



Version 2.: Accepted by the DiscourseNet Assembly on 20/10/2021

Charter documents for the creation of the DiscourseNet Association

You will find the official presentation of DiscourseNet on our webpage.

<https://discourseanalysis.net/DN>

The DiscourseNet Charter consists of three founding documents:

- A. Presentation, mission, principles for public website. This document presents DiscourseNet to all members and users of the website. The document is likely to remain stable even though it can be easily expanded and changed.
- B. Operational and finance guidelines, mostly for governance and internal use. This document is for members, board, steering group, event organisers. We will need to continuously develop this document over time to organise our workflow and improve decision making.
- C. Legal statutes for DiscourseNet e.V.

Appendix

Visualization of DiscourseNet structure

A. DiscourseNet - presentation, mission, principles for public website

§1 Name: DiscourseNet

The full name of our association is 'DiscourseNet: International Association for Discourse Studies', commonly referred to as 'DiscourseNet' and abbreviated as 'DN'. This name will be used in all official communication (e.g. website, email, promotion of DiscourseNet events).

For purposes of communication we may also rely on the following translations. For multilingual events, we will always use the official name 'DiscourseNet: International Association for Discourse Studies' in combination with one or more of the following translations, e.g.:

- DiscoursNet: Association internationale des Études du Discours
- DiskursNetz: Internationale Gesellschaft für Diskursforschung
- DiscursoNet: Asociación Internacional de Estudios del Discurso
- DiscursoNet: Associação Internacional de Estudos do Discurso
- ДискурсСеть: международная ассоциация исследований дискурса
- ДискурсМрежа: Међународно удружење за истраживање дискурса
- DiscourseNet: associazione internazionale di studi sul discorso
- DiscourseNet: associazione internazionale di studi sul discorso
- خطاب نت: الرابطة الدولية لدراسات الخطاب.

The list of available languages and translations can be extended.

In the spirit of DiscourseNet's inclusive, international and multilingual spirit, it is recommended to use the name in the languages spoken in the local community (i.e. in at least two languages if the event is not only in English).

§2 Mission and principle

DN is a community of researchers in Discourse Studies, broadly understood as a field studying social practices of meaning production in the entanglements of verbal and/or non-verbal communication.

DN does not represent a particular school or disciplinary field. It offers a forum for all strands in Discourse Studies.

Discourse researchers mobilize theories and methods to account for objects at the intersection of language and society. In particular, they are interested in how relationships of power and inequality are produced and reproduced in communicative practices.

DN provides a pluralist, multilingual, inclusive and non-hierarchical space for discourse researchers from all disciplinary and geographic backgrounds. It is committed to equality of opportunity irrespective of race, gender, sexuality, ability, nationality, age, ethnicity, class for all those who want to participate in its events and contribute to its activities.

DN encourages critical, democratic reflection on societal issues. Open to social movements, activism and various forms of political struggles inside and outside academia, it encourages discourse researchers to engage in public controversies. It aims to strike a productive balance between specialised academic knowledge and critical awareness of issues in society at large.

B. DiscourseNet - Operational and finance guidelines for governance and internal use

The following guidelines are not part of the legal statutes. The Board may continuously develop this document over time to organise our workflow and decision making.

§1 DiscourseNet events

As the International Association of Discourse Studies, DiscourseNet is open to all discourse researchers from all disciplines and all countries.

DN organizes academic events, initiates research collaborations, facilitates publications in order to achieve its mission.

DN's events and activities include, but are not limited to, the following formats:

- DN Congresses: international events in Discourse Studies with a broad, inclusive theme. Congresses can be multilingual and usually take place every two years. Participants are selected after an open call for papers.
- DN Conferences: thematically focussed and medium-sized events. DN conferences take place after an open call for papers and address an interdisciplinary audience around twice a year.
- DN Group Symposia: small, thematically focussed events. Group events do not require an open call. These events are usually oriented towards specific disciplinary or sub-disciplinary audiences.
- DN (Post)Graduate Schools and Workshops: training-focussed interdisciplinary events for a small or medium-sized group of students. Members of DiscourseNet are involved in the organization of such an event
- Collaborative DN event: an event with other groups or associations worldwide.

§2 Governance: General Assembly, Board, Working Groups, Scientific Council

DiscourseNet is a network that builds on the activities of its members. We welcome and support everybody who joins DiscourseNet. Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sex, sexuality, ability, age is not accepted. It is critically discussed in DN.

