetia, Transnistria, Western Armenia (23)

NORTH AM: Cascadia, Quebec (2)

OCEANIA: Kiribati, Tuvalu (2)

CONIFA has grown in Africa and Asia, while decreasing in membership in Europe in 2017.

AFRICA: +22% (+2)

ASIA: +10% (+1)

EUROPE: -4% (-1)

NORTH AM: 0% (+/- 0)

OCEANIA: 0% (+/- 0)

Through our members, we do now today represent roughly **330 million people** on **5 continents**.

New members 2017:



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

The 4th CONIFA Annual General Meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on the 28th January 2017. The meeting was held in the Business Area of the Stade de Geneve. CONIFA wants to express its gratitude to Alberto Rischio and Hiratch Yagan for organizing the whole event in an absolutely perfect manner.



EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CUP 2017

The 2nd edition of the CONIFA European Football Cup was held across Northern Cyprus in the four cities of Lefkoşa/Nicosia, Girne/Kyrenia, Gazimağusa/Famagusta and Güzelyürt/Morphou (City names is Turkish/English) from the 4th to the 11th of June. 8 teams from all over Europe competed in tournament and played a total 18 matches. The group were drawn on the 1st of April 2017 in the Hotel Acapulco in Girne/Kyrenia in a draw ceremony, which was broadcasted live by the Northern Cypriot TV channel BRTK in Turkish and English (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l33wznSYFT0>). The two groups of four were:

Group A		Group B	
	Northern Cyprus		Padania
	Abkhazia		Szekely Land
	Karpatalya		Ellan Vannin
	South Ossetia		Felvidek

The Northern Cyprus Football Association (KTFF) and the governmental institutions of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus did a massive job in the lead-up to the tournament, preparing a thoroughly professional tournament. The tournament homepage (conifaeuro2017.com), the promotional videos, adverts across the country and the many volunteers who made the tournament such a great success, were all prepared by the local institutions and the KTFF. The draw of the tournament was livestreamed and televised by the national Northern Cypriot TV station BRTK globally and was followed by thousands of people inside Northern Cyprus and across Europe. The tournament itself set a new standard in terms of the professionalism of the operations. From the info desk in the hotel to the bus and limousine servers for players and referees, every little detail was perfectly orchestrated by the local organization committee, led by Mr. Orcun Kamali. The players acted as great ambassadors for their nations and some, especially Abkhazia and Northern Cyprus, could mobilize a large amount of supports to attend the matches and support them frenetically. For a complete summary of the pros and cons of the tournament, please see the in-depth reflection prepared by Justin Walley attached to this report. Things to improve in the future include the record-keeping of statistical data and the scheduling of the live-streamed matches.

Sportingly, all teams delivered a very high standard and all teams did feature fully professional football players. Except for the last two matches of South Ossetia, all matches were highly competitive and could end either way. Padania in the end defended their title and lifted the trophy after a penalty shootout against Northern Cyprus in the big final. Szekely Land, which improved remarkably in comparison to earlier tournaments, won the bronze medal, beating Abkhazia in the bronze medal match.

Congratulations once again to the European Champion 2017 – Padania!

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	 Padania	5	2	3	0	5	2	+3	9
2	 Northern Cyprus	5	3	2	0	12	1	+11	11
3	 Székely Land	5	2	1	2	9	7	+2	7
4	 Abkhazia	5	1	3	1	5	6	-1	6
5	 Kárpátalja	4	1	2	1	9	7	+2	5
6	 Ellan Vannin	4	1	1	2	6	8	-2	4
7	 Felvidék	4	2	0	2	3	3	0	6
8	 South Ossetia	4	0	0	4	2	16	-14	0



TRAVELS – PRESENCE ON THE GROUND

12-14 Feb **Sponsoring Talks in Dublin, Ireland (Per-Anders Blind, Sascha Düerkop, Paul Watson)**

On Monday, 13th of February 2017, a CONIFA delegation met with the main sponsor of the World Football Cup 2018, Paddy Power, in Dublin. During the meeting, the CONIFA delegation could agree with Paddy Power on a common future and a partnership for the 2018 World Football Cup in London. The meeting, which took place in the “Power Tower” at the outskirts of Dublin, thus marked the very important begin of a fruitful partnership – and the first signing of a major sponsoring deal for CONIFA since its foundation in 2013. CONIFA is extremely grateful to Commercial Director Paul Watson, who set up the link to Paul Mallon, the key account manager of the sponsoring partnership at Paddy Power (at this stage).



Paul Watson, Per-Anders Blind and Sascha Düerkop in front of the "Power Tower"

30 Mar
- 01 Apr **Site Visit Northern Cyprus (Per-Anders Blind, Kristof Wenczel, Dimitry Pagava, Alberto Rischio, Orcun Kamali)**

The above mentioned delegation visited Northern Cyprus to inspect the local facilities in preparation of the European Football Cup later this year. The hotel, the stadiums were inspected and graded as perfectly suited for the event. Additionally, the delegation met the Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mr. Hüseyin Özürgün, to ensure the full support of the government for the planned tournament successfully.

In addition to the CONIFA delegation, Mr. Gianluigi Contarin, the Vice-President of the Padanian NGO “Co.Nord”, travelled to Northern Cyprus to understand the requirements and the needed preparations to host a tournament.

On the last day of the meeting, the CONIFA delegation drew the group stage of the European Football Cup in a huge, live-streamed, ceremony in the official tournament hotel, Acapulco Hotel.



CONIFA delegation in Northern Cyprus

08 Apr **NO LIMITS Launch, Savona/Padania/Italy (Alberto Rischio, Claudio Girardi)**

European Director Alberto Rischio and Disabled Football Manager Claudio Girardi launched the “NO LIMITS” campaign, a football for disabled branch of CONIFA, in Savona. To launch the project, a first ever football for disabled match outside FIFA was organized, between the host Padania and fellow CONIFA member Monaco. To ensure the operations of the launch day, the organizers worked closely together with the Liguria Region, the Savona Municipality and the “Turin For Disable” team.



