

1. Name and Seat

The association named "Web Reasoning and Rule Systems Conference Association (henceforth, RRA) e.V.", is based in Karlsruhe and is registered in the official register of societies and associations. RRA is a not for-profit organisation, which directly and exclusively pursues objectives for the public good, in accordance with the chapter "Tax favoured purposes" of the German Fiscal Code.

The purpose of RRA is promotion of science and research.

The RRA's purpose is implemented in particular by conducting the annual conference on Web Reasoning and Rule Systems (RR), which is devoted to all aspects of Semantic Web Reasoning with an emphasis on principles and applications of rule-based approaches and languages.

2. Objectives

The organisation's objectives are to promote the scientific aspects of World-Wide-Web-based reasoning and rule systems. As such, it primarily conducts the annual conference on Web Reasoning and Rule Systems (RR).

RRA's activities are for the public good and its main objectives are not economic in nature. Resources of RRA may be used only for purposes that are specified in the statutes. Members of RRA do not receive payments from the Association. Reimbursements are allowed only for expenses directly related to RRA's business.

3. Activities

Fulfilment of RRA's objectives includes, among others, supervision of the organisation of the Web Reasoning and Rule Systems Conference series (RR). In order to realise its objectives, RRA is allowed to cooperate with other scientific associations, institutions or companies, including the possibility of membership in other organisations having similar objectives.

4. Membership and Voting

RRA consists of

- full members, and
- honorary members.

- 4.1 The precondition to become a full member is theoretical or practical experience regarding World-Wide-Web-based reasoning and rule systems. Application for membership is made in writing, via a letter or email. Membership is put into effect by the RR Steering Committee.
- 4.2 Withdrawal from RRA is possible at the end of the fiscal year. It must be formally announced to the managing committee at least four weeks in advance.
- 4.3 Membership in RRA can be terminated by the RR Steering Committee in case of member's misuse or if a member harms RRA's reputation. The member must be formally informed of the termination of membership by the Managing Committee, with explanation of the reasons. Appeals

can be made within 14 days from receipt of the formal note of termination. Membership is suspended while the appeal is being considered. Ruling on the appeals is made by the RR Steering Committee.

4.4 To become an honorary member, any person who has done extraordinary services to the Web Reasoning and Rule Systems Association must be formally nominated by at least two full members. Honorary members are elected at Members' Meetings.

4.5 Only full members of RRA are entitled to vote at the Members' Meeting, and only full members are eligible to be elected to an office in RRA. One does not need to be an RRA member to be elected to honorary membership.

5. Fiscal year

RRA's fiscal year is from January 1 until December 31. RRA does not charge a membership fee.

6. Organs of RRA are:

- a) The Members' Meeting.
- b) The RR Steering Committee.
- c) The Managing Committee

7. Members' Meeting

7.1 Members' Meetings must take place at least once every two years, but are expected to take place once every year at the Web Reasoning and Rules Systems Conference. The president, or, in case he or she should be prevented, the vice president, must formally convene the members to the Members' Meeting by announcing the agenda in writing, via a letter or email, at least three weeks in advance. Motions to amend the agenda must be submitted and justified prior to starting the meeting; decisions on such amendments are made by bare majority of the RR Steering Committee members. Presence of at least five members or one quarter of the members, in person or by substitute, at the Members' Meeting constitutes a quorum.

7.2 Responsibilities of the Members' Meeting are:

- a) Making suggestions on activities of RRA.
- b) Receipt of the managing committee's annual report, as well as of the auditors' report.
- c) Approval of the actions of the Managing Committee.
- d) Election of honorary members.
- e) Election of the RR Steering Committee members.

7.3 Members who cannot attend a Members' Meeting can nominate another member as a substitute. The substitute must present an authorization to act as a substitute at the meeting. The authorisation must be in writing and signed by the substituted member; it should specify explicitly the meeting to which the substitution applies. Members must not substitute for more than two other members.

7.4 Members' Meetings have to have written minutes, which are to be signed by a member of the managing committee or by the person chairing the meeting; the minutes must be distributed to all members of the Members' Meeting via a letter or email.

