

Application for "At-Large Structure" (ALS) Designation



Applications should be submitted electronically to staff@atlarge.icann.org. Please address any questions about the applications process to this address.

The form can be downloaded from <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/files/atlarge/als-application-form-en.doc>

Organisation Contact information

1. Organisation's Name:

Wikimedia CH

2. Organisation's email address:

info@wikimedia.ch

3. Organisation's phone number (include country/city codes):

n/a

4. Organisation's address (location and postal address, if different):

**Wikimedia CH
CH-8008 Zürich**

5. Organisation's website (URL) (if available):

http://www.wikimedia.ch/

Primary and Secondary Contact for Organisation:

If accredited, the primary contact will be assumed to be that person who will cast any votes required, with the secondary person being the alternate – though your Organisation may at any time change its voting and alternate representatives.

6. Primary contact:

- a. Name: **Manuel Schneider**
- b. Email address: **manuel.schneider@wikimedia.ch**
- c. Telephone: **+49 7627 924555**

7. Secondary Contact:

- a. Name: **Mourad Ben Abdallah**
- b. Email address: **mourad.benabdallah@wikimedia.ch**
- c. Telephone: **+41 76 468 7535**

Description

8. Structure and Governance:

- a. Is your Organisation constituted so that individual Internet users who are citizens or residents of countries within the Geographic Region in which your Organisation is based control your Organisation?

Yes

- b. Please explain the answer above in sufficient detail so that a person not familiar with your Organisation would be able to understand the reasons for your answer, and attach or reference the URLs where any statutes or operating principles or other supporting information related to this question can be found:

According our bylaws we are a non-profit association of individuals focusing on free knowledge and free information on the internet, especially the Wikimedia projects (e.g. Wikipedia).

There are no rules or policies in place to prevent anyone becoming member of Wikimedia CH - see <http://www.wikimedia.ch/Bylaws> section 3 and 5.

- c. Is your organization formally incorporated or organized under a national legal jurisdiction?

Yes

IF YES: Please describe what legal recognition it has and indicate the place of legal incorporation or registration

The association has been established in Olten (CH) on May 14th according § 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code Book.

After that it has been recognized by all Swiss Cantons to be non-profit and thus have been given the tax exemption status.

- d. Describe your Organisation's structure (e.g. governing and decision-making bodies and processes):

The organisation consists of:

- **General Assembly**
- **Committee (4 - 6 members + President)**
- **Auditors**

The general assembly meets at least once a year and elects a committee and a president.

The committee passes motions by simple majority votes. The president casts the deciding vote.

Legal binding documents need at least two signatures of members of the committee.

See Bylaws section 7 to 11.

- e. Does your organization have written bylaws or other constitutional instruments?

Yes

IF YES: Please provide a copy along with your application (in English if available)

- f. Explain the eligibility requirements (if any) for your Organisation's constituents/membership (if you provide a written application for admission as a member, you may attach a copy):

Membership applications must be written - on paper or electronically.

We accept applications by e-mail, letter, and fax and provide an electronic form on our webpage as well as a PDF document (see attached) for both individuals and legal entities.

- g. In what language/s does your Organisation conduct its business?

In the official languages of Switzerland:

German, French, Italian, Rumantsch

All documents are created in the languages spoken in the committee plus English.

9. About Your Members

- h. Do you have individual members with the ability to vote in or otherwise control the management of the organization?

Yes

IF NO: Describe what role individuals have in the management and work of the organization.

- i. Do you have organizations as all or part of your membership?

Yes

Mostly universities and libraries, but also some private companies which are Open Content enthusiasts

IF YES: Describe whether they are profit-making, non-profit-making, a mixture of both, and/or what proportion of the total membership each type of private sector organization is. Please also describe what the nature of the organizational members is: For example, are they all of a similar type or interested in a similar activity or policy area?

- j. Do you have governmental bodies, or quasi-governmental bodies, as members of your organization?

No - but we are open for that

IF YES: Please describe their nature and role in the decision-making and work of your organization, and the proportion of the total membership made up of these types of organization.

