



Regionalisation Supporting Document

A supporting document that outlines the requirements and best practices in relation to regionalisation within the CoderDojo Community.

1.0 Overview

National or regional led growth of CoderDojo in a country is typically seen when a group form a regional body or group to support and open new and existing Dojos operating in their region or country. This body or group can either be either formal i.e registered entity or charity or informal group). Supporting the regionalisation of CoderDojo and ensuring all bodies have the tools and knowledge to fully embody the CoderDojo ethos is a core priority of the CoderDojo Foundation (hereafter CDF).

The purpose of this document is to outline regionalisation, the steps required to become a regional body as well as reasons to why a body should or shouldn't be formed.

1.1 Regional Bodies (Informal & Formal)

A Regional Body is where a group of champions/mentors supported by the majority of dojos within a region form a structure and body that represents and supports those dojos of that region. The formation of a body or entity helps give dojos that were once independent greater flexibility and allows them to provide more support for existing and new Dojos in their area. Many regional bodies share resources and to make their Dojos better for the young people who attend them or to increase the reach of their Dojos by promoting them at local events. They can also be established to encourage and to facilitate other Dojos starting in nearby locations.

Regional and national bodies can also be an effective way to reduce the administrative overhead of the Dojos involved in the group, in a particular area, especially when there are tasks that need to be duplicated, e.g.; sourcing mentors, fundraising or performing background checks on mentors.

There are already several informal regional bodies around the world and formal bodies. The difference between a formal body is that a formal body has achieved a non-profit status within its region and successfully signed the CoderDojo regional license with the CoderDojo Foundation. Informal groups are set up by individuals who wish to actively encourage growth of new Dojos in their regions or to share administrative tasks across their regions, examples include:

Informal Regional Bodies

- CoderDojo Romania
- CoderDojo Italia
- CoderDojo Poland
- CoderDojo Scotland
- CoderDojo Turkey

Formal Regional Bodies:

- CoderDojo Western Australia
- CoderDojo Netherlands
- CoderDojo Indiana
- CoderDojo WestSound
- CoderDojo Turkey

1.2 Types of Dojo Bodies Overview

There are a number of different options for forming Dojo Groups, ranging from informal groups who meet

regularly, to a formal legal structures representing an entire region. The below table gives an overview of the different types, as well as providing an overview of the Pros and Cons of different structures.

Type	Definition	Pro	Con	Prerequisite
1.2.1 Informal Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The easiest type of group to form. - Requires mutual agreement and participation from Dojos that want to be involved. - Great for sharing resources and getting mentors to meet up for common activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Requires almost no setup ● Easy to get people to join ● Easy for people to opt out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Difficult to secure formal funding / sponsorship ● Unlikely to be able to get a bank account 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow the same naming requirements as regional bodies.
1.2.2 Association with formal adopted constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carries same benefits as informal group with additional benefits e.g. ability to open a bank account. - Rules regarding associations vary from country to country. - Most countries require that a voluntary association has named individuals who take specific positions, for example a chair and a treasurer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Usually possible to get a bank account. ● Normally allowed to enter legal formal agreements / contracts e.g. the body could take out insurance cover. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members may be liable for debts or actions of the association. ● Must agree to a constitution and elect people to positions e.g. chair, treasurer. ● May be subject to additional regulatory requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow the same naming requirements as regional bodies. ● Will have to make a series of commitments to meeting best practices.

