

## Radioamateurs in the world.....how many are they?

After some years spent in "radio activity", a question uses to come to us naturally: how many radioham are in the world? Having asked from myself the same question, I tried to find the best answer but.....very easy to ask it and very difficult to get an answer. Astonished? The wish and the curiosity of knowing, pushed me in searching for some news about that, at first to fill up a news gap and then to be able to write this article.

Thinking about which could have been the best entity to ask news from, as a first

attempt

So what? Italian officials suggested to me to ask directly from our regional telecomm departments, and just two of them finally answered after some e-mails. As a witness of what I wrote here, I have all the e-mail sent and received so, if by chance our Minister Telecomm department would like to replay, here I am.

Speaking about the international officials, after the silence from a lot of them, I

attempt I contacted the ARRL getting an answer from Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, that very politely and fastly answered sending to me a copy of an old his article published on QST in the 2011 August. In his article appears very clear how difficult is to get the informations about the radiohams, due to various problems as well as very different national rules among the countries. So, to have certain informations is very difficult. Anyway, here I thank Dave Sumner for his contribution that was useful

wrote a letter to the three IARU regional president, saying that the way the most IARU associated do, is not the right one. The only answer I got was the letter from Don Beattie president of IARU Reg 1 whose told to me that in the next month there'll be the international IARU conference where will be asked from the IARU associated to give all the possible informations that once published will be useful for elaborate precise datas. At the moment we have to

inspire all, for the datas you can finally read in the second part of this article.

The second attempt or idea, was to contact all the world radioham associations, sending to them an e-mail with my request of data useful for an article. I can ensure you that the surprise was big.....keep attention to me.....the surprise to get NO answers from the most of the associations or telecomm ministers contacted, Italian telecomm department included. Using the "opened and read" feature of the electronic mail, I can assure that in the

use the datas I was able to collect from the association or officials that answered to me, together the data received from the ARRL.

The questions I sent to associations and officials were the following:

How many licenses have been released since started to exist the radioamateur bureau in your country?

How many radioamateurs are active at the moment?

Which are the power limits

quite total of the association or ministers my e-mail was read but.....only 42 in 166 have answered to me. For what concern about the Italian department, I can say that the answers to my request have been astonishing. Some answers among the various got were: We don't understand what you mean and need; We can't give to you these kind of informations because they are classified datas. Frankly speaking, I thought I asked just simple informations. I asked from them, exactly what I asked from the others official

and the rules?

The answers that follow below here, sometimes are uncomplete. Not all the associations and officials had all the data requested from me and so, where the data was not available I put a question mark. The data here published are updated until 2015 November. I remember to you that they come from the 43 IARU members that answered to me, members that here I want to sincerely thank.

Nation	Total of given licenses	Active OM	Power limits (W)
Algeria	300	20	100
Anguilla	200	10	1.000
Bahamas	130	27	Vari
Belgium	5.500	3.050	1.500
Bolivia	1.000	?	?
Canada	70.000	35.000	250-1.000
Chile	35.000	6.000	25-1.200
Dominica	1.998	2.000	50-1.200
Estonia	1.500	600	10-1.000
Fiji	?	3	?
France	16.000	6.000	?
Gabon	100	3	no limits
Germany	68.000	40.000	750
Grecia	?	2.000	500
Guyana	?	50	1.000

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Hong Kong	5.857	2.647	varie
India	10.000	5.000	400
Iceland	400	150	100-1.500
Israel	3.808	800	100-1.500
Kazakhstan	580	220	100-1.500
Kenya	300	8	150
Lebanon	1.000	30	1.000
Luxembourg	?	325	1.000
Malaysia	11.000	300	no limits
Malta	350	200	1-400
Mexico	4.000	?	?
Mongolia	?	6	1.500
Montserrat	271	97	1.500
New Caledonia	550	27	1.000
Perù	3.000	200	100-1.000
Polynesia	450	5	50-500
Poland	18.000	5.000	1.500
Russia	50.000	25.000	1.000
San Marino	100	20	no limits
Slovenia	4.000	2.000	50-1.500
Spain	30.362	30.000	?
Suriname	?	1	?
Thailand	300.000	150.802	10-1.000
Trinidad & Tobago	1.000	100	1.500
United Kingdom	60.000	30.000	?
Usa	729.683	?	?
Venezuela	?	2.465	?

These over here are the data received from the contacted association and officials. Waiting for other data more precise and complete, you must be happy with them, even if they are uncompleted and partial.

For partial completeness of information (let me use the oxymoron), I give to you also the data received from Dave Sumner K1ZZ, unfortunately partial here too, and always for the same difficult in exchanging informations that even the ARRL had with the various world radioham associations.

The data are updated until 2011 August so, take them as a reference point.

Dave Sumner mentioned at first a north American OM Joe Speroni, AHOA, whose says that at the end of May

2011 in the USA were 698.410 licenses in total, number that adds together the old already assigned and never returned call sign as well as the new and active ones, total number that placed the USA at the first place as a nation with the highest number of OM.

In Japan the laws say that the assigned call sign is forever and then the total number of the licenses is high, overcoming the 3 million, data that doesn't say to us how many active OM there'd be at the moment.

The third country with more OM seems to be the Thailand, where even with a system that differentiates the HF licenses from the VHF ones, updates in 2003 a total of 250.000 OM.

In the world ranking follows

the South Korea with 46.000 OM, the Indonesia with 20.000, China with 19.000 and Australia with 15.000. So, it seems that in the IARU Reg. 3 the total would be around 750.000 OM.

In the Americas we find Canada with 45.000 OM, Brasil with 34.000, Argentina with 18.000 and Venezuela with 11.000. Adding all the Americas we have a total around 830.000 OM.

The Region 1, Europa together Africa, Middle East, Russia and Mongolia, is the smallest one. In 2008 it was estimated a total around 400.000 OM, number that nowadays has been probably bypassed.

According by David Sumner's point of view expressed in his 2011 August's article, in the world there

were probably a little more than 2 million licenses OM plus other 2 million of assigned call sign, all together for a total of 4 million.

Personally I would have given to you more precise and final datas but, considering the lack of news and the non-cooperation from the most of associations and officials, more could be not done.

I hope that in the meantime also our Telecommunications Department could finally give the informations regarding the Italian radioamateurs to everyone, om or not om, who needs it, maybe "declassifying" the value of those informations.

So, if in the next months the IARU will make public that information it asked from the IARU members, I will keep you informed here, from these pages.