European Neural Network Society

Statutes of the European Neural Network Society

(accepted by the general assembly held at ICANN'98 in Skövde, Sweden, September 2, 1998, with a change in the address of the treasurer (1.2), from 8th November 2002) and a change of the address 1.2, from 17th September 2014.

Article 1: Name, address, and fiscal year

1.1 Name

The name of the society is the European Neural Network Society, also known as ENNS.

1.2 Address

The headquarters of the Society shall be the address of the President, currently :

Prof. Alessandro Villa, p/a Internef, Laboratoire de Neuroheuristique, University of Lausanne, Quartier UNIL-Dorigny, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.

1.3 Fiscal year

The society shall operate on a calendar based as a fiscal year unless the executive committee determines otherwise.

Article 2: Purpose

2.1 The society is an international non-profiting organization, with the purpose to support and promote research on artificial neural networks, and to encourage international cooperation between universities and other organizations within this area. The society does not hire any personnel or permanent staff, but relies on voluntary work from its members.

2.2 The purpose of the society is the advancement of science in the area of neural networks and related fields. This includes (among other things):

    a. to create a forum for the exchange of knowledge

    b. to promote cooperation between fundamental research and industry

    c. to identify priority areas for research and give advice for research programs

    d. to organize or contribute to educational programs for students of neural net-work science in Europe

    e. to support an annual meeting, called the International Conference of Artificial Neural Networks (ICANN), and to provide financial support to such meetings, as the executive committee may decide

    f. to inform the general and scientific public about the field.

Article 3: Membership

3.1 Qualification

Membership is open to anybody with a scientific interest in neural networks research.

3.2 Dues and fees

The executive committee shall, from time to time, establish membership dues and fees. The Committee may fix different dues and fees for different categories of members.

3.3 Honorary members

Persons who have earned special merits about the science of neural networks or the society may be elected honorary members by the general assembly.

3.4 Termination of membership

Membership terminates

   a. by resignation of the member at the end of the fiscal year

   b. by expiration of the term of membership without renewal

   c. by failure of a member to pay dues and fees

   d. by expulsion. A member may be expelled from membership for acting against the best interests of the society. Expulsion has to be decided by 2/3 majorities of all members of the executive committee.

Article 4: Organization

The organization of the Society includes (I) the general assembly and (II) the executive committee.

Article 5: General assembly

5.1 The general assembly, composed of all members in good standing, constitutes the supreme organ of the society.

5.2 It has complete power of decision, within the limits of the power already conferred by the executive committee.

5.3 It is called to meet in regular or extraordinary sessions at least once a year by the executive committee writing to all members or by written petition of at least 25 % of the members in good standing. Any proposal at an extraordinary session must be circulated to all members at least one month before.

5.4 Quorum

Ten per cent of members present in person shall constitute a quorum at a regular meeting of members.

Article 6: Executive Committee

6.1 Composition

The executive committee will be composed of 10 elected members. The committee can co-opt up to two further members as decided. Official members of the executive committee include:

a. the president of the society who is likewise the chairman of the executive committee
b. the president-elect or past-president
c. a treasurer
d. a secretary

6.2 Election

The elected members of the executive committee will be elected by the general assembly for a term of three years. Each elected member may be re-elected two consecutive times. Afterwards, a period of interruption of three years is necessary.

6.3 Duties

The executive committee governs and represents the society and is concerned with all subjects of interest to the latter. The executive committee can make all decisions except for those reserved for the general assembly. The executive committee meets at least once a year, normally at the ICANN conference. Decisions are valid if supported by more than 50 % of the members of the executive committee. In particular, the executive committee will:

a. Oversee the applications of Article 2 of the present statutes

b. Administer the wealth of the society

c. Represent the society to other organizations

d. Present an annual financial balance to the general assembly

6.4 Signatures

The society is legally bound by the individually signature of the president, or, on his or her absence, by the one of the treasurer or the secretary.

6.5 Financial controllers

The executive committee appoints one independent controller each year who supervise the correct financial management of the society.

Article 7: Officers

7.1 Officers and Duties

The officers of the Society shall be a president, a president-elect, a secretary, a past-president, and a treasurer. The executive committee may install additional offices such as assistant treasurer or assistant secretary.

7.2 President

The president shall be the chief executive officer of the society. The president shall be responsible for executing the policies of the corporation as established by the executive committee. The term for presidency is three years. A president-elect will be elected by the general assembly every three years, at least one year before the current presidency expires. The president-elect will become president on January 1st, in the second year following the election.

After the term of presidency ends, the previous president will serve as past-president for two

additional years. President-elect and past-president assist the president in his duties.

7.3 Secretary

The secretary shall keep the minute book of the corporation.

7.4 Treasurer

The treasurer is the chief financial officer of the society. The treasurer is responsible for the receipt, maintenance and disbursement of all funds of the society and for the safe keeping of all securities of the society. The treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept the books and records of account and records of all properties of the society. The treasurer shall prepare or cause to be prepared, annually or more often as so directed by the executive committee or president, financial statements of the corporation.

7.5 Appointment

Secretary and treasurer will be appointed by and will be responsible to the executive committee.

Article 8: Resources

8.1 The means of income to the society are membership fees and donations. At least 50% of the annual revenue will be returned to its members, in various forms of support of neural networks research.

Article 9: Amendment of the Statutes

9.1 The executive committee may adopt, amend, or repeal Statutes unless such action would materially and adversely affect the members' voting rights. Without the approval of the members, the executive committee may not adopt, amend, or repeal any Statutes that would increase or extend the terms of the executive committee, allow the executive committee to fill a vacancy occurring by reason of the removal of a member of the executive committee, or increase the quorum for the general assembly.
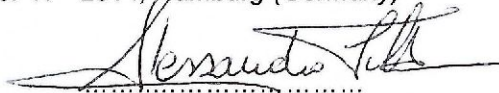
Article 10: Termination

10.1 In case of termination of the society, its assets will be used for purposes related to neural network research as stated in Article 2.2. In particular, support for education programs or scientific conferences in the field of neural networks can be given to former ENNS members.
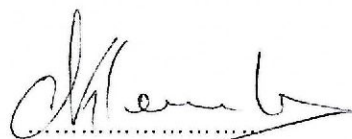
The General Assembly 2014 adopted the modified presents statutes.
On behalf of association:

September 17th 2014, Hamburg (Germany)

Prof. Alessandro Villa
President

Caroline Kleinheny
Secretary