Both teams: Padania and Monaco

09 May **Meeting “New Hope Waves”, Livingstone/Zambia (Sascha Dürkop)**

General Secretary Sascha Dürkop visited the Zambian NGO “New Hope Waves”, which runs a local football club in the township Maramba in Livingstone, Zambia. He spent the whole day in Maramba with the CEO of the NGO, Auldrige Chibbwalu, who gave him a tour and showed him the local football pitch and guest team accommodation. The purpose was to win a strong social football partner in the region to potentially host friendly matches and/or tournaments in the amazing city of Livingstone.

Later this year, Matabeleland, a CONIFA member, travelled to Maramba to play the team, which is the first success of hopefully a long-term collaboration.

Furthermore, CONIFA could assist in winning a volunteer for the NGO “New Hope Waves”. Mr. Greg Dickinson spent 3 weeks in Maramba, training all age levels and both genders and assisting on the ground to operate the friendly match vs. Matabeleland.

This collaboration and the support CONIFA provided to a non-member football project underlines the social responsibility CONIFA is ready to take wherever needed.



Auldrige Chibbwalu and Sascha Dürkop on the Maramba Community Pitch

10-15 May Visiting Matabeleland, Bulawayo/Zimbabwe (Sascha Düerkop)

General Secretary Sascha Düerkop visited Matabeleland to meet one of CONIFA newest members and understand the situation on the ground. After a short stay in the Northern Matabeleland city of Victoria Falls, Sascha Düerkop was picked up by the president of Matabeleland Football Confederacy (MFC), Busani Sibindi, and the two MFC Board members Busani Khanye and Bukhosi Mabhena to be driven to the Matabeleland capital of Bulawayo. During 4 full days in Bulawayo, our general secretary could witness the first ever tournament organized completely by the MFC, the Royal Matabeleland Cup, a one-day cup tournament between 8 teams from all over Matabeleland and was well-attended by local supporters. Finally, Sascha Düerkop attended the “Battle of Zimbabwe”, often also dubbed as the “Zimbabwe Classico”, the most important match of the Zimbabwe Premier League in a packed Barberfields Stadium, which was an absolutely incredible experience. Business-wise, our general secretary had the chance to link up with the CEOs of various Bulawayo-based Premier League clubs and several local businesses, which hopefully helps the MFC and CONIFA to further grow in the region.

Bukhosi Mabhena, Sascha Düerkop, Busani Sibindi



The crowd at the „Battle of Zimbabwe“ in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe



11-14 May **Working Visit to London, United Kingdom (Per-Anders Blind)**

CONIFA President Per-Anders Blind traveled to London to meet important partners for the upcoming World Football Cup 2018. The Barawa Football Association, represented by its president Haji Munye Haji, hosted Per-Anders Blind for the three days and arranged various meetings for him. The CONIFA president did meet with the Football Media company “Copa90” to discuss a potential future cooperation and, together with the Barawa FA, the President of the South West State of Somalia, Mr. Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden.



Mr. Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden (centre) and Barawa FA representatives with Per-Anders Blind

28 May **Guest Lecture in Heidelberg, Germany (Sascha Dürkop)**

On invitation of the SRH University of Applied Sciences, CONIFA general secretary Sascha Dürkop held a guest lecture to students of the master class in sport science titled “Football in political no-man’s-land”. The lecture was a 4h presentation of football outside FIFA, its history and its status-quo, highlighting the journey of CONIFA since 2013. The talk concluded with an open workshop session, in which the students could create own concepts to boost CONIFA’s popularity in Germany, a country with no active CONIFA member currently. Local media representatives also followed the lecture and reported about it.

05 Aug **Season Opening Hoffenheim, Germany (Sascha Dürkop & Johannes Sauerwein)**

Sascha Dürkop and Johannes Sauerwein were invited to attend the Bundesliga Season Opening of the Europe League Club TSG 1899 Hoffenheim. The season was opened by a charity match of the two social football projects “Global United FC” and “Viva con Agua de Sankt Pauli”, which featured several former FIFA World Champions and German and international national team players. The CEO of “Global United FC”, Rainer Hahn, invited the CONIFA delegation to attend the opening in the VIP area and discuss a potential future cooperation between CONIFA and Global United.



Sascha Dürkop, Lutz Pfannenstiel, Rainer Hahn, Johannes Sauerwein

08-13 Aug **Working Visit London, United Kingdom (Per-Anders Blind)**

In another working visit to London, CONIFA President Per-Anders Blind did inspect several potential stadiums for the World Football Cup 2018. Additionally, Per-Anders Blind attended the Niamh Challenge Cup, an annual charity tournament hosted by CONIFA member Manx International Football Alliance (MIFA). This year, MIFA decided to host the tournament in London for the first time. The CONIFA President attended the match of Barawa vs. Ellan Vannin and met MMA Fighter Michael “Venom” Page, who is the official ambassador of Barawa FA.



Ellan Vannin, Barawa and CONIFA President Per-Anders Blind during the Niamh Challenge Cup

27 Aug **“Un PO di Sport” in Parma/Padania/Italy (Lorenzo Bernardini)**

On invitation of the Organization Committee, Lorenzo Bernardini attended a beach sport multi-sport event in Mezzani, a suburb of Parma. The mayor of Mezzani, Mr. Nicola Cesari, invited CONIFA to inspect the area and the beach sport facilities to consider future beach soccer tournaments in the city.

Mr. Bernardini reports that the location is impressively located at the river banks of the river Pado and that the sand is extremely clean and of a very high standard. From the multiple sport events organized, Mr. Bernardini did visit the beach soccer tournament, which included 4 teams from the region. He evaluates the whole organization and standard of the facilities as great and absolutely feasible to host CONIFA beach soccer events in the future.



1-3 Oct **Working Visit London, United Kingdom (Per-Anders Blind)**

During his third working visit to London, in preparations to the World Football Cup 2018, CONIFA President Per-Anders Blind focused on meeting several potential media partners for the tournament. This included a re-visit to Copa90, mentioned above, and a first meeting with the Perform Media Group. For that meeting, CONIFA Commercial Director Paul Watson supported Per-Anders Blind to establish a close relationship to a very important media partner, crucial for the success of the World Football Cup 2018 in London.

