



The Association of the Language Technology Industry

CHARTER

The present document details the provisions for the operation of LT-Innovate - The Association of the Language Technology (LT) Industry (hereinafter "the Association"). These provisions were elaborated by the Secretary General and approved by the Constituent Assembly on 27 January 2012 and subsequent Annual General Assemblies. They are valid until their revision by a General Assembly.

Mission

1. The Association is an open collaborative environment for organisations actively pursuing commercial activities within the scope defined in section 4 below.
2. The objectives of the Association are:
 - to strengthen the Language Technology Industry for increased competitiveness in the global markets;
 - to promote Language Technologies as driver of economic success, societal well-being and cultural integrity;
 - to encourage collaboration within the Industry and with other stakeholders of the Language Technology value-chains;
 - to articulate the Industry's collective interests vis-à-vis its clients, researcher partners, investors and policy makers.

Membership

3. The Association is open to Language Technology suppliers, integrators and users.

Applications from organisations which do not clearly fall within the above-defined scope will be considered on the basis of associated or individual membership status. In case of doubt or dispute, such applications will be decided upon by the Board of Directors. Associated Members have no decision-making power.

Membership is acquired by registration on the LT-Innovate web platform.

4. Membership is for the running year starting on 1 January and lasts until 31 December after which withdrawal is notified. Withdrawal notifications need to be made in writing to the Secretariat General. In case of bankruptcy or disappearance of the member, membership ceases on the day bankruptcy or disappearance become effective.

Membership categories

5. Premium Members (€1000 p.a.) want to lead the LT Industry and establish it as a major provider of enabling technologies for industries as well as public and private services. LT-Innovate offers them a platform to leverage their leadership, boost their visibility, promote their solutions, facilitate cooperation with partners in the various LT value-chains and influence policy makers.
6. Regular Members (€450 p.a.) want to optimise their performance, forge partnerships and collaborate in common projects. LT-Innovate offers them visibility, information channels, events and activities to sustain these goals.
7. Associate Members (€150 p.a.) have a genuine interest in LT but are neither LT suppliers nor users. They may be researchers with keen applied interests or advisors to industry in various capacities.
8. Individual Members (free) want to be part of the LT community out of personal interest but do not qualify for any of the above (e.g. students).

Membership rights and obligations

9. Full Members (premium and regular) are entitled to participate in all activities of the Association, to attend the Annual General Assembly (hereinafter AGM) and to vote thereat. Associated and individual Members are entitled to participate in all public activities of the Association.
10. In order to further the interests of its members within the scope described in section 2. above, the Association is entitled to publish reports and opinions adopted in accordance with section 11. below.

Structure

11. The Association consists of the General Assembly (GA) of Full Members, a Chairman, a Board of Directors (BD) and a Secretariat General (SG). The procedural rules for the General Assembly, the Board of Directors and the Secretariat General are set out below.
12. The Association may establish various Special Interest Groups (SIGs) dealing with specific issues pertaining to the LT sector. Full Association members may propose new SIGs. If a SIG receives the support of at least 4 full Association members, it is established by a formal decision of the BD. The SIGs report on their activities and the outcomes of their work to the BD. General internal regulations setting out the procedural rules to be

followed by the various SIGs or Committees of the Association will be determined amongst themselves.

13.The General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all Full Members of the Association at any given time. It is competent to exercise all powers necessary in order to realise the objectives of the Association and which are not explicitly assigned by the present Charter to another body of the Association. More specifically within the limits set by its agenda, it will have the power to:

- (i) amend the present Charter;
- (ii) constitute the Association as a legal entity, transfer its activities to an existing legal entity or dissolve it;
- (iii) appoint the Board of Directors, including its Chairman and the Secretary General of the Association;
- (iv) issue instructions for the Board of Directors and Secretariat General.

All decisions are passed by simple majority of Members represented at the General Assembly or voting through online polls.

The decision to convene the GA is taken and its agenda is fixed by the Chairman. The General Assembly shall be convened at least once a year.

14.The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is appointed by the GA for a period of two years, renewable.

The BD is the executive body of the Association. Within the limits of the instructions issued by the GA, it takes decisions on behalf of the Association.

The BD shall comprise a minimum of three members. The GA may decide to increase this number or to fix a maximum number of BD members.

The BD selects from its ranks a Chairman for a period of one year, renewable. The Chairman presides over the meetings of the BD and the GA.

Decisions of the BD are taken by a qualified majority of 2/3 of members present or represented.

Members of the BD have a vested interest in acting proactively at Association level.

15.The Secretary General

The day-to-day work of the Association is carried out by the Secretary General, who is appointed by the General Assembly as an ex-officio non-voting member of the BD. The Secretary General may be given a mandate by the BD and/or the Chairman to act on their behalf.

Principles

- 16.Members who pay the yearly membership fee will be entitled to preferential rates for all Association paying services. Members are expected to cover their costs associated with participation in Association activities and meetings.
- 17.Members of the Association actively participate in discussions, provide input to consultations and attend meetings.
- 18.Member organisations shall delegate senior staff members and where appropriate C-level executives, to represent their organisation in Association activities.
- 19.Membership ends upon written notification, bankruptcy or disappearance of the Member or upon dissolution of the Association. In cases of unprofessional behaviour or behaviour that is harmful to the Association, the BD can decide to expel a member, subject to appeal to the GA.

Operation

- 20.The Association's operational activities are initiated by the BD on behalf of the GA.
- 21.AGMs, BD meetings and SIG meetings will be convened by the Secretary General, in particular when instructed by the Chairman or BD. Where necessary and appropriate, meetings may be co-located with relevant third-party events or the Association's AGM.
- 22.The LT-Innovate web platform (www.lt-innovate.org) supports the activities of the Association.

Approved by the LT-Innovate Constituent Assembly on 27 January 2012. Amended by the Extraordinary General Assembly of 9 October 2012, the Annual General Assembly of 26 June 2013, the Annual General Assembly of 25 June 2014 and the Annual General Assembly of 26 June 2015.



The Chairman