

The European Conference on Software Architecture ECSA Charter

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SC Composition Updated on September 25 at the ECSA 2020 Steering Committee Meeting
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Modified after acceptance of proposed changes on sections VI-VII (and some minor ones)
The latest modified version is available at: ecs-a-conferences.org/steering/ecs-a-charter.pdf*

This charter defines the duties and policies for the ECSA Steering Committee and the key roles to the annual organization of ECSA

I. ECSA Mission

A. Mission Statement

ECSA is the premier European conference on Software Architecture. It provides researchers and practitioners with a forum to present and discuss the most recent, innovative and significant findings and experiences in the field of Software Architecture.

Initially created with the support of the European Commission as an annual workshop from 2004 to 2006, the ECSA series started in 2007 as the European Conference on Software Architecture, being organized annually around the month of September.

Thematic scope:

- ECSA targets advances and breakthroughs beyond the state-of-the-art in Software Architecture. It covers all aspects of research on Software Architecture, ranging from theory to technology and their applications.

Geographical scope:

- ECSA is organized annually in Europe.

Frequency:

- ECSA is held yearly around September (including from mid-August to mid-October to cope with venue-related and country-specific constraints).

Gender balance and diversity in general:

- ECSA promotes gender balance and diversity in general in its organization, in particular in the selection of the Organizing Committee (including the elected

Steering Committee Chair and appointed Vice-Chair, General and Program Chairs), the Program Committee Members, and the Keynote Speakers.

B. Mission Support

Funding:

- ECSA is self-funded: each year the organization of ECSA is funded from the payment of registration fees and additional sponsors or actions.

Sponsorship:

- ECSA may have sponsorship from both National and International bodies, beyond European organizations.

II. Purpose of the ECSA Charter

A. Purpose

The ECSA Charter defines the duties and policies for:

- the ECSA Steering Committee and its Chair (hereafter named the Steering Chair),
- the ECSA General Conference Chair (hereafter named the General Chair),
- the ECSA Program Committee Chair (hereafter named the Program Chair).

B. Modification

The ECSA Charter may be modified according to the following terms:

- Modifications may be proposed by any member of the Steering Committee to the Steering Chair.
- To be adopted modifications must be approved by the 2/3rd majority of members of the Steering Committee.

III. Selection of ECSA Venue and Organizers

A. Selection of ECSA General Chair and Venue

The ECSA Steering Committee fosters and selects proposals of venues for ECSA conferences prepared by General Chair candidates. Proposals may be selected up to 2 years in advance to the current year.

A proposal for organizing ECSA must include:

- the General Chair (name and short CV, including experience on organizing international conferences),
- the location (venue with presentation of rooms for the main conference, workshops and special tracks),
- analysis of accommodation (hotels and others considering different attendee's budgets),
- a provisional conference budget (which must be balanced, with a clear break-even attendance point),
- a preliminary list of organizations supporting the proposal, including academia, research institutions, industry and other relevant organizations.

The proposal may also include an initial list of names for Program Chair and other Organizing Committee members.

B. Selection of ECSA Program Chair

The ECSA Steering Committee selects the Program Chair according to the following procedure:

- a. The General Chair proposes a list of candidates for Program Chair to the Steering Chair (name and short CV, including experience as Program Chair of international conferences)
- b. The Steering Chair, after consulting the Steering Committee, advises the General Chair on these names and may suggest additional names or reject proposed names.
- c. The General Chair makes the invitation to Program Chair based on this advice and finally notifies the Steering Committee Chair of the name of the designated Program Chair.

Regarding the proposal of candidates to Program Chair:

- The role of Program Chair may be assigned to 1 Program Chair or 2 Program Co-Chairs.