16 – 21 Sep **Site visit Kyrgyzstan (Jens Jockel)**

Asian Director Jens Jockel visited Kyrgyzstan to establish a strong link in the yet untapped Central Asian region for CONIFA and to evaluate the potential to host a tournament in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital. He had meeting with Bigser Sport, the largest Central Asian Sport Brand, the Kyrgyz Football Association and the most decorated Kyrgyz football club – FC Dordoi



Sergey Bykovyk (Founder of Bigser), Jens Jockel

23 -26 Oct **Sportel 2017 in Monaco (Per-Anders Blind, Kristof Wenczel, Alberto Rischio)**

CONIFA president Per-Anders Blind, Vice-President Kristof Wenczel and European Director Alberto Rischio traveled to Monaco to participate in the biggest international sport business fair in the world – Sportel Monaco 2017! CONIFA did not only have a stand to promote itself to the leaders of the sport business, but had also the chance to have hundreds of meetings over the 3 days to discuss potential future cooperation, sponsorship or partnership with several industry partner.



Alberto Rischio and Per-Anders Blind at the CONIFA stand

26 Oct **Member visit in Nice/County of Nice/France (Per-Anders Blind, Alberto Rischio)**

CONIFA president Per-Anders Blind and European Director visited CONIFA member County of Nice in the Allianz Riviera Stadium in Nice. The CONIFA delegation was greeted by most of the Board members of County of Nice, including the general secretary of the FA, Yannick Faraut. The main reason of the travel was to find out why the County of Nice could not participate in the 2017 European Football Cup and to look into a common future, discussing the World Football Cup 2018 qualification system and the potential hosting of the European Football Cup 2019 in Nice.



Alberto Rischio, Per-Anders Blind and Yannick Faraut (2nd from right) in Allianz Riviera

27 Oct **Meeting with “Co.Nord” in Milan/Padania/Italy (Per-Anders Blind, Alberto Rischio)**

CONIFA president Per-Anders Blind and European Director Alberto Rischio traveled to Milan to meet the president (Mr. Andrea Monti) and the Vice-President (Mr. Gianluigi Contarin) of the organization Co.Nord, which is the Confederation of Northern Italian Municipalities, to discuss a potential future hosting of a tournament in the region. Co.Nord proposed to host an event in Padania/Northern Italy either in 2021 or in 2022.



Per-Anders Blind, Gianluigi Contarin, Alberto Rischio

Meeting GDE in Paderno Dugnano/Padania/Italy (Per-Anders Blind, Alberto Rischio)

On the same day, CONIFA president Per-Anders Blind and European Director Alberto Rischio went to Paderno Dugnano to meet the trophy manufactory GDE, which famously designed and produced the FIFA World Cup trophy. The CONIFA delegation met the GDE CEO, Ms. Valentina Losi, to discuss the potential designing and production of a new CONIFA World Football Cup trophy in the future.



Valentina Losi, Per-Anders Blind

28 Oct Meeting Accademia Allenatori in Bergamo/Padania/Italy (Per-Anders Blind, Alberto Rischio)

CONIFA president Per-Anders Blind and European Director Alberto Rischio visited the Accademia Allenatori in Bergamo, where many of Europe's top clubs prepare for the season and where players and coaches alike are educated and licensed. Together with Omar Locatelli and Fabio Colombo from the Accademia Allenatoria, CONIFA discussed the possibility of a CONIFA coaches license for the future.

04 Nov National Indigenous Football Championship in Nowra, Australia (Oscar Mussons)

In early November, Oscar Mussons was invited to attend the National Indigenous Football Championship in Nowra, Australia. He represented CONIFA on the ground and, except for attending a wonderful football festival, he had the chance to meet the representative of several indigenous football projects in Australia and New Zealand. Most importantly, he got the chance to introduce CONIFA and its values to Mr. Bernie McLeod, who is the creator of the Indigenous Football Championships and the Chairman of the Indigenous Football Club Wreck Bay Sharks. In addition, Oscar Mussons had the chance to meet Mr. Phillip Pickering-Parker, director of Maori Football New Zealand (Aoteaora Football). Both teams, the Indigenous Australians and the Maori team, showed great interest in joining CONIFA soon and participating in regular matches in Oceania.



Oscar Mussons (center) and Bernie McLeod (right)

29-30 Nov Charity Event by Helping Company in Stockholm, Sweden (Per-Anders Blind)

Together with Barawa FA, CONIFA President Per-Anders Blind attended a Charity event of "HelpingCompany", a Stockholm based charity NGO. The purpose of the event was raising funds for the suffering children of Syria and CONIFA, through its president Per-Anders Blind, is very proud and honored to contribute to this very worthy cause that tries to overcome one of the globally most striking challenges of our times.



Per-Anders Blind on stage at the HelpingCompany Charity Event

FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES

Due to the World Football Cup 2018 qualification system, the year 2017 saw plenty of football action within CONIFA. Here is a complete list of all matches outside the European Football Cup played in 2017:

Leicester City FC International Academy vs. Panjab	4:3	in Leicester
Raetia vs. Tamil Eelam	0:5	in Trübbach
Barawa vs. Tokyngton Harvest FC	4:3	in London
Jersey vs. Panjab	0:2	in Saint Helier
Peckham Town FC vs. Somaliland	4:0	in London
Occitania vs. Selection Quartiers	2:2	in Toulouse
Stockport Town FC vs. Ellan Vannin	0:7	in Woodley
Panjab vs. England "C"	1:2	in Solihull
Rodez AF vs. Occitania	2:2	in Rodez
Western Sahara vs. UN Select XI	3:3	in Tindouf
Greenland vs. Western Isles	3:0	in Visby
Froya vs. Greenland	2:2	in Hemse
Gotland vs. Greenland	0:1	in Visby
Greenland vs. Menorca	1:1	in Väskinde
Kabylie vs. US Timizart	1:0	in Tizi Ouzou
Kabylie vs. US Tala Gahia	4:1	in Tizi Ouzou
Kabylie vs. ES Ighil Bouchene	7:3	in Tizi Ouzou
Kabylie vs. MS Ait Abdelmoumene	4:2	in Tizi Ouzou
Kabylie vs. Timizart-Loghbar	3:0	in Tizi Ouzou

