

# Association Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning (NeSy) Unincorporated Association, UK

## 1. Name and Seat

The association named "Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning" (henceforth, NeSy) is a not for-profit organisation, which directly and exclusively pursues objectives for the public good.

The purpose of NeSy is the promotion of science and research.

NeSy's purpose is implemented primarily through the organisation and conducting of the annual workshop on Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning (NeSy workshop), which is devoted to all aspects of the integration of neural computing and symbolic logic, and applications thereof in machine learning and automated reasoning.

## 2. Objectives

The objectives of the NeSy association are to promote research in neural-symbolic learning and reasoning, and to promote communication and the exchange of best practice among associated research areas. As such, the NeSy association primarily conducts the annual workshop on Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning (NeSy workshop), and promotes through the maintenance of the website [www.neural-symbolic.org](http://www.neural-symbolic.org), its steering committee and the NeSy workshops, interactions with related associations such as IFCoLog, INNS, BCS, IEEE, ACM, AAAI, CogSci, BICA.

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

## 3. Activities

Fulfilment of NeSy's objectives includes the supervision of the organisation of the Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning workshop series. In order to realise its objectives, NeSy 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

NeSy consists of  
full members, and  
honorary members.

4.1 The precondition to become a full member is theoretical or practical experience in the area of neural-symbolic computing. Application for membership is made in writing, via a letter or email. Membership is put into effect by the NeSy Steering Committee.

4.2 Withdrawal from NeSy 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 of NeSy can be terminated by the NeSy Managing Committee in case of member's misuse, or if a member harms NeSy's reputation. The member must be formally informed of the termination of membership by the Managing Committee, with an 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 NeSy Steering Committee.
- 4.4 To become an honorary member, any person who has done extraordinary services to neural-symbolic computing must be formally nominated by at least two full members. Honorary members are elected at Members' Meetings.
- 4.5 Only full members of NeSy are entitled to vote at Members' Meetings, and only full members are eligible to be elected to an office in NeSy. One does not need to be a NeSy member to be elected to honorary membership.

## **5. Fiscal year**

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

## **6. Organs of NeSy are:**

- a) The Members' Meeting.
- b) The NeSy 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 on the occasion of the NeSy workshop. The president, or, in case the president 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 simple majority of the NeSy 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 NeSy.
  - b) Receipt of the Managing Committee's annual report.
  - c) Approval of the actions of the Managing Committee.
  - d) Election of honorary members.
  - e) Election of the NeSy 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 the meeting to which the substitution applies. Members must not substitute for more than two other members.

- 7.4 Members' Meetings should have written minutes, to be signed by a member of the Managing Committee or by the person chairing the meeting and made available to all members of the Members' Meeting.
- 7.5 If no other form of majority is specified in the statutes, decisions are taken by simple majority.

## **8. The NeSy Steering Committee**

- 8.1 The NeSy Steering Committee consists of 5 to 15 members of NeSy 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 conference, 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 NeSy Steering Committee members to the NeSy 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 NeSy Steering Committee members.
- 8.2 Decisions by the NeSy Steering Committee are made in the form of majority votes. A vote is valid if at least 50% of the NeSy 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 a NeSy Steering Committee member ceases to be a Steering Committee member, the NeSy 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 NeSy Steering Committee and can be elected at the Members' Meeting. An elected member of the NeSy Steering Committee stays for 4 years.
- 8.4 Withdrawal from the NeSy Steering Committee is possible at any time. It must be formally announced to the Managing Committee.
- 8.5 The founding members of NeSy are members of the NeSy Steering Committee for 4 years. If their term of membership in the NeSy Steering Committee ends, they can be re-elected. The founding meeting of NeSy took place on 18 September 2014 at Schloss Dagstuhl, Leibniz Centre for Informatics, Wadern, Germany, during Dagstuhl seminar 14381. The founding members of NeSy are: Dr Artur d'Avila Garcez (President), Dr Peter Földiák (treasurer), Prof Luis C. Lamb, Prof Kai-Uwe Kühnberger, Prof Daniel Silver, Prof Luc de Raedt, Dr Pascal Hitzler.
- 8.6 Responsibilities of the NeSy Steering Committee are:
- a) Decisions about location and dates of each workshop event.
  - b) Appointment of the chair(s) for each workshop event.
  - c) Decisions about the responsibilities of the appointed chair(s).
  - d) Decisions about membership in accordance with Section 4 of these statutes.
  - e) Decisions about the activities of NeSy.
  - f) Acceptance of the Managing Committee's 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 NeSy Steering Committee.
  - k) Proposals for the election of honorary members.
  - l) Decision about modifications to the statutes.
  - m) Decision about NeSy's dissolution.

8.7 Members who are absent at the NeSy Steering Committee meeting can nominate a member of the association 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 NeSy Steering Committee meetings should have written minutes, to be signed by a member of the Managing Committee or by the person chairing the meeting, and made available to all members of the NeSy Steering Committee in writing, via a letter or email.

8.9 Decisions of the NeSy 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 NeSy's dissolution must be voted by unanimity of the NeSy Steering Committee.

## **9. Managing Committee**

9.1 The Managing Committee consists of a President, a Vice-President, and a Treasurer.

9.2 Only NeSy Steering Committee members are eligible to be members of the Managing Committee.

9.3 The term of Managing Committee's members is four 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 NeSy.

## **10. Conduct of NeSy's Business**

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

## **11. Auditors**

Two auditors can 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 NeSy's dissolution or cessation of its activities, NeSy's assets have to be used for purposes which are consistent with its tax designation.