IV. Duties of the ECSA General Conference Chair

The duties of the General Chair comprise the following:

- Propose the roles and names of the rest of the Organizing Committee to the Steering Chair.
 - The Steering Chair, after consulting the Steering Committee, advises the General Chair on necessary and suggested modifications to the Organizing Committee.
- Secure a physical location for the conference, including rooms for workshops (and possibly tutorials) previous to the conference and sessions of the main conference.
- Arrange for proceedings publication, including both the main proceedings and the extra volumes for the workshops and special sessions, e.g. Women in Software Architecture.
- Establish a conference calendar and track activities accordingly.
- Maintain the estimated budget for the conference.
- Be responsible for all actions to support the funding of the conference as well as be fiscally responsible and ensure, as much as humanly possible, that the conference does not run a deficit.
 - The Steering Committee does not have any contractual or funding obligations in the organization of conferences, nevertheless it will support as much as possible the General Chairs in their actions.
- Consult the Steering Committee Chair for any changes to the accepted proposal of organizing and running the conference.
- Establish a web site for the conference, which must be available at the URL ecsa-conferences.org/ecsaYYYY.

- Oversee the quality and content of the ECSA web site.
- Ensure a conference program that appeals to researchers (and practitioners whenever appropriate) including research sessions, keynotes, industrial tracks, and workshops.
- Be responsible for the dissemination of the Call for Papers and Call for Participation.
- Promote ECSA to ensure maximum participation and attendance of both senior and junior researchers.
- Promote ECSA to ensure maximum participation of industry practitioners in relation to industry-related events organized during the conference.

Restrictions:

- The General Chair cannot submit papers to the conference.

V. Duties of the ECSA Program Committee Chair

The duties of the Program Chair comprise the following:

- Ensure that all members in the composition of the Program Committee are competent to review papers on Software Architecture.
- Ensure that there is balanced membership on the Program Committee in terms of thematic coverage, geography, and experience level as well as promote the involvement of women in the Program Committee.
- Prepare and propose the composition of the Program Committee, in concertation with the General Chair.
 - The Steering Chair, after consulting the Steering Committee, advises the Program Chair on necessary and suggested modifications to the composition of the Program Committee.
- Develop a Call for Papers and deliver to the General Chair in accordance with the timeline.
- Develop and follow a well-defined peer review procedure for research papers.
- Ensure that papers are properly reviewed and selected fairly.
- Ensure that all submitters receive acceptance or rejection notices in a timely way and that rejections are accompanied by written feedback, including acceptance rate.
- Ensure the quality of ECSA as a top ranked conference (an A-ranked conference based on relevant criteria, in particular the quality of accepted papers and its acceptance rate, e.g. limiting the acceptance rate of full research papers to 20%).
- Ensure that camera-ready papers are properly prepared for publication in the proceedings.
- Edition of the main proceedings:
 - editors can be either the Program Chair or both the Program Chair and General Chair.
- Edition of a Journal Special Issue with selected papers of ECSA (extended versions).
- Provide program details to the conference chair according to the conference timeline.
- Consult the General Chair for any changes to the accepted way of organizing and running the conference.
- Assist the General Conference Chair in preparing the final report to the Steering Committee.

After the end of the conference, the Program Chair must provide the following lists:

- The list of Program Committee members that provide a bad service to the Program Committee (frequent delays, missing reviews, reviews of poor quality)
- The list of authors that did not present his/her paper – no-show
- The list of authors that carried out duplicate submissions
- The list of authors that carried out submissions containing plagiarism

Restrictions:

- The Program Chair cannot submit papers to the conference.

VI. Duties of the ECSA Steering Committee Chair

The duties of the Steering Chair comprise:

- Be responsible for applying the ECSA Charter and controlling future modifications.
- Be responsible for maintaining the quality of ECSA as a top conference on Software Architecture.
- Ensure that the General and Program Chairs are aware of ECSA expectations and policies.
- Chair the Steering Committee meetings as well as interim e-mail discussions and videoconferences.
- Interact regularly with the General Chair to learn the status of conference activities and to advise and guide decisions.
- Communicate major conference status milestones to the Steering Committee.
- Maintain the repository of the history of ECSA conferences as well as insights to help prepare future ECSAs (with access restricted to Steering Committee members).
 - Maintain the conference series web site, ecsa-conferences.org, as well as a restricted area for Steering Committee members.
 - Maintain a record of Organizing Committee and Program Committee membership for all ECSAs.
 - Maintain a record of conference results (attendance, programs, tutorials, workshops, working sessions, authors) for all ECSAs.
 - Maintain a record of publicity instruments including mailing lists and other relevant ones, for all ECSAs.
 - Maintain a financial base of sponsors, donors and other relevant information and instruments to assist in funding future ECSAs.
 - Maintain the set of artefacts from previous ECSAs that can be used to help conference chairs plan future conferences, include realized budgets, as well as relevant artefacts for conference ranking.
- Apply to the appropriate bodies in order to have ECSA ranked, e.g. ICORE, yearly.