7.5 If no other form of majority is specified in the statutes, decisions are taken by simple majority.

8. The RR Steering Committee

- 8.1 The RR Steering Committee consists of 5 to 20 members of RRA and meets as part of the Member's Meeting. It may have additional meetings, which can also be conducted by alternative means, e.g. by video, and votes can be verbal or in writing, including email. The President or, in case he or she should be prevented, the Vice President, must formally convene the RR Steering Committee members to the RR Steering Committee meeting by announcing the agenda in writing, via a letter or email, at least three weeks in advance. Motions to change the agenda must be submitted and justified prior to the start of the meeting; decision about changes to the agenda can be made by a simple majority of the RR Steering Committee members.
- 8.2 Decisions by the RR Steering Committee are made in the form of majority votes. A vote is valid if at least 50% of the RR Steering Committee members are present in the meeting personally or by proxy. An issue is accepted by vote, if the vote is valid and a simple majority of the eligible voters voted for the issue.
- 8.3 When an RR Steering Committee member ceases to be a member, the RR Steering Committee can propose a replacement to be elected at the Members' Meeting. Re-elections are possible. Additional members may also be nominated by the RR Steering Committee and can be elected at the Members' Meeting. An elected member of the RR Steering Committee stays for 4 years. In case an RR Steering Committee member's 4-year term expires while he or she is still a member of the Managing Committee, the term is automatically extended for the duration of the membership in the Managing Committee.
- 8.4 Withdrawal from the RR Steering Committee is possible at any time. It must be formally announced to the Managing Committee.
- 8.5 The founding members of the RRA are members of the RR Steering Committee for 4 years. If their term of membership in the RR Steering Committee ends, they can be re-elected. At the founding meeting of the RRA, the RR Steering Committee may decide on shorter membership terms for the first 4 years of the existence of the RRA.
- 8.6 Responsibilities of the RR Steering Committee are:
- a) Decisions about location and dates of each conference event.
 - b) Appointment of a general chair, two programme chairs, a local organisation chair, and optionally other chairpersons, for each conference event.
 - c) Decisions about the responsibilities of the appointed conference chairpersons.
 - d) Decisions about membership in accordance with Section 4 of these statutes.
 - e) Decisions on activities of RRA.
 - f) Acceptance of the Managing Committee's annual report, as well as of the auditors' report.
 - g) Formal approval to the decisions of the Managing Committee.
 - h) Election of the Managing Committee members: of the President, the Vice President, and the Treasurer.
 - i) Election of auditors.
 - j) Proposals for the election of members of the RR Steering Committee.
 - k) Proposals for the election of honorary members.
 - l) Decision about modifications to the statutes.
 - m) Decision about RRA's dissolution.
- 8.7 Members who are absent at the RR Steering Committee meeting can nominate another member of the society as a substitute. The substitute must confirm the nomination by presenting an authorization at the meeting, written and signed by the nominating member. The authorisation must explicitly specify the meeting to which the substitution applies. No member can be a substitute for more than two other members.

- 8.8 RR Steering Committee meetings must have written minutes, which are to be signed by a member of the managing committee or by the person chairing the meeting. The minutes must be distributed to all members of the RR Steering Committee in writing, via a letter or email.
- 8.9 Decisions of the RR Steering Committee are taken by simple majority, as laid out in Section 8.2 above. Decisions about modifications to the statutes as well as about RRA's dissolution must be voted by a three-quarters majority of the RR Steering Committee.

9. Managing Committee

- 9.1 The Managing Committee consists of a President, a Vice President, and a Treasurer.
- 9.2 Only RR Steering Committee members are eligible to be members of the Managing Committee.
- 9.3 The term of Managing Committee's members is three years. The Managing Committee stays in office until a new Managing Committee is elected.
- 9.4 The Managing Committee is responsible for a timely activity of the RRA.
- 9.5 According to §26 BGB (Civil Code of Germany), RRA is headed by its President, its Vice President, and its Treasurer. Each one of them is entitled to solely represent RRA.

10. Conduct of RRA's Business

RRA's business is conducted by the Managing Committee in accordance with the RR Steering Committee's decisions.

11. Auditors

Two auditors must be named from the ranks of the participants in the Members' Meeting. Their responsibility is verification of the Treasurer's account and reporting of the results of the audit at the Members' Meeting.

12. Dissolution

In case of RRA's dissolution or cessation of its activities, RRA's assets have to be used for purposes which are consistent with its tax designation.

13. Changes of this charter for legal reasons

The managing committee is entitled to modify the charter without consulting the RR Steering Committee if changes are required by the registration court or by tax authorities for legal reasons, provided that the changes comply with the spirit of this charter. The changes must be communicated to the members of RRA within 14 days.