# EASE: European Association for Semantic Web Education

Founding members' assembly

Hotel Maestral,

Budva, Montenegro

16th June 2006

# Welcome

- … to everyone in the room
  - One visitor: Mustafa (interested in the process of creating an association…)
- … to everyone on the phone
- Purpose of this meeting:
  - Discuss the foundation of EASE
  - Formally decide about the foundation of EASE
- Some notes on procedures (because of the telecon)
  - Election all taken openly
  - → Asking everyone on the phone by name
  - → Ensure that we don't miss anyone (but we won't record the personal votes in the minutes)

# List of Participants

- **In the room:**
  - Wolfgang, Lyndon, Elena, Enrico Franconi, Enrico Motta, York, Francisco, Guus, Jerome, Pavel, …, Jörg

    →Circulate the two lists of participants
    - Name, address, profession, signature
    - One backup in case we have trouble with the post…

- **On the phone:**
  - Asun, Luis, Jose, Marco, Robert Tolksdorf, John Davies

    →Will send the list of participants by mail

→Quorum of 7 (grown-up) people for the foundation reached

# First Elections

- Keeper of the minutes:
  - Tasks: Writing the minutes
  - Minutes pre-prepared as much as possible
    - Standard template for founding assemblies
  - Additional Task: remind the chair if something is not according to the minutes template…
- Proposal: York Sure
- → Election (phone?) → Acceptance?
- Chair of the founding assembly:
  - Typically the ones who has sent around the invitation…
- Proposals? ☺
- → Election (phone?) → Acceptance?

# Agenda EASE foundation

1. Introduction (Election of keeper of the minutes + session chair, decision about the quorum)

2. Decision about the agenda

3. Discuss the statutes and the foundation of the association

4. Decide finally about the statutes and the foundation of the association → vote + sign

# Agenda (2)

- Election of the managing committee
- Election of the auditors
- Discussion + decision about the financial plan and membership fees
- Election of the scientific advisory board
- Any other business

Do you agree about the agenda? Any changes / additions? → Voting (phone?)

# Discussion of Foundation

- Objectives of EASE:

  – In general: Promoting education and continuing education in the area "Semantic Web" and supporting science and research in this area.

  – Promote knowledge and education as a fundamental social objective.

  – Support community-building activities, centred around 'Semantic Web Education', involving students, researchers, teachers, and practitioners.

  – Disseminate high-quality educational resources about Semantic Web topics to as many interested communities as possible, aiming for maximum reach.

# Discussion of Foundation (2)

- ## Objectives of EASE:

  – EASE aims at fostering co-operation among educational bodies.

  – EASE aims at using technological innovation pursuant to its goals

# Activities

1. Support for the provisioning of material for education and continuing education in the area "Semantic Web".
2. Administration and hosting of the electronic materials, which have been provided to the association by its members or third parties, in a repository run by the association.
3. Organization / support of educational events (e.g., summer schools, presentations, round tables) in the area of "Semantic Web".
4. Support of European study programmes related to the topic of "Semantic Web".
5. Fostering the input of the educative community to the above goals.

→ We really need this association

# Discussion of Statutes + Amendments

- See the paper print-outs

- A professional translation service checked that the German and English version are the same

# Voting + Signing

- Does everybody agree about the fact that it is reasonable to found the association? (phone?)
- Does everybody agree with the statutes and its amendments? (phone?)

→ No abstentions possible

→ Sign the statutes (2 exemplaries)
  → Join EASE as a founding member
  → The people participating by phone will receive the statutes by mail one after the other

# Agenda (2)

[Now everything continues according to the statutes.]

- <span style="color:red">Election of the managing committee</span>
- Election of the auditors
- Discussion + decision about  the financial plan and membership fees
- Election of the scientific advisory board
- Any other business

# Election: Managing Committee

- Proposals:
  - President: Wolfgang Nejdl
  - Vice-president: Asuncion Gomez Perez
  - Vice-president: Luis Moniz Pereira
  - Treasurer: Enrico Franconi
  - Secretary: Jörg Diederich (but not allowed to represent the association)

  Further proposals?

- Limit the time of office for two of the main members to two years to avoid having to elect all of them simultaneously
- → One vice-president + treasurer

# Election: Managing Committee (2)

- Now raise your hand / tell on the phone
    - President: Wolfgang Nejdl (KWeb / REWERSE)
    - Vice-president: Asuncion Gomez Perez (KWeb)
    - Vice-president: Luis Moniz Pereira (REWERSE)
    - Treasurer: Enrico Franconi (KWeb / [REWERSE])
    - Secretary: Jörg Diederich (KWeb / REWERSE)
- Pro-Votes? Abstentions?
- Acceptance?

# Election: Auditors

- Proposals:
  - Francisco Recuerda-Martin
  - Marco Ronchetti

  Other proposals?

- Now raise your hand / tell on the phone

- Pro-Votes / Abstentions?

- Acceptance?

# Agenda (2)

6. Election of the managing committee
7. Election of the auditors
8. <span style="color:red">Discussion + decision about the financial plan and membership fees</span>
9. Election of the scientific advisory board
10. Any other business

# Financial Plan + Membership Fees

- Currently no activities associated with costs planned

- Financial plan until the next members meeting:
  - Pay the fees for the foundation
  - → Covered by KnowledgeWeb / REWERSE budgets

- Proposal: No membership fees for now

- Voting: Do you agree? (phone?) Abstentions?

# Agenda (2)

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# Election:
# Scientific Advisory Board

- Proposals: 6 persons
  - Enrico Motta (KnowledgeWeb)
  - Guus Schreiber (KnowledgeWeb)
  - Jerome Euzenat (KnowledgeWeb)
  - Robert Tolksdorf (KnowledgeWeb)
  - Jose Alferes (REWERSE)
  - John Davies (SEKT)

  Further proposals?
- Now raise your hand / tell on the phone
- Pro-Votes / Abstentions?
- Acceptance? Ask non present persons: phone them

# Agenda (2)

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10. Any other business

# Final Steps

Mandate the managing committee to do the necessary steps to complete the foundation:

- Apply for the non-profit status at the tax office
- Register the association in the association register → become a legal body
- Changes to the statutes can be done by the managing committee without approval of the members' meeting if requested by the tax office / the association register
  - But only in these cases
  - The managing committee will notify the members
- Pro-votes? Abstentions? (phone?)

# Final Steps (2)

- Set up the EASE web site at
  - ease.semanticweb.org
    - Anybody to help? Should probably based on Semantic Technology…

- Set up mailing lists
  - ease@semanticweb.org
  - ease-mc@semanticweb.org
  - ease-sab@semanticweb.org
  → Keep them locally at L3S for now and redirect

Thank you for attending!

Welcome to the
world of EASE!
☺

# Preparations for the foundation

- Statutes finished + translated

- Invitations sent

- Candidates for Managing Committee complete

- Candidates for Scientific advisory board complete

- Minutes for the meeting prepared

- Telecon: hopefully working