The Steering Chair may be assisted by a Vice-Chair and a Secretary, both selected among the members of the Steering Committee.

Once appointed, if the term of the Chair or Vice-chair as member of the Steering Committee (either as a former general/program chair or as a member at-large) ends before the end of their tenure as Chair or Vice-chair, that term is extended with the duration of the tenure.

VII. Steering Committee Composition

The Steering Committee is updated yearly according to the following rules.

A. Rules for Composition

- The general and program chairs of the next edition(s):
 - ECSA at year+2,
 - ECSA at year+1.
- The chairs of the current edition:
 - ECSA in the current year.
- The chairs of the 3 past editions:
 - ECSA at year-1,
 - ECSA at year-2,
 - ECSA at year-3,
 - ECSA at year-4 (if ECSA at year+2 has not been selected in the current year).
- Members at-large:
 - A representative of the ICSA Steering Committee.
 - Nominated members at-large as described in section D.
- The founders of the ECSA series:
 - Flavio Oquendo, IRISA / UMR CNRS - University of Brittany, France
 - Carlos E. Cuesta, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain

B. Update of the Composition

- At the yearly Steering Committee meeting.

C. Election of Steering Committee Chair

- The Steering Committee Chair will be elected among its members:
 - among declared candidates,
 - according to a two-round voting system (a.k.a. second ballot, runoff voting or ballotage),
 - mandate: 2 years (may be re-elected).

D. Nomination and election of Members at-large

- This mechanism makes it possible to incorporate key researchers and practitioners in the area of Software Architecture, following a 2-step process:
 1. Candidates are nominated either through self-nomination or from another Steering Committee member.
 2. Following a favorable vote of the Steering Committee, the new member at-large is appointed for a 5-year term.
- After ending a term, a member at-large can be re-elected using the same process.
- The number of members at-large is at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

VIII. ECSA Awards

The following awards should be delivered annually at ECSA:

- ECSA Best Paper Award.
- ECSA Distinguished Service Award.

A. ECSA Best Paper Award

- This award is given to the best full paper.
- The Program Chair nominates 3 papers considering review grades and suggestions from Program Committee members.
- The designated Sub-Committee of the Program Committee selects the best full paper by vote.

B. ECSA Distinguished Service Award

- The award recognizes a person or persons who have exhibited valuable professional service and excellence in the domain of Software Architecture in Europe, such as:
 - to the European Software Architecture research community,
 - to the European Software Architecture research,
 - to the European Software Architecture practice.
- The Steering Committee will select an award recipient from nominations solicited from the Steering Committee members.
 - Every year.

Appendix 1. Current Composition of the Steering Committee

Composition of the ECSA Steering Committee at ECSA 2025 (updated):

Members:

- Nour Ali, Brunel University London, UK
- Vasilios Andrikopoulos, University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Paris Avgeriou, University of Groningen, Netherlands (Chair)
- Thais Batista, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil
- Tomas Bures, Charles University, Czech Republic
- Filipe Figueiredo Correia, University of Porto, Portugal
- Carlos E. Cuesta, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain (Secretary)
- Matthias Galster, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
- Ilias Gerostathopoulos, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Andrea Janes, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy
- Patricia Lago, VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Grace Lewis, Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute, USA
- Raffaela Mirandola, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany (Vice-Chair)
- Ana Moreira, Nova University of Lisbon and Nova LINCS, Portugal
- Henry Muccini, University of L'Aquila, Italy
- Elisa Yumi Nakagawa, University of São Paulo, Brazil
- Elena Navarro, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain
- Flavio Oquendo, IRISA - University of Brittany, France
- Ipek Ozkaya, CMU Software Engineering Institute, USA
- Cesare Pautasso, Software Institute - USI Lugano, Switzerland
- Patrizia Scandurra, Università degli Studi di Bergamo, Italy
- Jacopo Soldani, University of Pisa, Italy
- Davide Taibi, University of Oulu, Finland
- Bedir Tekinerdogan, Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands
- Chouki Tibermacine, University of Montpellier, France
- Catia Trubiani, Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy
- Eoin Woods, independent, UK
- Uwe Zdun, University of Vienna, Austria

