

ILSE Award and Recognition Process according to the decisions of the ILSE Board of Directors in Vienna in May 2014 and of the ILS Board of Directors in La Grande Motte in September 2014

1. Currently ILSE has just one formal award to recognise service given to support the work of the Region. This is the Certificate of Merit which can be awarded after 6 years of service on the ILSE Board or as a member of an ILSE Commission.
2. Previously, the Region was able to nominate individuals to be recognised by ILS in the Order of Lifesaving. The Grand Knight and Knight awards were given to honour those individuals who have served ILS and/or its Regions over a period of years in a voluntary capacity as an officer, a Member of the Board of Directors or as a Member of a Commission/Committee.
3. For the ILS Grand Knight award the individual must have served ILS for at least 15 years, and been a member of an ILS Federation for at least 25 years. For the Knight award these periods are 10 years and 20 years respectively.
4. An individual is usually awarded a Knight in the Order of Lifesaving first, and then this is upgraded to the Grand Knight if the service to ILS continues for a further 5 years.
5. However, ILS has now changed its policy and only recognises service to ILS itself rather than its Regions, and it is for the Regions to consider honouring their members for such service. It is clear therefore that ILSE needs an honours system to recognise those who have given valuable service to the European Region.
6. It is possible that ILSE could simply replicate the ILS system with a European Order of Lifesaving and establish its own Grand Knights and Knights who have given service to the Region. However, the ILS system recognises only those who have worked in a voluntary capacity and does not consider those who have worked professionally for their member federation, unless they have also served ILS in a voluntary capacity aside from their normal professional work.
7. For ILSE we suggest therefore that we use the term “**European Order of Lifesaving**”. Rather than use Grand Knight or Knight, it would perhaps be better to use the following terms:
 - Ambassador
 - Officer
 - Member
 - Medal
8. The **Ambassador of the European Order of Lifesaving** (AEOL) could be awarded to those who have given a minimum of 15 years of distinguished voluntary or professional service to ILSE as a Member of the Board of Directors or as a Member of a Commission/Committee or as an appointed officer of ILSE. Additionally they should have been a member of their ILSE Member Federation for a minimum of 25 years.
9. The **Officer of the European Order of Lifesaving** (OEOL) could be awarded to those who have given a minimum of 10 years of extraordinary voluntary or professional service to ILSE as a Member of the Board of Directors or as a Member of a Commission/Committee or as an appointed officer of ILSE. Additionally they should have been a member of their ILSE Member Federation for a minimum of 15 years.

10. The **Member of the European Order of Lifesaving** (MEOL) could be awarded to those who have given a minimum of 6 years of exceptional voluntary service to ILSE as a Member of the Board of Directors or as a Member of a Commission/Committee or as an appointed officer of ILSE. Additionally they should have been a member of their ILSE Member Federation for a minimum of 10 years.
11. The **European Order of Lifesaving Medal** (EOLM) could be awarded to recognise those who have given a minimum of 6 years of voluntary service to ILSE. Further extensions to this could be considered. For instance, the basic award could be an “**European Order of Lifesaving Bronze Medal**” for 6 years, **Silver** for 10 years and **Gold** for 15 years or more.
12. Nominations for these awards can be made in two ways:
 - A Member of the ILSE Board may make a nomination to recognise the service of the individual
 - The President of an ILSE Member Federation may make a nomination to recognise the service of the individual.
13. In the case of nominations being made by a member of the ILSE Board, the ILSE Secretariat will contact the President of the relevant ILSE Member Federation to confirm that the individual meets the criteria for the specific award in terms of membership of that Federation.
14. All nominations must be submitted to the ILSE Secretariat who will check the nomination for completeness, and, in the case of the nomination being made by a Member of the ILSE Board, check with the individual’s Member Federation to confirm they meet the criteria for the specific award for which they are nominated.
15. The nominations will be considered in a closed meeting of the ILSE Chancellery. If the award is recommended by the Chancellery, it is brought before the ILSE Board of Directors to formally approve or disapprove. If the nomination is not approved, no further action is taken and the person who submitted the nomination is advised confidentially.
16. It is important that the person submitting the nomination does not discuss this with the individual concerned or notify them in any way pending the decision of the ILSE Board of Directors.
17. Alternatively, significant service could be recognised without distinction between whether it is voluntary or professional service. In that case the word “voluntary” would be removed in each of paragraphs 8 and 9. The point of those awards outlined in those paragraphs is that they recognise distinguished or extraordinary service to ILSE, in addition to long service within the Member Federation.
18. The Member of the European Order of Lifesaving (MEOL) and the European Order of Lifesaving Medal (EOLM) are purely awarded to recognise voluntary service to a member federation.

Dr. Detlev Mohr
ILSE President

John Martin
ILSE Vice President

May 2015

European Order of Lifesaving Medal (EOLM) in Gold



European Order of Lifesaving as Cross and Pin (AEOL in Gold; OEOL in Silver; MEOL in Bronze)

