

DiscourseNet Association elections of 2026

Presentation of Candidate Team 1

Organisational Reform, Visibility, Coordination, and Varia

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Priorities: organisation, coordination, visibility

We have talked to old and new members of DiscourseNet to get a good idea of the strengths and issues our association struggles with.

We will **build on what works** and continue **the association as an interdisciplinary and multilingual space** for discourse studies.

- Bi-annual congresses
- Multiple conferences per year
- Online and offline seminars and reading groups
- PhD schools
- Collaborative Working Paper Series
- ...

We also propose change to prepare DiscourseNet for the future by improving **DN's** (1) organisation, (2) coordination, and (3) visibility.

1) Organisational reform: functions, roles, responsibilities

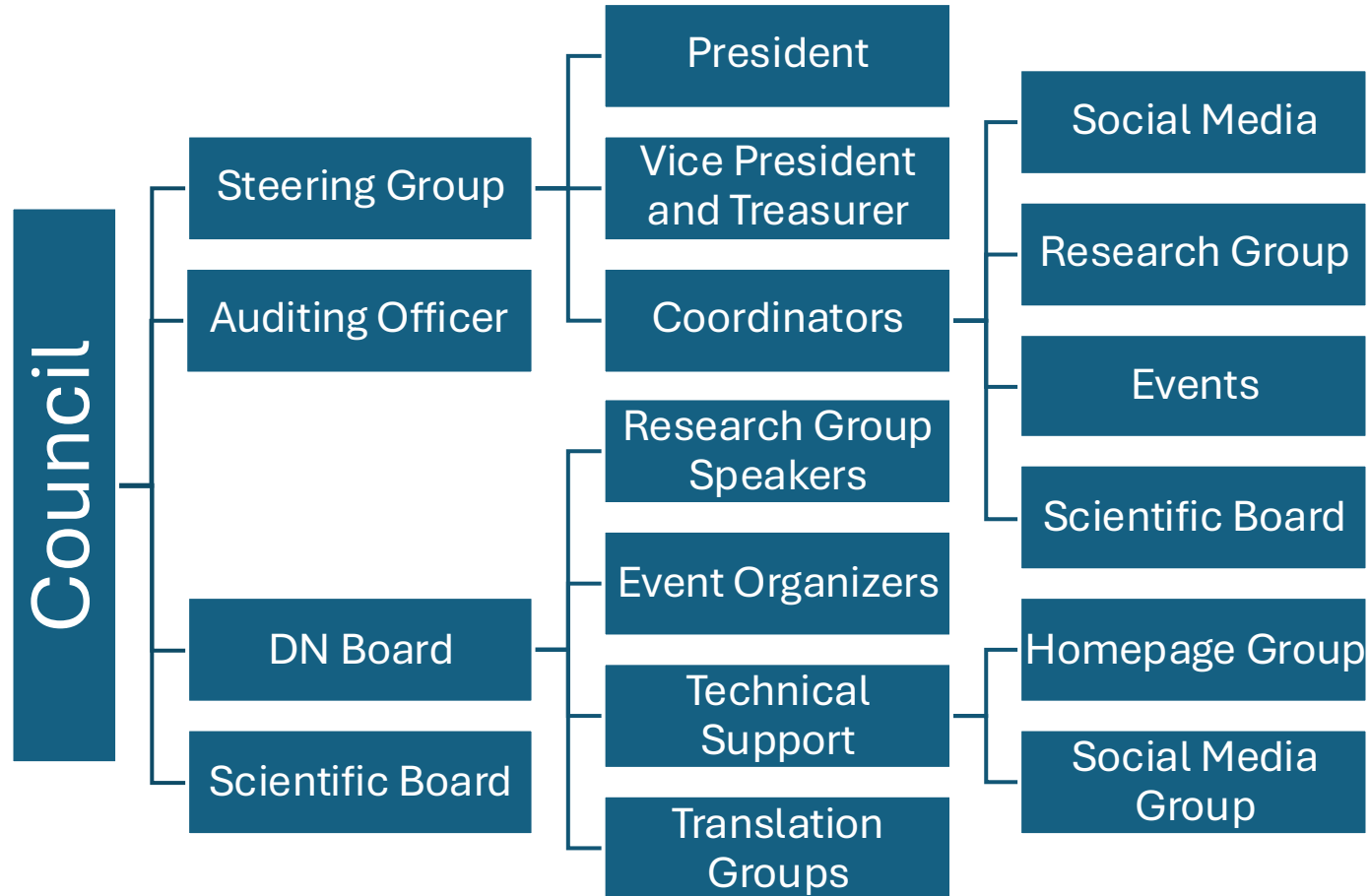
We propose to reorganize the functions, roles and responsibilities within DiscourseNet. The **objective** is to **divide labour in a transparent and efficient** way based on these principles:

- The **Steering Group** consists of all **people performing coordination functions** for the DiscoursNet Association.
- The **DN board** includes **people with specific tasks** who work with specific coordinators in the board. It also includes **event organizers** and **representatives of DN research groups**.

