

Annual Report 2016/2017

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This report has been completed on November 16th, 2017 and presented at the General Assembly 2017:

- **Date:** 17.11.2017
- **Place:** Impact Hub Zürich Event Space **Bogen D**, [Viaduktstrasse 93, 8005 Zürich](#)
- **Time:** 19:15

1. Overview

Since the founding of the [Open Network Infrastructure Association](#) in late August 2016 until present date, the members of our association have accomplished lots of fantastic milestones in **the road to open networks**.

We consolidated the association's operational structure and completed several large projects to promote our ideas. Among them, the highlights are:

- [Make Zurich 2017](#): Together with Stadt Zürich and EWZ, we organized a very large civic tech hackathon in late January/early February.
- [DINACon Awards](#): We received the **DINACon Award** in the category **Open Internet**.
- We joined the ASUT LoRa Expert Working Group to help shape the legal framework that allows our networks to exist.
- We helped several institutions and companies in their efforts to join and extend our network.
- We presented the association in numerous conferences and events to raise awareness about the project and the ideas behind it.
- We supported the Swiss community to grow and understand the network and its underlying technology.

2. Operational structure

Among the first projects to tackle after founding the association was the one of establishing tools and processes and an executive committee to steer the association with as little administrative overhead as possible.

2.1. Organs of the association

During the Extraordinary General Assembly which took place on May 23rd 2017, two new members were added to the Executive Committee: *Peter Affolter* & *Jan Hänsli*. With them, the composition of the Executive Committee was defined as follows:

- **Peter Affolter**
- **Reinhard Bischoff**
- **Gonzalo Casas**
- **Simon Gehren**
- **Jan Hänsli**
- **Matthias Zimmermann**

And the Internal Auditor was confirmed:

- **Jürg Mannes**

According to the [Articles of Association](#), the executive committee is free to constitute and organize itself. The four mandatory offices are occupied as follows:

- **President:** Gonzalo Casas
- **Vice-President:** Reinhard Bischoff
- **Finance Officer:** Jan Hänsli
- **Recorder:** Matthias Zimmermann

Additionally, a legal advisory office is constituted as follows:

- **Legal Advisor:** Simon Gehren

2.2. Operative processes

To minimize the manual work involved, the processes of joining the association and the invoicing of members has been mostly automated via InvoiceNinja, Zapier and Mailchimp in combination.

All internal documentation is kept in a private GitLab repository.

All open/public documentation is published externally to a [Github repository](#).

3. The Year 2016/7 in retrospect

Since the founding of the association, we executed projects and attended events that can be grouped in various categories. The following is a brief description of each of them, indicating the category they fit into.

3.1. DINACon Award

Category: award

During the first edition of [DINACon](#) (Conference for Digital Sustainability organized by [CH open](#)), the association received an award in the category **Open Internet**.

The award ceremony is available on [YouTube](#).

3.2. Make Zurich 2017

Category: large scale awareness & promotion event

One of the biggest projects organized by the association this year was the [Make Zurich](#) hackathon for civic tech and LoRaWAN in collaboration with Stadt Zürich and EWZ.

The event gathered 60 participants into 17 teams that presented their projects at the end of an intense event starting on January 28th, and concluding on February 4th.

As a result of the event, we received significant attention from digital and traditional media outlets, with several articles published in NZZ, TagesAnzeiger, Netzwoche and a number of other publishers.

The details of this project and the metrics of its impact are so extensive that they have been documented into its [own report available in our collection of public documents](#).

3.3. Make Zurich Vol. II

Category: large scale awareness & promotion event

After the successful first edition of Make Zurich, we have confirmed continued cooperation with Stadt Zürich and EWZ to organize the next edition in 2018.

The dates of the event have been announced already: *June 22-30, 2018*.

3.4. Swiss TTN Zone

Category: core infrastructure project

One of the core ideas since the founding of the association has always been to push for more decentralized network infrastructure, with higher reliability and increased trust into the open network concept.

