

## Report from EDXC Conference in Portugal

by Anker Petersen

When the new Secretary General of the European DX Council (EDXC), Kari Kivekäs, in February 2013 invited us to the annual EDXC Conference (so far the 46th held!) in the beautiful Portuguese Beach resort Figueira da Foz nearly 200 kms north of Lisbon on September 06-09, very few non-Portuguese participants knew of this place beforehand.

As excellently explained by Mika Palo, the local Finnish/Portuguese co-ordinator, who took care of our transport from Lisbon Airport to Figueira da Foz, the name of this city means Fig Trees at the mouth of the Mondego river.



DX-ers at the Meeting Point in Lisbon Airport (From left: Arto, Antti, Kaj, Ydun, Pirkko, Simo, George, Else, Gunnel and Bengt).



30 DX-ers and spouses attended this EDXC Conference! Photo taken by Toshi Ohtake.

On September 07 Kari Kivekäs and Jan-Mikael Nurmela officially opened the Conference with a status of the EDXC now. Tapio Kalmi has become the webmaster of [www.edxc.org](http://www.edxc.org) and Jan-Mikael has introduced <http://edxcnews.wordpress.com> where inputs are welcomed.

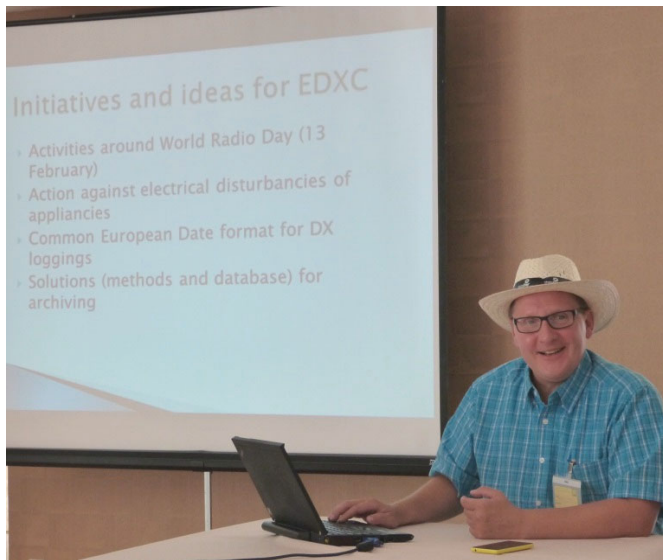
The EDXC now has 13 DX-Clubs as full members and 3 DX-ers as individual members. The Council has a healthy finance with a strong balance and has been able to reduce its membership fee with 50%. The EDXC Landlist needs to be updated and translated into various languages.

Two EDXC Conferences were suggested in autumn 2014 and 2015: St. Petersburg and Nice. Next is Alexander Beryozkin suggesting St. Petersburg. Nice was preferred to be first by the



audience, because we have not had a Conference in France since 1994. An EDXC voting will take place in October 2013.

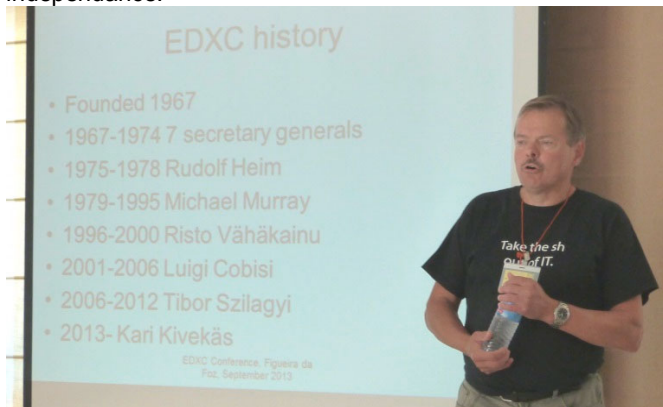
The Secretary General then gave his proposals to new tasks in



the EDXC. The DSWCI had raised the question about a common European Data format for DX-loggings at our AGM, which was followed by a useful debate.

Risto Vähäkainu then gave a talk about "Quo vadis" – what will happen with EDXC and the DX-ing ?