All DiscourseNet members may vote in the **General Assembly** (i.e. *Mitgliederversammlung* of DiscourseNet e.V.). The Assembly sets the agenda and decides on all questions concerning DiscourseNet. In the Assembly, all members can make suggestions and contribute to activities in DiscourseNet (e.g. the organization of events and maintenance of the webpage). The Assembly will be regularly informed by the Treasurer about the financial activities at a conference or congress. The Assembly congregates at least once every two years during DiscourseNet events or through technological means.

The DiscourseNet Assembly elects legal representatives of DiscourseNet (the *Vorstand* of DiscourseNet e.V.). They are at least President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Candidates for these three functions present themselves to the DN community and say with what team of legal representatives they would prefer to work.

Candidates circulate their ideas for the association among all members. They are expected to present a strategy concerning diversity and an efficient workload organization.

The legal representatives appoint the members of the **DiscourseNet Board**, who actively contribute to DiscourseNet. The Board should not have more than 20 members including the legal representatives. The DiscourseNet Board is to reflect the diversity and investment in ongoing activities of DiscourseNet.

Decision-making in DiscourseNet aims to follow the principles of democracy, diversity, transparency and efficiency. Decisions are taken by a majority of Board members. The legal representatives can veto Board decisions if they do not comply to the mission and principles of DiscourseNet. The Board should put strategic decisions and major investments before the Assembly. Roles and tasks within the Board can be swapped at any time. Members of the Board usually serve until the following Assembly. If a member of the Board steps down before the end of the regular term, the legal representatives may appoint an interim replacement through unanimous decision.

Board members deal with a number of tasks, including:

- website maintenance and development
- internal communications
- external communications
- finances
- decision on and planning of events and activities
- publications
- projects
- event organization
- working Groups

DiscourseNet members are encouraged to form **Working Groups** with a specific focus and scope. Working Groups meet regularly and they pursue a defined objective (e.g. thematic events, a research or publication project, a regional representation...). For a group to be recognised as a DiscourseNet Working Group, the Board will need to evaluate the idea of the Working Group and accept it unanimously. One Board member, who may or may not be a member of the Working Group, should represent the Working Group in the Board.

The Board appoints the members of the **Scientific Council** for two years through majority decision. Scientific Council members may come from other organizations. They are academics who are willing to support DN with their occasional advice, recognized experience and other networks.

Proposals for prospective DN events must be approved by a majority of DN Board members. DN events can be proposed to the Board Member responsible for DN Event planning. The DN Board identifies (co-)organizers and helps find participants for DN events. Organizers are requested to consult the guidelines and draft a road map. They will benefit from DN's organizational resources and experience.

§3 Membership

DiscourseNet is run and supported by its members. Members' fees cover operational costs, including the maintenance and development of the website, administrative costs, the logistics and organisation of events. While DN always tries to mobilize support elsewhere, members' fee provide a stable and sustainable income. During the General Assemblies, DN will report on incoming and outgoing funds.

Anybody can become a member of DN. Membership is required for the attendance of DiscourseNet events, for the General Assembly as well as for Steering Group and Board Members. One becomes and stays member by paying the membership fee. Members are entitled to reduced fees at DiscourseNet events. Registering to use the DiscourseNet website does not require payment of a membership fee.

The annual fee for individual members is 30€. Members need to pay at least for one year but may choose to cover a longer period (e.g. 45€ for 18 months). Membership starts upon payment and runs for the period covered by the payment. We prefer a permanent, renewable order for the payment of the annual fee. All members have to register on the DN website and to keep their profiles up to date.

Institutional membership is 120€ per year. It allows an institutional unit such as a department or a working group to appoint up to 10 members as full, voting members of DiscourseNet. The institutional unit needs to pay at least for one year but may choose to cover a longer period (e.g. 180€ for 18 months). Invoices will be issued if needed.

All DiscourseNet friends are also invited to support crowdfunding campaigns and to make donations, notably to develop the webpage or to facilitate activities of under- or unfunded academics.

The Board may decide to not admit or to exclude members of DiscourseNet.

§4 Financial operations

The legal representatives are responsible for all financial questions and decides on the budget. The Treasurer acts on behalf of the Board. He or she has access to the DiscourseNet bank account. The Treasurer prepares a financial report once a year and shares it with the legal representatives. The financial report is reported to the General Assembly.