They would be treated as legal entities.

- k. Describe the general membership – are they predominately of one (or more) professional background or interest group? (e.g. journalists, online rights activists, consumer organizations, individual consumers, etc.):

Most members are individuals who have a personal interest in Open Content and Free Knowledge, a lot of them are volunteers in Wikipedia or other Wikimedia projects.

- l. Describe how your Organisation keeps its constituents/membership informed about, and enables them to participate in, decisions regarding issues of interest:

All public information, events and news is put to the News section on the front page of the association's website and to the association's mailing list (wikimediach-l@lists.wikimedia.org). Discussions and consensus-finding is taking place there.

The website is a wiki everyone can edit (with only a few exceptions like the front pages); the mailing list is also open for non-members.

If needed, we create additional wikis or mailing lists for project groups (volunteers from in- or outside the organization) which might not be available for the public. The committee e.g. uses such a closed wiki and mailing list.

For direct contact to all our members we use a distribution list which is maintained by the responsible person who handles membership applications.

- m. Approximately how many members, of each type of membership class if you have more than one, do you have?

82 individuals as active members

6 legal entities as supporting members

10. Provide support for the statement that your Organisation is self-supporting (by answering "yes" you confirm that it will not rely on ICANN for funding):

Yes

11. What is the primary source, or sources, of funding for your Organisation? (if unfunded/entirely voluntary simply indicate "N/A"):

Membership fees

Donations

12. Do you receive any funding from government agencies or for-profit entities? If so, please describe below and describe their involvement in the activities of the organization (if they so participate):

For specific projects we do we apply for grants at local companies supporting such programs.

13. Does your Organisation commit to supporting its individual constituents'/membership's informed participation in ICANN?

Yes

14. Does your Organisation post on the Internet publicly-accessible, current information about your Organisation's goals, structure, description of constituent group(s)/membership, working mechanisms, leadership, and contact(s) (if this information currently is available, provide URLs)?

Yes

http://www.wikimedia.ch/The_Association

<http://www.wikimedia.ch/Bylaws>

<http://www.wikimedia.ch/Board>

<http://www.wikimedia.ch/Contact>

<http://www.wikimedia.ch/Archive>

15. Provide information on your Organisation's leadership (leaders' names, positions, emails):

Mourad Ben Abdallah **President**
mourad.benabdalla@wikimedia.ch

Bagawathram Maheswaran **Treasurer**
bagawathram.maheswaran@wikimedia.ch

Gion Hosang **Member of Committee**
gion.hosang@wikimedia.ch

Frédéric Schütz **Member of Committee**
frederic.schutz@wikimedia.ch

Ludovic Péron **Member of Committee**
ludovic.peron@wikimedia.ch

Ilario Valdelli **Member of Committee**
ilario.valdelli@wikimedia.ch

Objectives

1. Please describe your Organisation's mission and purpose (please attach any mission or policy statement for your Organisation, if in writing, or provide a URL, if posted):

To support the creation, collection and distribution of free content in a charitable way to ensure equal opportunities for everyone to obtain knowledge and education. The association is focusing on wiki technology.

Its main focus are the projects of the Wikimedia Foundation, especially Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia; Wikibooks, a collection of free books; Wikinews, a free news portal where you can find free and neutral news; Wikiquote, a free collection of quotes; Wikisource, a free collection of sources as well as Commons, a media collection of free images, videos and audio files.

http://www.wikimedia.ch/The_Association

What ICANN-related issues currently are of interest to your Organisation's constituents/membership:

All topics are interesting as the internet is the common infrastructure for the modern society throughout the world and all cultures - which are also part of the Wikimedia movement and efforts.

An internet which is accessible for all human beings supports free collaboration and exchange of information is crucial to our mission. So we want to take the responsibility and be part of the development of the internet in order to support our mission and give a voice to the mass of contributors and users behind the Wikimedia projects.

To name a specific topic preserving the Net Neutrality is the biggest concern currently.

2. If your Organisation is accredited, will it commit to participating actively in the Regional At-Large Organisation (RALO) for the region in which your Organisation is based?