Kabylie vs.US Tala Athmane	6:3	in Tizi Ouzou
Kabylie vs. US Tiplakin	2:1	in Tizi Ouzou
Kabylie vs. ES Ighil Bouchene	5:1	in Tizi Ouzou
Kabylie vs. JS Ait Djennad	4:2	in Tizi Ouzou
Kabylie vs. US Tamda	2:0	in Tizi Ouzou
Kabylie vs. JS Raffour	4:1	in Tizi Ouzou
Barawa vs. Chagos Islands	3:0	in London
Chagos Islands vs. Ellan Vannin	0:14	in London
Barawa vs. Ellan Vannin	2:6	in London
Tamil Eelam vs. Chagos Islands	5:1	in London
Tamil Eelam vs. Barawa	1:3	in London
Bangladeshi Community in Wales vs. Somaliland	1:2	in Cardiff
Pakistani Community in Wales vs. Somaliland	1:3	in Cardiff
South Wales Police XI vs.Somaliland	4:2	in Cardiff
Peckham Town FC vs. Somaliland	4:0	in Dulwich
Ganadores FC vs. Somaliland	3:4	in London
South Wales Police XI vs. Somaliland	2:6	in Cardiff
Ganadores FC vs. Somaliland	1:2	in London
Heegan FC vs. Somaliland	0:3	in London
Heegan FC vs. Somaliland	1:4	in London
Östersunds United vs.Darfur	1:4	in Östersund
Ope IF vs. Darfur	1:1	in Östersund
Östersunds FK Academy vs. Darfur	2:3	in Östersund
Matabeleland vs. Las Palmas FC	2:2	in Bulawayo
Matabeleland vs. Eagle Life FC	2:1	in Bulawayo
Matabeleland vs. Las Palmas FC	3:2	in Bulawayo
Matabeleland vs. Eagle Life FC	4:1	in Bulawayo
FFA Global Maramba vs.Matabeleland	1:2	in Livingstone
Matabeleland vs. Toronto FC	2:2	in Bulawayo
Matabeleland vs. Royal Stars FC	2:1	in Bulawayo
Matabeleland vs. Crusaders FC	4:1	in Bulawayo
Matabeleland vs.Real Rovers FC	8:1	in Bulawayo
Matabeleland vs. Lobengula FC	5:0	in Bulawayo
Matabeleland vs.Crusaders FC	3:1	in Bulawayo
Matabeleland vs. Royal FC	5:0	in Bulawayo
Highlanders FC Academy vs. Matabeleland	2:0	in Bulawayo
United Koreans of Japan vs.Korea University	8:0	in Tokyo
United Koreans of Japan vs.Tokyo Kaijo	1:0	in Tokyo
United Koreans of Japan vs.Astra Club	5:1	in Tokyo
United Koreans of Japan vs. Risho University	4:2	in Tokyo
United Koreans of Japan vs.Tokyo Gakugei Uni.	3:1	in Tokyo
United Koreans vs. Chosen United	8:1	in Tokyo
Kurdistan vs. Peshmerga SC	2:1, in Sulaymaniyah	
Kurdistan vs. Diwanya FC	0:1	in Erbil

Kurdistan vs. Alalam FC	3:1	in Erbil
Kurdistan vs. Hndren FC	4:2	in Erbil
Kurdistan vs. Kufa FC	1:0	in Erbil
Kurdistan vs. Sanaha	0:0	in Erbil
Abkhazia vs. Donetsk PR	1:2	in Sukhum
Raetia vs. Refugees United	6:4	in Chur
Delvidek vs. FK Roham	2:1	in Nova Srnja
Matabeleland vs. Toronto FC	6:3	in Bulawayo

REMARK: This list might be incomplete, as some matches might not have been reported to the General Secretariat.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF IMPORTANCE

07 Oct *CONIFA was approved as a full member of the International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA) (www.isca-web.org) on the Annual General Meeting of the organization. The organization helps us to improve our Governance, especially in terms of transparency, and provides a network to grassroots and cultural sport organizations across the world.*

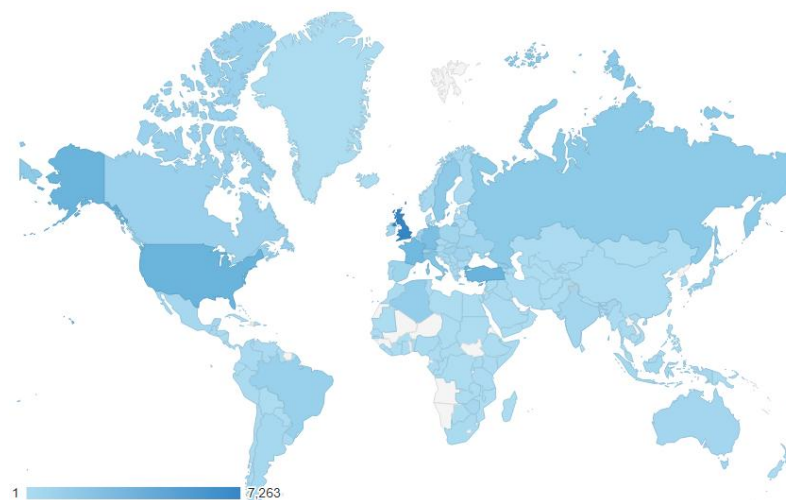


ONLINE PRESENCE

CONIFA is present in the following Social Media platforms:



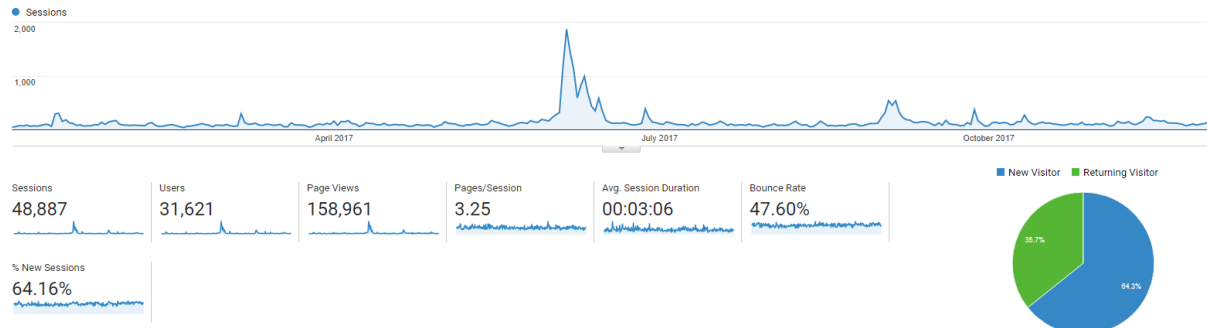
Website – conifa.org



Top visitors – conifa.org

1)	United Kingdom	14.86%
2)	Turkey/North C	6.96%
3)	United States	6.94%
4)	France	5.99%
5)	Cyprus	5.62%
6)	Germany	4.97%
7)	Italy	4.23%
8)	Russia	3.16%
9)	Sweden	3.05%
10)	Algeria	2.57%
11)	Georgia	2.50%
12)	Belgium	2.10%
13)	Brazil	2.05%
14)	Canada	1.93%
15)	Switzerland	1.90%
16)	Hungary	1.64%
17)	Spain	1.52%
18)	Ukraine	1.49%
19)	Romania	1.47%
20)	Netherlands	1.44%

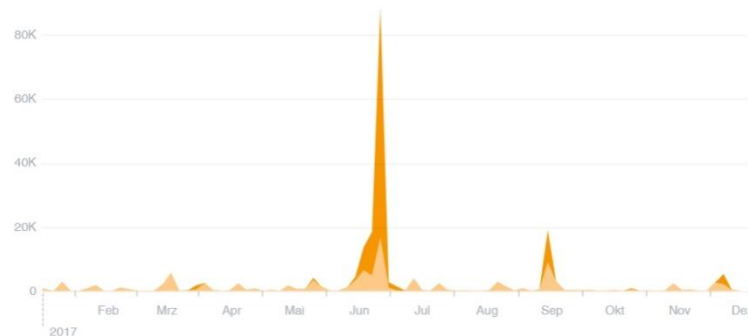
For the 2nd year in a row we managed to reach total global coverage, the website had 31 621 unique visitors and 158 961 page views. This is a small decline compared to the World Football Cup year in 2016 – but fully natural.



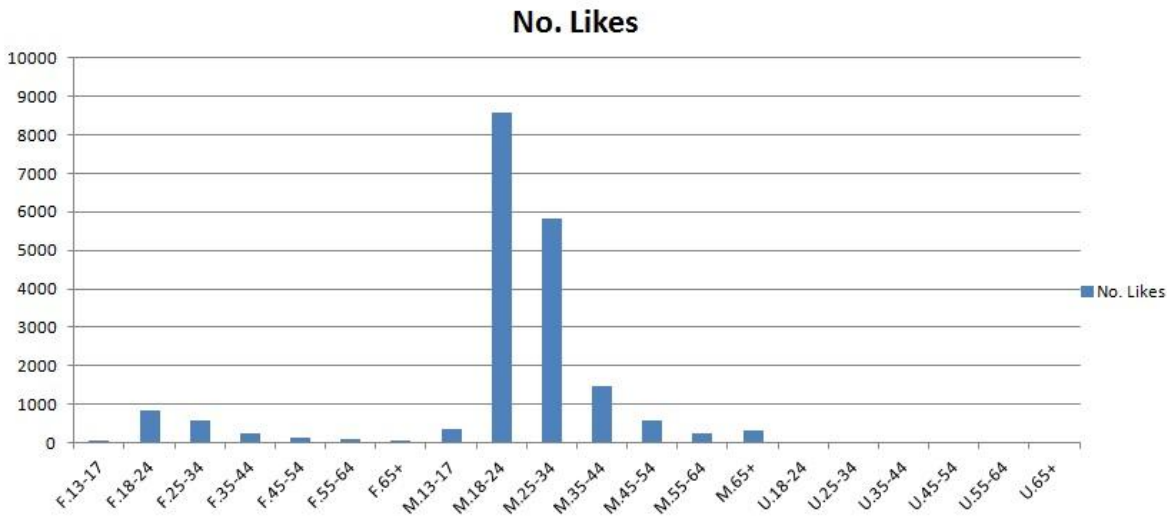
Facebook:

The most successful post on Facebook in 2017 was about Kabylie becoming a CONIFA member, posted on 13.06.2017. This post reached nearly 160,000 people and got over 6,000 interactions. The second most successful post presented the 16 countries who will participate in the World Football Cup 2018 (85,000 people reach, 11,500 interactions), while the third most successful one covered a Tibetan protest in German football (65,500 people reach, 1,800 interactions, post in German).

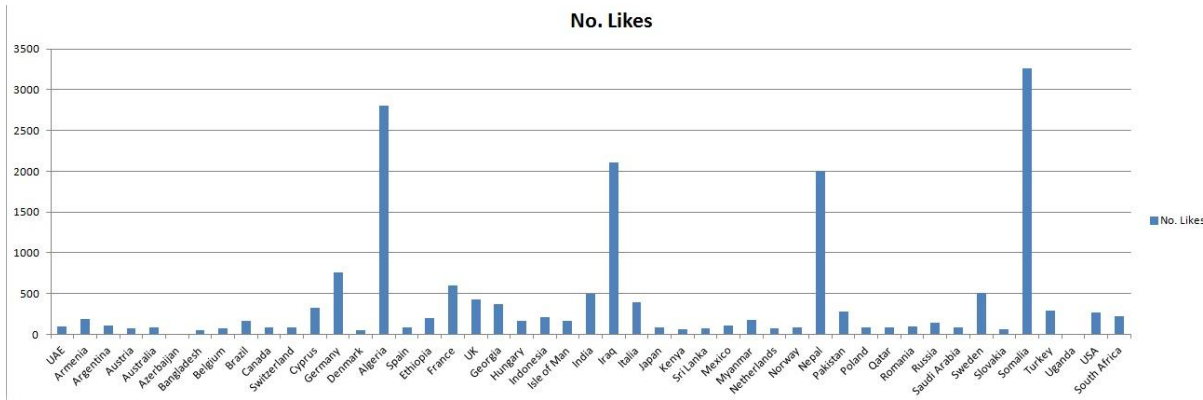
Overall, the Facebook page now has 19,511 (as of 03.12.) likes, which is a plus of 29% compared to 15,149 likes at the end of 2016. The picture below shows the reach of the Facebook page, showing clear peaks during the European Football Cup (and the presentation of Kabylie as the top peak), the launch of the participants of the 2018 World Football Cup and the German Tibet protest.