For instance, in the steering group we have a social media coordinator who works with board members responsible for handling specific social media.

This **reorganization** comes with **a couple of new functions**. For instance, we will have an auditing officer, a research group coordinator.

1) Organisational reform: functions, roles, responsibilities



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(A) Steering group: who does what?

1. **President:** represents DN internally and externally & organises the Board Meetings
→ Team candidate: **Jan Zienkowski**
2. **Vice President & Treasurer:**
 - manages revenues and expenses
 - responsible for membership management
 - plans investments and implements decisions and policies
 - membership management→ Team candidate: **Jens Maesse**
3. **Research Groups Coordinator :**
 - Identifies active and non-active research groups
 - Identifies contact persons for all active research groups
 - Makes sure that all groups know they have a guaranteed spot at DN congresses
 - Acts as an interface between contact persons of research groups and the steering committee→ Team candidate: **Magda Nowicka-Franczak**

1) Organisational reform: functions, roles, responsibilities

(A) Steering group: who does what?

4. **Event Coordinator:**

- Follows up on all DN activities such as PhD schools, conferences, congresses
- Informs the social media coordinator about information that needs to be communicated (CfP's, deadlines, ...)
- Centralizes event-related information and informs the board about what is going on
- Acts as an interface between event organizers in the board and the steering group.
- ➔ Team candidate: Thomas Jacobs

5. **Social Media Coordinator:**

- Coordinates the circulation of information via social media
- Works on the visual house-style of DiscourseNet
- Works with board members responsible for specific communication platforms (e.g. Facebook, Mastodon, LinkedIn, ...)
- ➔ Team candidate: David Adler

6. **International Scientific Board Coordinator**

- Reaches out to the wider Discourse Studies community
- Develops contacts between DN and other (inter)national networks and associations
- ➔ Team candidate: Johannes Angermüller

1) Organisational reform: functions, roles, responsibilities

(B) What does the **Auditing Officer** do?

- The auditing officer needs to be **elected** but is ***not* a member of the steering group**. (S)he has a **watchdog function**.
- Her or she keeps **keeps an eye on DN finances and infrastructure**. (S)he needs be aware of the treasurer's activities.
- ➔ candidate: **Michael Kranert**

1) Organisational reform: functions, roles, responsibilities

(C) Who has a seat in the DiscourseNet Board ?

- Research Group representatives
- Event Organisers
- Technical Support (website programmer)
- Translation Groups

(D) Scientific Board

2) Coordination

DiscourseNet organizes many events and will continue to do so. We **propose to work with (bi-) annual agendas.**

- **1 bi-annual DN congress** (the site to be determined three years in advance)
- **3 DN conferences / year**
- **5 DN digital events** (online workshops conferences / possibly (co-)organized by the Research Groups)
- **At least 1 DN PhD school** in Winter, Fall, Spring or Summer.

The **agenda will form the basis for communication** via social media and email messaging about DN events.

We want to **reach out to DN groups to (co)-organize events** such as seminars, lunch talks or workshops, and keynotes lectures.

3) Improving the Visibility of DiscourseNet

We will **improve** the **online and offline visibility** of Discoursenet in the wider community of discourse scholars.

- The **president will reach out regularly to the DN community** to inform them about activities, membership renewal, etc. ...
- The **social media coordinator** will work coordinate the online diffusion of DN-related information (abstracts, deadlines, events, ...)
- The **international scientific board coordinator** will establish and reinforce contacts with (scholars associated with) other networks and associations.

The **DiscourseNet website** is our main tool for communicating with members. It is also our main cost. The team will rethink and reorganize this infrastructure if needed.

We are currently **looking for people with a passion for discourse studies and technical expertise related to setting up websites**. Please reach out to us if you are interested.

4) Varia

We will take initiatives to make sure that the board reflects the linguistic, disciplinary and international diversity of the DiscourseNet Association membership base.

We will identify contact persons and activities of existing DN groups, encourage the creation of new DN groups and invite their representatives to the DN board.

We will clarify on the DN website how DN groups can be created and how they can and will be represented in the DN board.

The DN statutes will be evaluated and updated in accordance with the changes put into place by the new team if and when necessary.

Thank you

Please write us if you have any questions or remarks concerning the program proposed here. You may write to

Jan Zienkowski: jan.zienkowski@ulb.be