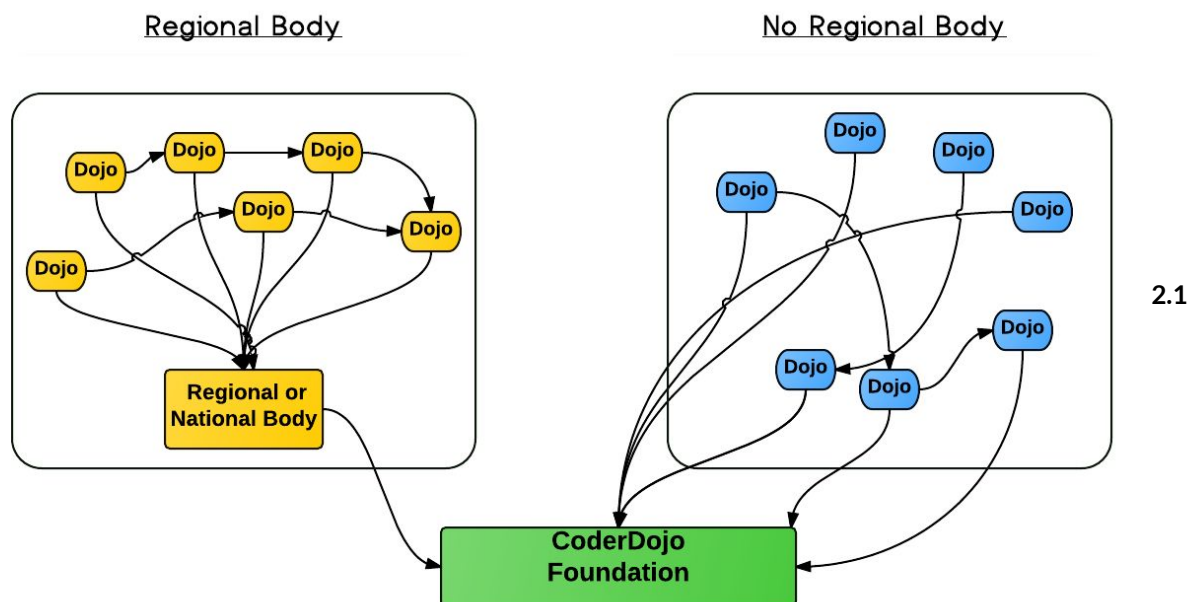
1.2.3 Company / Nonprofit or Charity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Most formal type of group i.e. involves setting up a company or charity.- Comes with regulatory requirements.- May provide significant benefits over other types of Dojo Groups e.g. facilitates fundraising at higher levels as larger amounts of money can be handled through established bank accounts etc.- Other benefits are that they limit members' liability.- More complicated to establish.- Subject to more complex regulatory requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gives the group credibility.- Limits the liability of members.- Enables the group to fundraise more effectively.- Allows the group to enter agreements with third parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Depending on jurisdiction, it can be difficult to navigate the legal requirements- Increased responsibility on Directors in relation to financial reporting and transparency.- Ongoing regulatory & reporting requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Regional groups choosing this structure must follow pre-determined guidelines.● Formal agreement to CoderDojo regional license required.

1.2.4 Existing Charity adopting CoderDojo as a programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This type of regional group has the same structure as 1.2.3, - The differentiating factor is that the charity is already established with a mission, vision, aims and objectives, - Supporting or scaling CoderDojo in a region fits within their objectives, therefore it is adopted as a programme / initiative. 	- N/A	- N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formal agreement to CoderDojo regional license required.
--	--	-------	-------	--

2.0 Licensed Regional or National Group

A CoderDojo regional or national group is a group of Dojos or individuals who have taken measures to formalise into a structured charity. A regional group may also be an existing charity choosing to adopt

CoderDojo as a programme. The reasons for formalising include; the need for 'status' to fundraise, accept donations, or achieve greater scale in a region. Regional groups have typically developed a strong national and regional community. The below graph illustrates how the regional model works; i.e. moving from a one-to-many relationship whereby the CoderDojo Foundation communicates with all Dojos in a region, to one-to-one relationships, where the CoderDojo Foundation will communicate with the national or regional group.



Scenarios for establishing a regional body

There are a number of different scenarios that may result in a regional body being established, these include but are not limited to:

- A Champion(s) seeks to establish a body in a region where there are a few Dojos (e.g 10 Dojos),
- A Champion(s) seeks to establish a body in a region where there are many Dojos (e.g 20+ Dojos),
- Government organisation wishes to drive the growth of CoderDojo within a region,
- Charitable organisation wishes to support the growth of CoderDojo within a region or a
- Corporation wishes to fund and drive the growth of CoderDojo in a region.

2.1 Scenarios for **NOT** establishing a regional body

There are a number of different scenarios that may result in why a regional body should not be established, these include but are not limited to:

- A Dojo or group do not have regional Dojo support as per the regional survey conducted,
- A Dojo or group do not wish or intend to use the body to support or grow CoderDojo in their area,

- An individual Dojo seeks to establish a body in a region where there is no existing community ie there are no other Dojos and hence no community support or buy in,
- An individual Dojo seeks to establish a body in a region where a Dojo has only recently been established,
- A Dojo or group seeks to establish a body in a region that encompasses a small region when it is possible to incorporate a larger region or,
- A Dojo or group seeks to establish a body in a region to be exclusive to other Dojos within a region.
- A corporate seeks to become an exclusive partner of CoderDojo in a region and wishes to set up a regional body to support this.