Yes

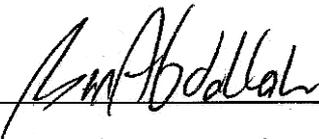
3. If your Organisation is accredited, does it or will it agree to adhere to the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the other ALSes in your Geographic Region and ICANN, as if it were an original signer of that document?

Yes

The texts of the MoUs can be found at: https://st.icann.org/alac/index.cgi?reference_texts

Signature

Include the name, and title, if applicable, of the individual who is authorized by your Organisation to sign this application and commit your Organisation to comply with ALS criteria.

Signature: 

Name: Mourad Ben Abdallah

Date: 22-MAR-10

Title: Wikimedia CH president

§ 1 Name, place of residence, and fiscal year

1. The association will be named "Wikimedia CH" – Association for the advancement of free knowledge – referred to hereafter as "the Association" – and will be established according to § 60 and following of the Swiss civil code book.
2. The place of residence of the Association is Zurich.
3. The fiscal year is equivalent to the calendar year.
4. Communication within the Association will be in the language of the committee members.

§ 2 Statement of purpose

1. The purpose of the Association is to support the creation, collection and distribution of Open Content in a not-for-profit way in order to support education and the equal opportunity of access to knowledge. In terms of the Association, Open Content refers to all work that has been placed by its author under a license, which allows everybody to modify and distribute these works. In addition, the awareness of the related social and philosophical issues will be enhanced.
2. For collection and distribution of Open Content, Wikis should be used predominantly, yet not exclusively. Wikis are software systems accessible via the Internet which let their users both access and modify content, thus enabling the joint creation of such content. The most prominent example of this principle is the free encyclopedia "Wikipedia" initiated by Larry Sanger and Jimmy D. Wales which is operated by the Wikimedia Foundation.
3. The Association shares the objectives of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organisation based in Florida, USA. The Wikimedia Foundation coordinates activities along the lines of the Association's purpose within the international sector, and manages the name Wikimedia as well as the names of the various international Wikimedia projects.
4. The Association's purpose is to be pursued by:
 1. the operation and the funding of operation of online systems for creation, collection and distribution of Free Content.
 2. the distribution and the support of distribution of Free Content by other means, e.g. in digital or printed form, with focus on the contents of the international Wikimedia projects.
 3. the acquisition, provision and distribution of information and public relations work relating to Free Content, Wikis and the various Wikimedia projects through events or printed media.
 4. resolving scientific, social, cultural and legal issues relating to Free Content and Wikis, e.g. through expert opinions, surveys, studies, and the awarding of scholarships.
 5. the support of the interchange and cooperation of the Wikimedia-projects in various languages, especially German, French, Italian and Rhaeto-Romanic, as well as in Swiss dialects in the Alemannic Wikimedia-projects.
5. The Association may collect funds for or transfer them to other tax-exempt corporations or corporations under public law, if they are used exclusively for the purposes mentioned above, and it may hold shares or be a member of such corporations.
6. The Association does not pursue commercial aims and does not seek to make profit.

7. Funds of the Association can only be used for purposes stated in these statutes. Its members do not, as members, get any financial benefits from the Association's funds. Members may not receive any part of the assets of the Association when they cancel their membership, or when the Association is dissolved or terminated. No person may benefit through spendings which are not necessary for the promotion of its aims or through disproportionately high payments.

§ 3 Membership

1. Every individual or legal entity can become a member.
2. The Association consists of active and honorary members and sponsors.
3. Every individual who wants to work actively in the Association, or on one of the projects supported by the Association, can become an active member. Every individual or legal entity who does not want to actively participate but rather promote and support the aims of the Association can become a sponsor.
4. Individuals may become honorary members when they render the Association a great service. A vote of the general assembly is necessary to elect honorary members.