§5 Collection of fees

DiscourseNet members pay fees from 01/01/2020.

- 1) IBAN: DE61830654080004194489
BIC/SWIFT: GENODEF1SLR

Account number: 4194489
Bankleitzahl BLZ: 830 654 08

Deutsche Skatbank
Zweigniederlassung der VR-Bank
Altenburger Land eG
Altenburger Straße 13
04626 Schmölln
Germany

You can make the transfer to our bank account in the following ways:

- * Directly from your bank account
- * via skrill.com (no fee collected by the platform).

We recommend members subscribe to our annual Paypal DiscourseNet membership plan: https://www.paypal.com/webapps/billing/plans/subscribe?plan_id=P-7GG92685D36373544MAKXYZA

The Treasurer keeps a list of who has paid. Members may ask for invoices.

C. DiscourseNet Legal Statute - the formal registration as an association in Germany

§1 Name und Sitz des Vereins

- (1) Der Name des Vereins ist »DiscourseNet e.V.«
- (2) Sitz von DiscourseNet ist Erlangen.

§1 Name and domicile of the association

- (1) *The association bears the name "DiscourseNet e.V."*
- (2) *The domicile of the association is Erlangen, Germany.*

§2 Eintrag ins Vereinsregister

Der Verein ist im Vereinsregister des zuständigen Amtsgerichts eingetragen.

§2 Listing in the register of associations

The association is listed in the register of associations of the competent Local Court.

§3 Zweck des Vereins

- (1) DiscourseNet dient der Förderung von Wissenschaft und Forschung, insbesondere im Bereich der Diskursstudien.
- (2) Der Zweck wird insbesondere verwirklicht durch
 - (a) die Ausrichtung von wissenschaftlichen Veranstaltungen, Workshops oder Tagungen, einschließlich der Veröffentlichung von Tagungsbänden,
 - (b) durch hochschulpolitische Stellungnahmen und Aktivitäten,
 - (c) die Vorbereitung und Durchführung von wissenschaftlichen Projekten.

§3 Purpose of the association

- (1) *DiscourseNet advances academic research, especially in the area of Discourse Studies.*
- (2) *In particular, this purpose is achieved through*
- (a) *organising academic events, workshops or conferences, as well as publishing conference volumes*
- (b) *issuing statements and activities in the higher education sector.*
- (c) *preparing and conducting academic projects.*

§4 Gemeinnützigkeit

- (1) Der Verein verfolgt ausschließlich und unmittelbar gemeinnützige Zwecke im Sinne des Abschnitts »Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke« der Abgabenordnung.
- (2) Der Verein ist selbstlos tätig; er verfolgt nicht in erster Linie eigenwirtschaftliche Zwecke. Mittel des Vereins dürfen nur für die satzungsmäßigen Zwecke verwendet werden. Die Mitglieder in ihrer Eigenschaft als Mitglieder erhalten keine Zuwendungen aus Mitteln des Vereins. Es darf keine Person durch Ausgaben, die dem Zweck des Vereins fremd sind oder durch unverhältnismäßig hohe Vergütungen begünstigt werden.

§4 Non-profit status

- (1) *The association shall solely and directly pursue objectives of benefiting the public interest within the meaning of the Chapter "Tax-Exempt Objectives" of the German Tax Code (Abgabenordnung).*
- (2) *The association is a charitable organisation; it does not primarily pursue its own financial purposes. The association's funds may only be used for the purposes defined in the statutes. The members, in their capacity as members of the association, shall not receive any financial allowances from the association. No person may benefit from expenditures that are not related to the purpose of the association, or through inappropriately high allowances.*

§5 Mitgliedschaft

- (1) Mitglied des Vereins kann jede natürliche und jede juristische Person des privaten oder öffentlichen Rechts werden.
- (2) Über die Aufnahme von aktiven Mitgliedern entscheidet der Vorstand gemäß der in §8 aufgezählten Verfahren.
- (3) Die Mitgliedschaft endet
- (a) mit dem Tod des Mitglieds
- (b) durch schriftliche Austrittserklärung, gerichtet an ein Vorstandsmitglied. Sie ist zum Jahresende möglich. Schon bezahlte Mitgliedsbeiträge werden nicht zurückerstattet.
- (c) durch Ausschluss aus dem Verein im Falle grob satzungswidrigen Verhaltens; der Vorstand kann mit 3/4 Mehrheit den Ausschluss -- nach Anhörung des Betroffenen -- aussprechen.

