

1. Name and Seat

The Association named "SEMANTIC WEB SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (SWSA, registered association)", has its seat in Karlsruhe and is registered in the official register of societies and associations. The association is a purely non-profit making organisation, the objectives of which are pursued in a direct and exclusive way, in accordance with the chapter "Tax favored purposes" of the German Fiscal Code.

The Semantic Web aims at adding semantics to the Web content and thus making it interpretable by machines.

2. Objectives

The organisation's objectives are to promote the scientific aspects of the Semantic Web.

The association's activities are selfless; its main objectives do not concern any of its own economic interests. Resources of the association may be used only for purposes that are specified in the statutes. Members of the association do not receive payments from the association. Nobody may be favoured by expenses which are extraneous to the association's proper objectives, or by disproportionate remunerations.

3. Activities

Fulfillment of the association's objectives includes, among others,

- a) supervision of the organisation of the International Semantic Web Conference series (ISWC),
- b) the organisation and support of workshops, tutorials, or summer schools in the field of the Semantic Web,
- c) co-operation with scientific journals related to the Semantic Web.

In order to realise its objectives, the association is allowed to co-operate with other scientific associations, institutions or companies, including membership in other organisations having similar objectives.

4. Membership and Voting

The association consists of

- full members, and
- honorary members.

4.1 The precondition to become a full member is theoretical or practical experience regarding the Semantic Web. Membership is put into effect by the managing committee on written demand, which must be supported by two full members. Membership is defined according to the rules as specified in section 5.

4.2 In order to become an honorary member, any person who has done extraordinary services to the Semantic Web or the Semantic Web Science Association must be formally suggested by at least two full members. Honorary members are elected during the members' meeting on the suggestion of the managing committee.

4.3 Only the full members of the association are entitled to vote and are eligible at the members' meeting.

Membership

- 5.1 Every member of the management committee is a member. Every general chair of ISWC is invited to become a member and, if they accept, their membership is put into effect by the management committee as specified in Section 4.1 immediately prior to the members' meeting in the year in which they are general chair. Persons stay for 3 years on the members' list after having been general chairs or after having left the management committee, with memberships terminating immediately after the members' meeting if that coincides with the end of their membership.
- 5.2 When a SWSA member leaves the organization, the management committee can appoint a replacement. Such an appointed member stays for 3 years on the members' list.
- 5.3 The World Wide Web Consortium may propose a representative for becoming a member of SWSA. Such a proposal has to be approved by the management committee. The World Wide Web Consortium representative stays for 3 years on the members' list.
- 5.4 Withdrawal from the association is possible at the end of the fiscal year. It must be formally announced to the managing committee at least four weeks in advance.
- 5.5 A member's expulsion from the association is concluded by the managing committee in case of misuse of membership, or if a member harms the association's reputation. The respective member must be formally informed of the expulsion by the managing committee, with indication of reasons. Objection to this decision is possible within 14 days from receipt of the formal note of expulsion. The objection is of suspensive effect. Decisions regarding the objection are taken by the managing committee.

6. Fiscal year

Fiscal year is from September 1 until August 31. No membership fee is claimed by the association.

7. Organs of the association are:

- a) the members' meeting,
- b) the managing committee.

8. Members' Meeting

8.1 A members' meeting must take place at least once a year, usually associated with the International Semantic Web Conference. The president, or, in case he should be prevented, one of the vice presidents, must formally convoke the members to the members' meeting by announcing the agenda, at least three weeks in advance. Motions for completion of the agenda must be submitted and justified prior to starting the agenda; decision about integration into the agenda is taken by bare majority. Provided the presence of at least five members, the members' meeting forms a quorum.

8.2. Responsibilities of the members' meetings are:

- a) Making suggestions regarding the association's activities,
- b) Receipt and acceptance of the managing committee's annual report, as well as of the auditors' report,
- c) Formal approval to the actions of the managing committee,
- d) Election of the managing committee's members, i.e. of the president, the two vice presidents, the treasurer, and the secretary,
- e) Election of honorary members,
- f) Election of auditors

And only for extraordinary members' meeting:

- g) Decision about modifications of the statutes,
- h) Decision about the association's dissolution.

Members' meetings have to be followed up by minutes. The minutes have to be signed by both the secretary and one of the members of the managing committee.

- 8.3. As far as no other majority is foreseen in the statutes, decisions are taken by bare majority. Decisions about modifications of the statutes as well as about the association's dissolution can only be voted by three-quarters majority during an extra-ordinary members' meeting. Modifications which do not influence the decision-making power of the association or its structure can be voted on in writing or by email.
- 8.4. It is up to the managing committee to convoke to an extraordinary members' meeting.
- 8.5. If an extraordinary members' meeting is applied for by at least 20% of the association's full members, who must declare their respective arguments to the managing committee, the latter has three weeks to convoke an extraordinary members' meeting with four weeks notice. An extraordinary members' meeting is provided with the same rights as an ordinary members' meeting, in addition it can change the statutes and dissolve the association.

9. Managing Committee

- 9.1 The managing committee is formed by the president, two vice presidents, the treasurer and the secretary. The immediate past president is an honorary member of the management committee for one year. He does not have voting rights.
- 9.2 The term of office for the managing committee's members is of three years. Managing committee members may be re-elected, but can serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. The managing committee stays in office until a new managing committee is elected. In case a member of the managing committee withdraws from office, the members' meeting has to elect a substitute. The term of office for the substitute member will be the remainder of the term of the withdrawing member.
- 9.3 The managing committee meets at least once a year, possibly by means of video meeting. It forms a quorum when at least three members are present; decisions are taken by the present members at bare majority. Parity of votes leads to the decision by the president. The managing committee can vote in writing, including email. Decisions by the managing committee are binding for the association.
- 9.4 According to §26 BGB (Civil Code of Germany), the association is headed by its president and its vice presidents. Each one of them is entitled to solely represent the association.

10. Conduct of the Association's Business

The conduct of the association's business is assured by the president in accordance with the managing committee's decisions.

11. Auditors

Two auditors must be named from the rows of the members' meeting, whose responsibility is the verification of the treasurer's accountancy, as well as the reporting of the audit results at the members' meeting.

12. Dissolution

In case of the association's dissolution, or in case of cessation of its previous objectives, its assets have to be used for purposes which are consistent with its tax concession. Decisions about the use of these assets can only be taken after approval by the tax office.