§ 4 Membership rights and obligations

1. Members are entitled to participate in all of the Association's activities and events. They are further entitled to file motions with the committee and the general assembly.
2. Members are obliged to support the Association and its purpose in a proper way — also in public — and to pay their membership fees as defined in the statutes in a timely manner. Furthermore, they are required to communicate to the Association any change in their email or postal address. The member is solely responsible for any consequences resulting from the failure to comply with these obligations and releases the Association from any such responsibility.
3. Active members have active and passive voting rights as well as the right to speak, file a motion and vote on motions in the general assemblies.
4. Sponsors have the right to speak and file motions, however, they have no voting rights.
5. Honorable members are not required to pay membership fees, but otherwise have all the rights and obligations as active members.

§ 5 Beginning and termination of memberships

1. Applications for membership are to be submitted to the committee by post or email. The committee decides on the acceptance of the applicant by simple majority vote. A denied applicant may call on the general assembly to vote on his/her membership application.
2. Membership can be terminated voluntarily by an individual, due to expulsion by the committee, death of the member, or the loss of legal capacity of a legal entity.
3. Notice of termination of membership is to be submitted in writing to the committee. The period of notice is three months and is effective at the end of the calendar year. At the expressed wish of the member, termination of the membership can be effective immediately, however full fees for the current fiscal year are still due.
4. The committee may expel a member with immediate effect for serious cause if the member acts in a manner disrespectful of the rules, regulations and statutes or the interests of the Association. A two-third majority vote in the committee is required to expel a member. Before the committee vote, the member must receive a two-week period in which they may respond to the accusations. Expelled members may appeal the decision within 30 days of receiving notice. The appeal is to be submitted to the

committee and brought to attention at the following general assembly, at which both the committee and the person who lodged the initial complaint have the opportunity to state their positions, either verbally or in written form. The general assembly then votes on the issue. Simple majority rules.

5. Termination of membership, for whichever reason, results in the loss of all rights associated with the membership. The reimbursement of membership fees, donations or any other sponsoring is expressly denied. This does not affect the Association's claim on any open fees.
6. The membership is terminated through expunction, if the membership fees have not been paid in the required form. If the membership fees have not been settled during the usual term of payment, a first reminder will be issued. A second reminder follows not earlier than thirty days later. The expunction takes place at the earliest two weeks after the second reminder has been issued. All reminders are sent in writing. The board determines through ordinary decision the person or persons who are entitled to expunge and responsible for expunging members. The member concerned will be made aware of the expunction in writing, and the board will receive notice of it in adequate form.

§ 6 Membership fees

The amount of the annual membership fees is set by the general assembly.

§ 7 Organization of the Association

The Association consists of the following bodies:

1. the general assembly,
2. the committee,
3. the auditors.

§ 8 General Assembly

1. The general assembly has the power to decide on fundamental questions and issues of the Association. In particular, the following issues are within its scope:
 1. to elect the committee members and auditors,
 2. to receive and approve the annual report, the annual financial report and the auditors report,
 3. to approve the annual budget,
 4. to discharge the committee and auditors,
 5. to set the annual membership fees,
 6. to approve the statutes and any changes thereto,
 7. to consult and decide on current motions,
 8. to consult and decide on issues on dealings brought forth by the committee,
 9. to decide on the eventual dissolution of the Association.
2. The committee is to call a general assembly once per year and must take place in the first half of the calendar year. The invitations must be sent out by post or email at least eight weeks prior and include an agenda and a list of any known current motions. Objections to the agenda and proposed elections as well as any new motions from the members must be submitted to the committee at least four weeks prior to the general assembly.
3. Belatedly submitted motions (not including suggested changes to the statutes) – also those motions brought forth during the general assembly – must be added to the

- agenda, if the majority of the assembled voting members agree to dealing with the motion (emergency motions).
4. The committee is obliged to call an immediate extraordinary general assembly if the interests of the Association demand it, or if 10% of the members, but at least 10 members, submit a written request outlining the purpose and reasons for the meeting to the committee. Precise details of the grounds for the extraordinary general meeting are to be included in the invitation.
 5. Minutes of the general assembly recording all decisions are to be taken during the meeting and made available to all members within 60 days after the general assembly. The minutes will be approved at the next general assembly.