(4) Es besteht die Möglichkeit einer passiven Mitgliedschaft ohne Stimmberechtigung. Passive Mitglieder fördern den Verein finanziell und unterstützen seine Ziele.

§ 5 Membership

(1) Any natural adult person or institution is eligible to become a member of the association.

(2) The legal representatives decide on the addition of new active members, as specified in §8.

(3) Membership terminates

(a) with the death of the member.

(b) by means of a written declaration of withdrawal. Any declarations of withdrawal are to be submitted to a legal representatives in writing or via email. Membership can terminate at the end of a calendar year. Fees that have already been paid will not be reimbursed.

(c) by means of exclusion of a member by a resolution of the legal representatives that requires a three-quarter majority among the legal representatives – after hearing the party concerned – in circumstances where a member has grossly violated the interests or principles of the association.

(4) There is a possibility of passive membership with no voting rights. Passive members commit to sponsoring the association and supporting its objectives.

§6 Mitgliedsbeiträge und Finanzen

(1) Der Verein finanziert sich aus Mitgliedsbeiträgen, Spenden und öffentlichen Zuschüssen. Die Höhe der Beiträge wird von der Mitgliederversammlung mit einfacher Mehrheit festgesetzt und in der Finanzordnung geregelt.

(2) Die Mitglieder erhalten in ihrer Eigenschaft als Mitglieder keine Zuwendungen aus Mitteln des Vereins.

(3) Ausscheidende Mitglieder haben keinen Anspruch auf das Vereinsvermögen.

(4) Die Finanzen werden vom Kassier verwaltet.

§6 Membership fees and finances

(1) The association is funded through membership fees, donations and public funds. The amount of the membership fees shall be determined by a simple majority in the General Assembly and it is specified in the Finance Regulations.

(2) The members shall receive no benefits from the association's funds in their capacity as members.

(3) Resigning members shall have no claims to the association's assets.

(4) The Treasurer will keep the books and administer all finances.

§7 Organe des Vereins

Die Organe des Vereins sind Mitgliederversammlung und Vorstand.

§7 Executive bodies of the association

The executive bodies of the association are the General Assembly and the legal representatives.

§8 Die Mitgliederversammlung

- (1) Die Mitgliederversammlung tagt normalerweise alle zwei Jahre. Die Einberufung der Mitgliederversammlung erfolgt durch die Vorsitzende/den Vorsitzenden (oder einer Stellvertreterin/einem Stellvertreter) schriftlich und mit einer Ladungsfrist von 30 Tagen. Außerordentlich muß der/die Vorsitzende dann eine Mitgliederversammlung einberufen, wenn dies von einem Viertel der Mitglieder schriftlich beantragt wird.
- (2) Die Mitgliederversammlung beschließt insbesondere über die Wahl des Vorstands, die Prüfung und Genehmigung der Jahresabrechnung, die Entlastung des Vorstands, Satzungsänderungen und Auflösung des Vereins.
- (3) Die Mitgliederversammlung ist beschlussfähig, wenn sie ordnungsgemäß einberufen wurde. Stimmberechtigt sind nur aktive MitgliederInnen.
- (4) Ein Mitglied kann seine Stimmrechte auf andere Vereinsmitglieder*innen übertragen. Diese Übertragung ist auf Verlangen des Versammlungsleiters/der -leiterin schriftlich zu belegen.
- (5) Die Mitgliederversammlung entscheidet mit einfacher Mehrheit. Dies gilt auch für Satzungsänderungen, die in der Einladung angekündigt werden müssen.
- (6) Die Wahl des Vorstands wird grundsätzlich schriftlich und geheim abgehalten. Sie kann auf Antrag und mit Zustimmung aller anwesenden aktiven Mitglieder*innen jedoch auch offen abgehalten werden. Abstimmungen über die Satzung, die Finanzordnung und sonstige Fragen finden normalerweise offen statt.
- (7) Wahlen und Abstimmungen können auch über Onlinetechnologien durchgeführt werden.
- (8) Über die Beschlüsse der Mitgliederversammlung wird Protokoll geführt. Hierfür zuständig ist der Schriftführer/die Schriftführerin oder bei Abwesenheit des Schriftführers/der Schriftführerin eine andere von der Mitgliederversammlung hierzu gewählte Person. Der Schriftführer/die Schriftführerin bzw. die andere von der Mitgliederversammlung hierzu gewählte Person beurkundet mit seiner/ihrer Unterschrift die Richtigkeit der Versammlungsbeschlüsse.