Analyzing our target group on Facebook, we observe that our core audience is male and between 18 and 34. Combined, 73,93% of our Likes on Facebook are coming from that target group.



An analysis by country shows that especially people from Algeria, Iraq, Nepal and Somalia follow our Facebook page. Combined, 56% of all Likes for the CONIFA page are coming from those four countries. Followers from Algeria are probably associated to Kabylie, those from Iraq associated to Kurdistan and the Somali Likes associated to Somaliland and/or Barawa. The Likes from Nepal, in contrary, could be coming from bots, as Nepal is very well known to be a source of Facebook bot likes.



Following the analysis, we call all members, except for Kurdistan, Somaliland, Barawa and Kabylie to intensify their Facebook promotion and direct visitors to our Facebook page. Furthermore, we call our members to better promote content, which appeals to male users above the age of 34 and/or to women.

Twitter:

On Twitter, 87% of our followers are male and the age distribution is roughly the same, although the age group 25 to 34 dominates here:

Age

Age category	% of audience
13 to 17	2%
18 to 24	23%
25 to 34	52%
35 to 44	14%
45 to 54	5%
55 to 64	2%
over 65	2%

The top tweet in 2017 was the launch of the 16 participating teams of the World Football Cup 2018, which reached a bit more than 30,000 people and had a remarkable engagement rate of 9,9%. According to studies of the company “Social Bakers”, who are Social Media analysis experts, the average engagement rate of the top 25 brands is around 0,07% only, showing the amazing rate achieved.



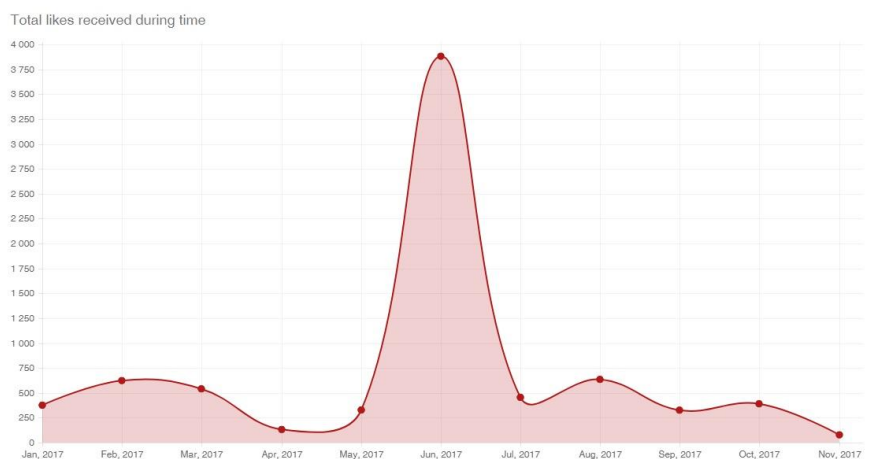
Impressions	30,386
Total engagements	3,023
Media engagements	1,339
Detail expands	665
Profile clicks	555
Likes	139
Hashtag clicks	139
Link clicks	88
Retweets	84
Replies	13
Follows	1

Also worth noting is that the demographics of our Twitter-Followers are very different to those on Facebook. 30% of the Twitter Followers come from the United Kingdom alone, which can be seen as a good way to reach the audience of the World Football Cup 2018 in London:

Country	
Country name	% of audience
United Kingdom	30%
United States	9%
France	7%
Turkey	3%
Netherlands	3%
Isle of Man	3%
Spain	3%
Italy	3%
Germany	2%
Canada	2%

Instagram:

CONIFA just entered instagram in April 2016, in the build-up to the World Football Cup 2016 in Abkhazia. Over the year 2016, nearly 10,000 total Likes could be accumulated. Over 2017, this number slightly decreased to a total of 7764 Likes between January and November 2017. Demographic data is not accessible for instagram Likes and Followers. The peak of instagram activities and likes came clearly during the European Football Cup in Northern Cyprus in June 2017:



The top posts on instagram (by Likes and Comments) are shown below. As anticipated, they mostly were posted during the European Football Cup 2017 again:

Best 3 posts by total likes received



Best 3 posts by total comments received



REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS/GENERAL SECRETARY

General Secretary Sascha Düerkop:

1. Member Acquisitions:

1. The following members did successfully apply for CONIFA membership within 2017: Barotseland, Kabylie and Rohingya
2. The following non-members have been(re-) informed about CONIFA and invited initiate talks about membership with CONIFA during 2017:
 - Karakalpakstan (Autonomous Republic of Uzbekistan)
 - Southern Cameroon (Minority in Cameroon)
 - Biafra (Minority in Nigeria)
 - Gorno-Badakhshan (Autonomous Republic of Tajikistan)
 - Ingushetia (Republic of the Russian Federation)
 - Chechnya (Republic of the Russian Federation)
 - Yorkshire (Region in the UK)
 - Indigenous Australians (Minority in Australia)
 - Maori (Minority in New Zealand)
 - Niue (Country in Oceania)
 - West Papua (Region in Indonesia)
 - Wallis and Futuna (French Overseas Territory in Oceania)

- Nevis (Caribbean Island, part of Saint Kitts & Nevis)
- Federated States of Micronesia (Country in Oceania)
- Sao Paulo Region / “Paulistas” (Region in Brazil)
- Irish People (Northern Ireland and Ireland)

2. Media/PR:

2017 saw a media attention closely reaching to the previous year, which was the most successful in the history of CONIFA. I personally gave approximately 50-70 interviews to media from nearly all over the world, many of them focusing on the World Football Cup 2018 in London already. This year, this included a film crew and photographers visiting my office at home.