2.2 Naming of a body

A central aspect to establishing a regional body, is ensuring that the chosen (geographical) name is representative of the active Dojos in that area, e.g. If one Champion chooses to establish CoderDojo Ireland without acknowledgment and reasonable support from most of the other 160 Champions in the region, the body is not deemed to be legitimately representative, and therefore cannot use the term CoderDojo Ireland.

To proceed with establishing a regional body for a jurisdiction, the below steps must be followed

- Notify other Dojos and Champions within the remit of the jurisdiction you seek to establish the body,
 - Invite local Champions to be involved in the setup of the organisation including the development of its aims, objectives and values,
 - Clearly outline the reasons for wishing to set up a regional body,
 - Clearly outline the timeframe to respond (minimum of 1 month,
 - Hold a group virtual call / meeting (a member of the Foundation team can join via conferencing facilities) and
 - Send at least one follow up email during the given timeframe.
- In order to proceed with representing the jurisdiction, a regional body must secure 50% support from the **total** number of Dojos who respond within the jurisdiction. Note non-responding Dojos are counted as a void vote;
 - If over 70% of Dojos in a region do not respond the individual seeking to establish the body should contact the Foundation for next steps,
 - Example A: 100 Dojos in a region; 30 respond to support a body, 20 respond not to support, 50 are unresponsive = regional body can proceed or
 - Example B: 100 Dojos in a region, 15 respond to support, 10 respond not to support, 75 are unresponsive = contact Foundation.

2.3 The role of a Regional Body:

Although regional groups may be established for a number of reasons, all should be set up for the same purpose; to provide a geographical infrastructure to support and promote the global aims and operations of CoderDojo in a specific region. This could include supporting growth i.e opening new dojos, recruiting mentors, sustaining existing Dojos or providing a relevant financial and legal frameworks for local and regional sponsorship etc.

2.2.1 Core activities of Regional bodies can include:

- Facilitating the expansion of the CoderDojo movement within the relevant region(s), i.e sourcing venues, mentors etc.
- Support groups of Dojos with regional promotions, services and resources,
- Provide relevant financial and legal frameworks for Dojos in a region,
- Represent CoderDojo on a regional or national level,
- Create region specific resources for Dojos eg Child Protection Policies, training, translation of resources etc and / or
- Provide training and social events to build capability, maintain CoderDojo ethos and to strengthen networks.

2.3 Regional Body Commitments

All regional bodies regardless of their structure / formal or informal should use the below best practices as the basis for their memorandum and articles of association, or for their incorporation documents:

- to inspire and support young people to learn how to create technology;
- to always uphold the best interests of the young people attending Dojos and ensuring best-practices are followed;
- to operate within the highest possible standards of child protection within our jurisdiction and in compliance with relevant statutory requirements;
- to not charge children attending nor their parents;
- to encourage parent participation within Dojos;
- to share knowledge for free (libre and open);
- to share knowledge within and across Dojos;
- to take care and uphold the good name and reputation of the global CoderDojo community and the work of The CoderDojo Foundation;
- to encourage collaboration, peer to peer mentoring and project work between attendees and Dojos;
- to welcome volunteers and children regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, creed, religion or ability;
- to act in the best interests of the global CoderDojo community;
- to facilitate the community and to share its knowledge;
- to share its resources for free; and

- to encourage active involvement across the movement.

2.4 Considerations when starting a regional body.

The decision to start a regional body should not be taken lightly. Establishing a body specifically a formal group will have legislative and regulatory requirements depending on your jurisdiction. Many regional groups have faced challenges securing pro bono legal support to assist with incorporation among other challenges.

- What other considerations???
- Funding
- Personal liability
- etc

3.0 Regional Body FAQ

Q: Can there be regional bodies if a National body exists in the same geography?

A: Yes, following guidelines as outlined above.

Q: Do all new Dojos have to operate under the regional/national banner?

A: No. Dojos can choose to operate independently of regional and national bodies in their locations. However all Dojos should connect with the regional body to support and facilitate knowledge sharing. This introduction can be facilitated by the CoderDojo Foundation or directly between the Dojos and regional group.