§8 The General Assembly

- (1) *A General Assembly shall be held at least once every two years. The President shall call for a General Assembly in writing at least 30 days prior to the meeting. An extraordinary General Assembly is to be called if one quarter of the members submit written requests to this effect.*
- (2) *The General Assembly has to decide in particular about the election of the legal representatives, the evaluation and approval of the annual financial report, discharge of the legal representatives, modifications of the Statutes and dissolution of the association.*
- (3) *The General Assembly has a quorum when it has been convened with the conditions set out in the statutes. Only active members shall be entitled to cast votes.*
- (4) *A member can transfer their right to vote to other members of the association. This transfer shall be recorded in writing if requested by the chair of the meeting.*

(5) The General Assembly shall pass resolutions by a simple majority of votes. This also applies to modifications of the Statutes.

(6) Generally, elections shall be by secret ballot. If requested and agreed upon by all active members present, elections may also be held publicly. Votes are normally held publicly.

(7) Elections and votes may also be conducted via online technologies.

(8) Written minutes of the decisions taken by the General Assembly are to be taken and signed by the Secretary. In case of the absence of the Secretary, the General Assembly shall elect another person to keep the minutes. The Secretary or the other person elected to keep the minutes, verifies the accuracy of decisions taken by the General Assembly with their signature.

§9 Der Vorstand

(1) Der Vorstand wird zweijährig von der Mitgliederversammlung gewählt.

*(2) Der Vorstand besteht mindestens aus drei Mitgliedern: dem/der Vorsitzenden, dem Kassier/der KassiererIn und der SchriftführerIn/dem Schriftführer. Die Mitgliederversammlung kann weitere Mitglieder in den Vorstand wählen. Scheidet eine oder mehrere der Vorstandsmitglieder*innen vor Ablauf der regulären Amtszeit aus, können die verbleibenden Vorstandsmitglieder*innen eine vorläufige Vertretung ernennen, die baldmöglichst der Mitgliederversammlung zur Wahl gestellt werden soll. Jedes Vorstandsmitglied vertritt alleine.*

(3) Der Vorstand tagt mindestens einmal jährlich auf Einladung der/des Vorsitzenden.

(4) Vorstandsbeschlüsse erlangen Gültigkeit, wenn eine Mehrheit von Ja-Stimmen vorliegt.

(5) Über die Beschlüsse des Vorstands führt die SchriftführerIn/der Schriftführer Protokoll, bei Abwesenheit des Protokollführers/der ProtokollführerIn der Kassier/In.

(6) Der Vorstand erstellt einen jährlichen Rechenschaftsbericht.

§9 The legal representatives

(1) The legal representatives shall be elected every two years by the General Assembly.

(2) The legal representatives comprise at least three members of the association: The President, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The General Assembly may elect additional legal representatives. If a legal representative retires before the regular period of office, the remaining representative may appoint a temporary substitution, who should stand as a candidate for the post in the next General Assembly. Each legal representative represents individually.

(3) The President shall invite the legal representatives to meet at least once every year.

(4) Decisions made by the legal representatives shall be validated, when a simple majority of ayes are achieved.

(5) The Secretary shall keep a record of the decisions taken by the legal representatives. In case of absence of the Secretary, the Treasurer shall keep a record.

(6) The legal representatives produce an annual report.

§10 Auflösung des Vereins und Anfall des Vereinsvermögens

(1) Bei Auflösung oder Aufhebung des Vereins oder bei Wegfall des bisherigen Zwecks fällt das Vermögen an European Science Foundation.

(2) Beschlüsse über die künftige Verwendung dürfen erst nach Einwilligung des Finanzamtes ausgeführt werden.

Paris, den 14.09.2019

§10 Dissolution of the association and use of the association's assets

(1) In case of the dissolution or disbandment of the association, or in case of cessation of previous purposes, the association's assets will be used by European Science Foundation.

(2) Decisions regarding the future use of assets may only be executed upon agreement of the German Tax Office.

Paris, 14/09/2019

APPENDIX I

Organigram