Most publications will be released next year, while a few smaller ones were published during the year.

In terms of PR, I was able to link CONIFA with various charities and organizations globally, formally or informally and I gave various speeches, key note addresses and guest lectures over the year, mainly in Germany.

Unfortunately, the United Nations declined to grant us observer status in the ECOSOC department, as some of our members are seen as “violation of the integrity of UN member nations”.

3. Sponsoring Activities:

Over the year, I had meetings and phone calls with approximately 50 potential business partners from all over the world, mainly, but not limited to, for the World Football Cup 2018 in London. I was part of the delegation that signed off the sponsorship contract with Paddy Power in Dublin. Following that, I coordinated the activities with Paddy Power and the sponsoring agency “Dark Horses” in regular meetings. Furthermore, I was able to convince the UK branch of the German startup “Eventim” to be our ticketing partner for the tournament. Finally, I could convince “Caravanistan” to support us for a potential Asian Cup in Kyrgyzstan 2018.

Finally, I was able to link our African Director Justin Walley with Ethiopian Airlines to discuss a potential sponsoring of an African Cup in 2019.

4. Other:

1. Together with Paul Watson, I founded the Charity “Uncharted Football” in 2017, which hopes to develop football in the more remote and less connected islands of the world. As a first action, we were able to send a delegate (Lucy Watson) to Niue to strengthen our ties to the island nation. Currently, we are looking for qualified coaches, who are keen to lead a nation’s football program in the Pacific.
2. Again together with Paul Watson, I was able to send a volunteer coach to Maramba in Zambia (see travels) to develop football on the ground and organize a match for a CONIFA member (Matabeleland) over there. Such volunteer coaching roles, which we hope to extend in the future, do have a high social value and help CONIFA to underline the social values it stands for. Furthermore, it helps us to get a good network of coaches across the world.

Media Director Kieran Pender

After a significant growth year in 2016 thanks in large part to the successful World Football Cup in Abkhazia, CONIFA consolidated its media strategy in 2017 and prepared for the 2018 World Football Cup. CONIFA presently has a combined following of approximately 24,000 across the primary social media platforms, with its posts regularly reaching audiences in excess of 100,000 people worldwide. CONIFA hosted the 2017 European Football Cup, and had over 30 foreign journalists register for media accreditation. Due to personal commitments, CONIFA's Media Director was unable to attend the tournament, but Johannes Sauerwein kindly volunteered his services and did an excellent job. Johannes has since joined the CONIFA executive committee.

CONIFA's primary media focus for the second half of 2017 has been preparing for the 2018 World Football Cup in London, which is expected to be CONIFA's biggest ever event. CONIFA is in the process of forming a multi-platform media team for the tournament, to create compelling video, image, web and social content. CONIFA, via the major tournament sponsor, has secured the editorial services of Perform Group for the tournament, and has already held discussions with a range of international media outlets (including The Guardian and BBC) about coverage of the tournament.

CONIFA's Media Director also continued his work with Oceania member Kiribati. CONIFA has secured the pro bono services of a major international law firm and a Melbourne-based barrister specialising in sport to assist Kiribati progress its application to join FIFA and the Oceania Football Confederation. CONIFA's Oceania outreach is set to continue in 2018, with a possible visit to Tuvalu. CONIFA is also working with a diaspora group for West Papua to join, which would bring CONIFA's Oceania contingent to three members.

Asian Director Jens Jockel

1. Participation in the following CONIFA-Events:
 1. Annual General Meeting 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland January 28th, 2017
 2. CONIFA European Football Cup in Northern Cyprus June 4th-11th, 2017 W
2. Work as CONIFA ExCo-member & Asia Director
 1. Attended as member of the CONIFA Executive Committee several meetings throughout the year and fulfilled general and specific tasks within our responsibilities
 2. Built an Continental Committee for Asia with several managers working hand in hand on big tasks, such as the Asia Cup 2018
 3. Took care of my responsibility as member of the CONIFA Executive Committee as well as as an ambassador towards federations within and outside of CONIFA and visited dozens of professional and semi-professional football clubs in different countries, such as :
 - i. Armenia
 - ii. Belarus
 - iii. Georgia
 - iv. Kazakhstan
 - v. Kyrgyzstan
 - vi. Luxembourg
 - vii. Lithuania

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- viii. Latvia
 - ix. Spain
 - x. Slovenia
 4. And met spokespersons of the following football federations within the FIFA:
 - i. Belarus
 - ii. Kyrgyztan
 5. Provided due to my business trip in Kyrgyztan a potential supplier and bigger sponsor for CONIFA called „Bigser Sport“. Bigser Sport is an ambitious Sports Brand with quality goods and customized designs, which is very interested in CONIFA and its growth.
 3. Actual tasks and projects for CONIFA
 1. Main aspect of my work right now, besides maintaining the contact and information flow within the Asian Continent is the work with on the Asia Cup with my team. It is planned to realize the Asia Cup in Kyrgyztan in 2018. As my private visit in Kyrgyztan turned out to be a business trip for CONIFA, I found a lot of potential there and met important persons within the Kyrgyz club football, the Kyrgyz Football Federation and in the Sports Industry. I met as well some potential key persons in regard to an Asia Cup 2018.
 2. Working on some different concepts in regard to the World Football Cup 2018 (marketingwise) and on other CONIFA projects.
 4. Private
 1. I am working right now on my Sports Law Diploma, which should help me a lot in my work for CONIFA.
 5. Last but not least
 1. If you have any (constructive) ideas towards CONIFA Asia in general, the upcoming Asia Cup or you just need help with an issue, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail: asia@conifa.org . Me and my team will try to help you as good as we can.

European Director Alberto Rischio

During year 2017 our Committee has had 7 Skype meetings to plan all activities. In addition to members of the European Committee other CONIFA people attended our meetings: Global Referee Manager Roger Lundbäck, Global President Per-Anders Blind and Global Development Manager Orcun Kamali.

After the AGM in Geneva, where CONIFA gave positive answer to North Cyprus FA to host the second EFC in June, our Committee started to create connection between all 8 FAs and the Local Host Committee for all sport, cultural and institutional activities. From the 4th of June on all committee members supported all participating teams to collect details for the local committee, like squad lists, flight details, national anthems, flags, reservation of training camps, cultural details and so on.