First the history of DX-Clubs, where most in Europe were formed in 1954-59 and the EDXC was founded in 1967. Risto suggested, that the 50 years EDXC Jubilee Conference in 2017 takes place in Finland, which the same year can celebrate its 100 years of independence.





During the Cold War in Europe, Shortwave and Mediumwave were dominated by the powerhouse transmitters and jamming stations until 1989. Since then, the number of international broadcasts have been considerably reduced and many stations closed. Thus at present, on mediumwaves there are excellent DX-conditions!

The DX-Clubs suffer from less and older members and financial problems in printing their DX-bulletins. These tend to become more and more digital. The EDXC has held a Conference every year except in 2004. Their printed bulletins have been replaced by information on websites.

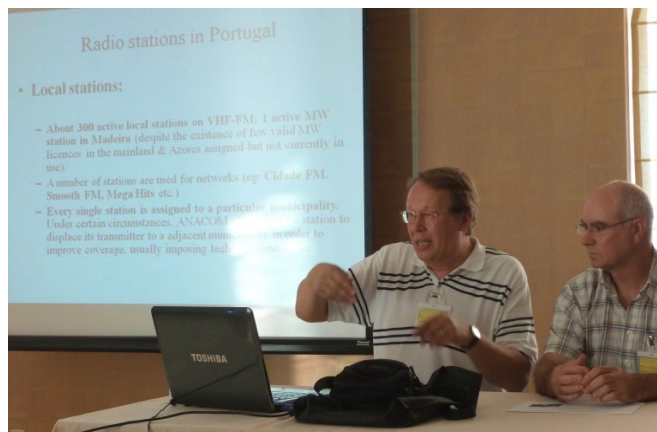
In the afternoon, we first visited the local Salt Museum at the impressive Salt lake:



After that, we visited a local FM-station in Figueira da Foz, Rádio Foz do Mondego, where the Director of Programmes, Fernando Rodriguez, gave us a briefing about their broadcasting on 99.1 MHz and internet at 0700-2400 weekdays and 24 hrs weekends.



At 1800 Mika Palo (left) and our member José Rainho presented an excellent overview about "Radio broadcasting in Portugal" by the DX-er Luís Carvalho, who was unable to be present. His website is at <http://www.mundodaradio.com/> in Portuguese.



After that Dario Monferini (right) talked about his recent tour to Peruvian radiostations with slides presented by Christian Ghibaudo. Here is shown Radio La Cronica:



At 2030 we had an excellent, traditional EDXC Banquet which was followed by a very nice folkdance show from a local group from a village Alhabas 10 kilometres east of Figueira da Foz.



On Sunday morning we took a long bus ride to the city Coimbra, which university is a UNESCO heritage site. On our bus tour Mika Palo kindly demonstrated several local FM stations with translation of their ID's. In Carapinha we made a short stop at the RDP Emissor Santa Isabel. But we did not try to get in, because it was guarded by dogs and live bullfighting bulls!





On our walk through the Coimbra, we saw some students in their typical dark uniforms. The former EDXC Secretary, Tibor Szilagyi, had a funny conversation with a female student, who sold postcards. They are shown on the next photo:



On our return tour we visited one of the local winerys where we tasted their products, saw the winerys and had lunch.



After that we visited a wine museum.

Back at the hotel, Anker Petersen gave a slide show from his DX-pedition last November to Malaysia and Sumatra.

At 2100 we had a joint DSWCI dinner and an EDXC farewell dinner at Restaurante Acrópole in Figueira da Foz with 17 taking part in the DSWCI dinner. At the end a special EDXC Cake was

presented. The photo shows Kari Kivekäs (in the middle) and Jan-Mikael Nurmela being ready to share this delicious cake to the participants. The photo was taken by Toshi Ohtake.



On Monday we went back to Lisbon by bus. There we first visited RDP International and after lunch Rádio Renascença. We were given excellent briefings at both stations. Apropos the conference "Quo Vadis" lecture, RDP told us, that they had cancelled DAB five years ago and expect that future Radio and TV broadcasting will be entirely via the internet!



This tour ended with a sightseeing in central Lisbon. Thank you to Mika Palo and the local guide João Gomes for organizing this EDXC Conference !!!