To that end, we have been collaborating with SWITCH.CH to establish a national instance of the backend that powers The Things Network running in Swiss territory.

There are several reasons for this. On the technical side, a shorter round-trip reduces network latency; on the legal side, keeping data within the country provides a certain level of defense against lawful interception and surveillance; and on the strategic side, pushing forward this project means the backend is tested to run on a more distributed manner, which can only strengthen the network's reliability.

3.5. ASUT LoRa Expert Working Group

Category: legal framework

We were invited to take part into an 'Expert Working Group' focused on LoRa technology organized by [ASUT \(Schweizerischer Verband der Telekommunikation\)](#).

The working group is composed by most of the players in the LoRa/LoRaWAN market in Switzerland, including Swisscom M2M, Lorient.io, Miromico, Die Post, etc.

3.6. Network expansion

Category: basic infrastructure

During this year, we have been in contact with many institutions and companies interested in supporting the expansion of our LoRaWAN network.

Some of these collaborations are already public, such as the one with [Tamedia AG](#) which officially announced their support and first gateways installed back in August. [Check the press release on tamedia.ch](#).

There are others that are still in the process of evaluating the project, some gateways are already installed, but for internal reasons, they do not wish to go public until later.

3.7. Public presentations and events

Category: awareness & promotion event

This year, the association was present in two festivals of the maker culture:

- [Make Munich](#)
- [Maker Faire Zürich](#)

During both of them, we represented the Swiss communities of The Things Network. In Munich we organized small a walk-in workshop to show the technology.

We also presented in numerous conferences and technology events:

- **DINAcon:** Session on Open Networking at the first conference for digital sustainability. Slides available on [slideshare](#), recording of the talk on [YouTube](#) and [details of the session here](#).
- **IoT Week, Geneve:** presentation in the context of the [Internet of Things for Urban Innovation](#). Slides available on [slideshare](#).
- **DigitalLab@HSR:** presentation organized at HSR in cooperation with University of St. Gallen. Slides available on [slideshare](#).
- **Scaling up your community, Webinar:** Organized by The Things Network Amsterdam, the recording is available on [YouTube](#) and the slides are on [slideshare](#).
- **Switch.ch NetSec group:** we were invited to present our project during an internal event organized by SWITCH.ch having as audience representatives of many Network and Security working groups of different research and education institutions that rely on SWITCH.CH services.

Our members were also present in different hacking events and workshops:

- **CH/Open Workshop-Tage:** In the 2016 and 2017 editions of the CH/Open workshop days, our members organized workshops to promote knowledge of LoRaWAN. See [program on workshoptage.ch](#).
- **Open Tourism hackathon Arosa:** Very nicely documented project of a LoRaWAN-enabled button using The Things Network. Check details [on Dribdat](#).
- **DINAcon hacknight:** We attended the hacknight even after DINAcon. [More details here](#).

3.8. Association's infrastructure

Category: internal project

During the first part of the year, there was significant effort invested into building up the basic tools and processes required to run the association as lean as possible. Some of these changes were also in result of direct feedback from members of the association:

- **ONIA Downlink:** we implemented a newsletter to keep all our members regularly informed about the novelties and progress of our projects.
- **Automated signup form:** to ease the administrative effort, we automated the process of joining the association. The process starts with an [online form](#), which subscribes the new member to our newsletter and registers them in the invoicing system.
- **Extraordinary General Assembly:** we organized an extraordinary general assembly in May to elect new Executive Committee members.
- **Internal documentation:** we streamlined our internal documentation processes using Gitlab for private documentation and Github repositories for all public ones, all bound together into a single logical unit using *git subtrees*.

4. Outlook

The outlook for next year is to keep the focus on the LoRaWAN technology, while keeping the options open in case other technological stacks become available. In terms of LoRaWAN, the outlook for next year can be summarized into a few simple points:

- Focus on increased reliability for professional usage.
- Focus on network expansion and better coverage.
- Continue promoting the project in the community and around with large and small scale events and conferences.
- Increase number of educational events and workshops to raise awareness of the technology.