In July the European Committee invited all European CONIFA members to express their interest to host the European Football Cup 2019. Two members did express their interest in hosting the tournament: Nagorno Karabakh and the County of Nice.

North American Director Noah Wheelock

Over the past year, I have made close contact with both of North America's two existing members: Cascadia & Quebec. Both had been inactive prior to 2017.

There was old contact information for Quebec, which led to some political discussions over who was actually in charge of the team. This has now been sorted out amicably and in a positive manner. After much contact, both Cascadia and Quebec have now become active again and I have been in touch with both frequently. Cascadia is now poised to become the first North American team to participate in the World Football Cup next summer. Quebec has also expressed great interest in attending and have asked to be on a waiting list to attend the World Football Cup, should any teams drop out.

Overall, this has been very positive for these members.

I have also made contact with a First Nations (indigenous) group local to my part of Canada who have expressed interest in starting a team. This is still in the opening phases, but is good progress. Indigenous groups in North America are well-known for often taking many years before forming any partnerships, so I take this as a very positive start.

Using contacts provided to me by Sascha, I have contacted a few possible contacts for Caribbean teams but have not heard back from them yet.

Quebec has also expressed interest in having a Women's team, when CONIFA decides to go forward with Women's competitions.

I have also been in touch with Kristof, who will look to bring Szekely Land on a tour to North America next summer. We have had preliminary discussions about matches they might play.

From the Communications side, it has been a good & busy year with frequent website updates, numerous documents to create (World Football Cup sponsorship doc, Uncharted Football pitch, etc) and creating two logos (CONIFA's new logo, Uncharted Football logo).

I have also researched and attended meetings regarding streaming options for our competitions.

Commercial Director Paul Watson

The focus of the year's activities has been the World Football Cup 2018 in London and trying to ensure that the tournament is as much of a success as possible.

Having identified Paddy Power as a potential sponsor for the event due to their status as a rebel brand and their interest in finding alternative sporting angles, I was able to bring Paddy Power to the table and together with Per-Anders and Sascha we agreed a deal to be primary tournament sponsors.

The Paddy Power deal presents a massive opportunity to raise awareness of CONIFA but it left us needing to attach several other significant sponsors in order to bring the competition in at breakeven, given the expenses of hosting such an event in London.

I approached an agency, Dark Horses, who specialise in working with ‘underdog’ brands and who have done excellent work on the Common Goal campaign but also work with the likes of Manchester City and Southampton, and they are now working for us to find partnership and sponsorship opportunities.

Along with Paddy Power, I attended meetings with SportBible and the Perform Group who have become the media partner for the WFC and who will bring the event to millions through live streams on Goal.com – the biggest football website in the world by numbers - their news wire Omnisport – which links to hundreds of news sites including ESPN and the New York Times, EPlayer, which appears on the Daily Mail and Independent amongst others - and the use of Opta Stats, which are the industry leader for the Premier League and Champions League.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Barawa FA and CONIFA’s ExCo in building a London 2018 Organising Committee and adding expertise and dynamism from new faces such as Jay Heaton, who has been pivotal in our negotiations with Charlton Athletic. We are also in talks with Barnet FC, Sutton United and Bromley FC about using their stadiums.

I also managed to meet with the UK Home Office to discuss potential visa problems posed and have secured the assistance of immigration law firm Fragomen thanks to a connection there.

The major difficulty has been finding accommodation in London that is affordable. After lengthy negotiations we have come to an agreement with Hostelworld for rooms in their highest quality property, the Generator Hostel, and we hope to get this in within budget. We had also progressed to advanced stage talks with Airbnb but they withdrew their interest.

The challenge now is to bring in additional sponsors and revenue sources to make the tournament financially profitable and to take advantage of the huge platform that we have for the WFC 2018 thanks to Paddy Power’s renowned marketing and social media visibility and the Perform Group’s reach.

Beyond the World Football Cup, I have had the chance to liaise frequently with the UK-based CONIFA members and to better understand the realities of their finances. I have explored the issue of merchandise sales (especially replica shirts) and the problems many of our teams face paying CONIFA fees, which are effectively a ‘tournament tax’ for them. While I don’t have answers yet, I have a better understanding of the problem and the subject of CONIFA fees and replica shirt sales is something we should review in depth in 2018.

On the development side, along with Sascha, I have built a database of coaches who would be interested in working voluntarily to assist CONIFA members. We also managed to send a coach to Maramba and Matabeleland and have a better system in place for sending coaches to assist in development work under the CONIFA umbrella.

On a similar theme, Uncharted Football, a charity set up by me, Sascha and my sister Lucy, to assist nations not currently receiving FIFA support develop grassroots football programmes launched in 2017. The main focus of Uncharted Football for now is the Oceania region where most of the sovereign nations not in the FIFA Family are located and where the obesity rates are the highest in the world.

We sent Lucy to Niue in October 2017 for a site visit and she has put into place the foundations for volunteer coaches to visit the island in 2018. We have scheduled a visit to Nauru for February 2018 where we will set up a football project working with local people and the refugee community in the Australian government's Offshore Detention Centre.

Finally, I was delighted that Cassie Childers Ryle, the coach and founder of the Tibetan women's football team, accepted my invitation to become Women's Football Manager for CONIFA. She will be building towards a 2019 Women's World Football Cup and will bring with her a wealth of experience and ideas.

The CONIFA Executive Committee wants to finally send out a big **THANK YOU** to all CONIFA stakeholders in the world. During the year we've received so much positive feedback and recognition from members, media, partners and supporters from all over the world and the journey has just begun.

Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus, 06th January 2018



Per-Anders Blind
President



Kristóf Wenczel
Vice President



Dimitri Pagava
Vice President



Sascha Düerkop
General Secretary



Justin Walley
African Director



Jens Jockel
Asian Director



Alberto Rischio
European Director



Zam Gutierrez
Latin America Director



Noah Wheelock
North American Director



Paul Watson
Commercial Director



Kieran Pender
Media Director



Safeen Kanabe
Executive Committee Member