Appendix 2. Chairing of the Steering Committee

The ECSA Steering Committee has been chaired by its founder, Flavio Oquendo, from the 1st ECSA in 2007 until the 16th ECSA in 2022.

Following the 16th ECSA in 2022, Paris Avgeriou was elected on November 7, 2022 and has become the ECSA Steering Committee Chair since November 14, 2022.

On January 11, 2023, the Steering Committee Chair has nominated Raffaela Mirandola as Vice-Chair, and Carlos E. Cuesta as Secretary.

Appendix 3. Applied Rules for Composition of Steering Committee

The ECSA Steering Committee for ECSA 2025 was updated at the 18/09/2025 Steering Committee Meeting, according to the following rules as outlined in section VII.A, and after adding the newly elected members at-large:

The chairs of the next two editions:

- ECSA at year+2, i.e. ECSA 2027 (Porto, Portugal):
 - GC: Filipe Figueiredo Correia, University of Porto, Portugal
 - GC: Uwe Zdun, University of Vienna, Austria
- ECSA at year+1, i.e. ECSA 2026 (Bozen-Bolzano, Italy):
 - GC: Andrea Janes, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy
 - GC: Davide Taibi, University of Oulu, Finland
 - PC: Patricia Lago, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
 - PC: Ana Moreira, Nova University of Lisbon and Nova LINCS, Portugal

The chairs of the current edition:

- ECSA at current year, i.e. ECSA 2025 (Limassol, Cyprus):
 - GC: Vasilios Andrikopoulos, University of Groningen, Netherlands
 - GC: Cesare Pautasso, Software Institute - USI Lugano, Switzerland
 - PC: Nour Ali, Brunel University London, UK
 - PC: Jacopo Soldani, University of Pisa, Italy

The chairs of the three past editions:

- ECSA at year-1, i.e. ECSA 2024 (Luxembourg, Luxembourg):
 - GC: Elena Navarro, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain
 - GC: Elisa Yumi Nakagawa, University of São Paulo, Brazil
 - PC: Matthias Galster, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
 - PC: Patrizia Scandurra, Universita' degli Studi di Bergamo, Italy
- ECSA at year-2, i.e. ECSA 2023 (Istanbul, Turkey):
 - GC: Bedir Tekinerdogan, Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands
 - PC: Chouki Tibermacine, University of Montpellier, France
 - PC: Catia Trubiani, Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy
- ECSA at year-3, i.e. ECSA 2022 (Prague, Czech Republic):
 - GC: Thais Batista, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil
 - GC: Tomas Bures, Charles University, Czech Republic
 - PC: Ilias Gerostathopoulos, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands
 - PC: Grace Lewis, Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute, USA

Members at-large:

- A representative of the ICSA conference:
 - Patricia Lago, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

- Nominated members at-large:
 - Paris Avgeriou, University of Groningen, Netherlands
 - Henry Muccini, University of L'Aquila, Italy
 - Ipek Ozkaya, CMU Software Engineering Institute, USA
 - Eoin Woods, independent consultant, UK

The founders of the EWSA/ECSA series:

- Flavio Oquendo, IRISA - University of Brittany, France & Carlos E. Cuesta, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain (ECSA series)
- *NB:* Ron Morrison, University of St. Andrews, UK & Brian Warboys, University of Manchester, UK who co-founded the EWSA series with Flavio Oquendo, retired and are no longer active (EWSA series).