

ESWC General Chair Selection Process

ESWC Steering Committee note

This document outlines the process for selecting the ESWC Conference Chair (also known as General Chair or GC). The ESWC GC is selected by the ESWC Steering Committee (SC). The ESWC SC is defined in the [Rules of ESWC Conference Series](#) document, and a summary of its role and composition is summarised below.

ESWC Steering Committee¹

The ESWC Steering Committee acts as an advisory board for the ESWC conference. Its tasks are, for each conference, to:

1. Select the next GC
2. With the GC, select the PC Chairs
3. Approves the Workshop Chair(s)
4. Reviews the current ESWC event in general
5. Reviews the areas of the conference series, and
6. Discusses strategic conclusions to be drawn for future events

The working format of the ESWC Steering committee is:

- A phone conference 3 months before the conference to select the Conference Chair for the following year (Task 1)
- A phone conference 2 months before the conference to select and approve the PC chairs and the Workshop Chair (Task 2 and Task 3)
- A f2f meeting during the conference to discuss Tasks 4-6;
- Followed by a working dinner

The ESWC Steering committee consists of:

- The Conference Chairs of each of the last four ESWC events
- One PC for each of the last four ESWC events
- A Chair who is either the President of STI International or a leading researcher selected by him/her
- The STI President is invited as a guest in case s/he is not the Chair

¹ From <https://eswc-conferences.org/rules.html>

- The Conference and PC Chairs of the current event are invited as a guest without voting rights for the f2f meeting at the conference and the working dinner
- The Track, Event, and Further Chairs may be invited as guests without voting rights for the f2f meeting at the conference and the working dinner.

As of 2025 the current members of the ESWC Steering Committee are:

Family Name	First Name	Role	Affiliation
Domingue	John	Chair	Knowledge Media Institute , The Open University
Studer	Rudi	Vice Chair	Institute of Applied Informatics and Formal Description Methods (AIFB) , Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Presutti	Valentina	Vice Chair	Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Culture , University of Bologna
Sack	Harald	Vice Chair	Information Service Engineering , FIZ Karlsruhe
Troncy	Raphael	Vice Chair	Data Science Department , EURECOM
Harth	Andreas	Member	Technical Information Systems , Friedrich-Alexander-Univ ersität Erlangen-Nürnberg
Verborgh	Ruben	Member	Internet & Data Lab (IDLab) , Ghent University
Groth	Paul	Member	Intelligent Data Engineering Lab (INDElab) , Informatics Institute, University of Amsterdam
Pesquita	Catia	Member	Department of Informatics , University of Lisbon
Meroño Peñuela	Albert	Member	Department of Informatics , King's College London
Curry	Ed	Member	Insight SFI Research Centre for Data

Family Name	First Name	Role	Affiliation
			Analytics , University of Galway

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As mentioned above, 3 months before the conference (as the conference is typically by late May/early June, this means mid-late February) the SC holds a call to select the next General Chair. The procedure is as follows:

1. Before the call, SC members make proposals for the next GC. These proposals must adhere to the following conditions:
 - a. Must be a senior researcher
 - b. Must have an outstanding scientific track record
 - c. Must have an appropriate level of organizational skills
 - d. Each SC member must ensure their proposals are gender balanced. This is left at the discretion of SC members but is encouraged to be achieved by: (i) proposing an even number of GC candidates with gender balance; and/or (ii) making proposals to balance gender considering the names other SC members have proposed so far
2. Before the call, the SC Chair checks the list of candidates is gender balanced, and seeks further proposals otherwise until it is
3. During the call, SC members vote among the proposed GC candidates. Each SC member has exactly one vote
4. The GC candidate with most votes is proposed to be the next GC by the Chair. In case of a tie, the Chair casts one additional vote
5. If the proposed GC candidate accepts they become the next ESWC GC. If they do not accept, the Chair proposes to the next GC candidate with most votes, until acceptance