§ 9 Voting rights/quorum

1. Every voting member has one vote. Voting rights are not transferable.
2. Every general assembly called in accordance with the statutes has quorum.
3. The general assembly passes motions by simple majority of given and valid votes. A tied vote is considered a denial of the motion.
4. For motions regarding changes to the statutes or the dissolution of the Association to be passed, a two-thirds majority vote is required.

§ 10 Committee

1. The committee consists of a president and 4 – 6 further members.
2. The committee members are elected for one-year terms. Repeated re-election is permitted. The term of the old committee ends 60 days after elections. In order to assure a smooth transition in the event of a new committee being elected, the old committee is required to allow the new committee members insight into the books and dealings of the current committee before their term is up.
3. The committee passes motions by simple majority votes. In the event of a tied vote, the president casts the deciding vote. The committee has quorum when at least half of its members partake in the vote. Minutes of the meeting are recorded in order to keep record of the decisions. The board communicates regularly, but at least every two months, past and future activities as well as important decisions. Otherwise the committee constitutes itself.
4. The committee settles or delegates all dealings of the Association that are not the responsibility of other bodies of the Association as defined by the statutes.
5. The committee must account to the general assembly for its actions.
6. Two signatures of committee members are required to be legally binding for the Association.
7. The liability of the committee is limited to intent and gross negligence.
8. The members of the board are volunteers and are on principle only entitled to reimbursement of their actual expenses and cash expenditure. Adequate compensation can be arranged for particular services of individual board members.

§ 11 Auditors

1. Two auditors, neither of whom are committee members nor employees of the Association, are required. They are elected for one-year terms by the general assembly. Repeated re-election is permitted.
2. The auditors audit the financial books and the cashbox, unless these duties are delegated to a trust company, and make an annual report to the general assembly with a justified motion to accept or reject the financial statements.
3. The auditors may access the financial books at any time.

§ 12 Finances

1. The committee is responsible for keeping the main financial books of the Association and for managing the Association's financial capital.
2. The financial obligations of the Association are to be settled exclusively by the Association's finances. Personal liability of the Association members is expressly excluded.

§ 13 Dissolution of the Association

1. Upon dissolution of the Association, the remaining capital is to be donated to a tax-exempt entity with equal or similar aims. The distribution amongst members is prohibited. The recipient of the capital is to be decided by the general assembly together with the passing of the motion to dissolve the Association.
2. Current committee members are to act as liquidators unless the general assembly votes otherwise.

WIKIMEDIA CH

Association for the Advancement of Free Knowledge



Membership application form for legal entities:

Information concerning the legal entity:

Company Foundation Association Corporation

Other:

Official name :

Principal seat:

Information concerning the contact person:

Title
Name

Position
Office address

Phone number
E-Mail

Membership fee per year

CHF 100.-
 (at least CHF 100.-)

I agree that the name of the institution I represent is included in a public membership registry, e.g. on the website of Wikimedia CH.

Yes No

I confirm that I have taken note of and accept the bylaws of Wikimedia CH.

Date:

Signature:

Payment of the membership fee:

Account: 85-766601-5, PostFinance (Berne)

Clearing-Nr: 09000

IBAN / BIC: CH2609000000857666015 / POFICHBXXX

Wikimedia CH
CH-8008 Zürich

info@wikimedia.ch
patkenel@hotmail.com

PC 85-766601-5
PostFinance

<http://www.wikimedia.ch>

WIKIMEDIA CH
Association for the Advancement of Free Knowledge



Membership application form

I apply for membership in the association Wikimedia CH – Association for the Advancement of Free Knowledge

Type of membership:

- Active member
- Reduced membership fee (not in gainful employment)
- Sponsor

Personal information:

Title
Name
First name
Address

Country
E-Mail

Active in Wikimedia projects:

- Yes, username:
in the project(s)
- No

I confirm that I have taken note of and accept the bylaws of Wikimedia CH.

Date: Signature:

Payment of the membership fee:

Account: 85-766601-5, PostFinance (Berne)
Clearing-Nr: 09000
IBAN / BIC: CH2609000000857666015 / POFICHBXXX

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