

Argumentation Community of Europe (ACE)

Bylaws

(ver. 1.0, June 2025)

Article 1. Name and Reach

- (a) This organization will be called: Argumentation Community of Europe (ACE)
- (b) ACE is open to everyone interested in argumentation as an object of study and as a communicative activity, including scholars, students, and professionals.
 - 1. Any scholar, student, or professional affiliated with an institution based in Europe can be a full, voting member of ACE. Individuals affiliated elsewhere are welcome to join ACE as associate members without voting rights.
 - 2. Europe includes EU and EFTA countries, the UK, and associated countries and territories based on their geographical location and EU policies.
 - 3. ACE's Governing Board adjudicates in cases of doubt.

Article 2. Mission and Scope

Its mission is twofold:

- (a) To consolidate and advance the development, exchange, communication, and dissemination of knowledge of research on argumentation in different disciplines and domains across Europe, and
- (b) To promote argumentation research within business, technical, and organizational contexts to the larger community of practitioners and scholars.

ACE's activities shall include:

- (a) Providing up-to-date information on events, research projects, job opportunities, study and training programs, argumentation technologies, and publishing initiatives via its website: <https://argumentationcommunity.eu/>
- (b) Discussing and launching innovative lines of research;
- (c) Proposing new collaborative projects and study programs;
- (d) Facilitating research exchanges and joint mentoring;
- (e) Offering networking opportunities via events, such as the European Conference on Argumentation, and online tools;
- (f) Promoting and supporting young scholars and professionals via awards, grants, summer/winter schools, and training and mentoring opportunities;
 - 1. Young scholars and professionals are individuals below 40 years of age or above that age but within 5 years of completing their degree (e.g., MA or PhD)

- (g) Supporting an annual ACE Research Workshop with peer-reviewed research papers, panels, or tutorials;
- (h) Sponsoring other conferences, symposia, and workshops as approved by the ACE Executive Committee;
- (i) Organizing working groups for education, research, and development purposes;
- (j) Liaising with and providing technical information and solutions to public and private entities seeking advice on argumentation;
- (k) Promoting argumentation and critical thinking in educational systems across Europe; and
- (l) Sponsoring outreach activities to facilitate collaboration and build synergy with other argumentation research related communities, especially in other parts of the world (Americas, Asia, Africa, Australia).

Article 3. Constitution

- (a) ACE was constituted by a meeting of its founding members at the NOVA University, Lisbon, 6-7 February 2025. The list of founding members:

Katie Atkinson (University of Liverpool, GB) [online]; Anna De Liddo (Open University, GB); Álvaro Domínguez-Armas (NOVA University Lisbon, PT); Catarina Dutilh Novaes (VU Amsterdam, NL); Sara Greco (Università della Svizzera italiana, CH); Annette Hautli-Janisz (University of Passau, DE); Gabrijela Kišiček (University of Zagreb, HR); Marcin Koszowy (Warsaw University of Technology, PL); Marcin Lewiński (NOVA University Lisbon, PT); Humberto Marraud Gonzalez (Autonomous University of Madrid, ES) [online]; Paula Olmos Gomez (Autonomous University of Madrid, ES) [online]; Steve Oswald (University of Fribourg, CH); Fabio Paglieri (ISTC-CNR, IT); Chris Reed (University of Dundee, GB); Mariusz Urbański (Adam Mickiewicz University, PL); Jan Albert van Laar (University of Groningen, NL); Serena Villata (University of Côte d’Azur, FR) [online]; Jean Wagemans (University of Amsterdam, NL)

- (b) These members comprise its Founding Assembly which stipulates the first Bylaws and elects the first members of the Governing Board
- (c) Having constituted ACE, the Founding Assembly grants all its rights and obligations to the General Assembly of all full active members of ACE
- (d) ACE will exist until dissolved as by the decision of its General Assembly, as provided in Art. 10 of these Bylaws

Article 4. Officers

- (a) The officers of ACE, who constitute its Governing Board, are:
 1. The Chair,

2. The Chair-Elect (or Vice- Chair),
 3. The immediate Past Chair,
 4. The Secretary,
 5. The Treasurer,
 6. Young scholars' representative,
 7. Other members of the Governing Board.
- (b) The General Assembly elects the Chair-Elect for a two-year term. After two years the Chair Elect becomes the (incumbent) Chair, and after two further years the immediate Past-Chair.
- (c) The Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Young scholars' representative are elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term. They may be re-elected for a maximum of 2 consecutive terms.
- (d) Other officers as needed are proposed by the Chair and appointed by the Governing Board. Other appointed officers serve a two-year term and may be re-appointed for a maximum of 2 consecutive terms.
- (e) The Past Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Young scholars' representative may be elected to other officer positions by the General Assembly or appointed by the Governing Board.
- (f) The Governing Board and The Chair guarantee that no less than 50% of the members of the Governing Board change every 4 years (two terms).
- (g) The Chair is the principal officer, responsible for leading ACE and managing its activities. The duties of the Chair are:
1. Calling and presiding at ACE Governing Board (defined in Article 5), General Assembly, and other meetings;
 2. Conducting ACE activities in accordance with its policies and Bylaws;
 3. Representing ACE in any official business, and
 4. Making all proposals and filling vacancies as authorized in these Bylaws.
- (h) The duties of the Chair-Elect are:
1. Assisting the Chair in leading and managing ACE;
 2. Presiding and representing ACE at meetings when the Chair is absent.
- (i) The duties of the immediate Past-Chair are:
1. Assisting the Chair as needed;
 2. Conducting the bi-annual election according to Article 6 of the Bylaws.
- (j) The duties of the Secretary are:
1. Managing ACE's website <https://argumentationcommunity.eu/>
 2. Managing ACE's external communication and dissemination of its activities;

3. Maintaining the records and correspondence of ACE;
 4. Keeping and distributing the minutes of ACE Governing Board meetings, and other meetings as needed;
- (k) The duties of the Treasurer are:
1. Planning, administering and monitoring the financial affairs of ACE in accordance with the Bylaws;
 2. Preparing the annual budget for adoption by the Governing Board at the regular annual meeting, in consultation with the Chair and Chair-Elect;
 3. Providing the membership with access to the financial reports within three (3) months after the close of the fiscal year.
 4. Assessing the financial implications of proposed programs, activities, projects, policies, and other practices in the light of the financial resources of ACE.
- (l) The duties of the Young scholars' representative are:
1. Representing the needs and proposals of young scholars, by liaising between the community of your scholars working on argumentation, the ACE Governing Board and the broader argumentation community.
 2. Proposing activities and other initiatives that recognize and stimulate the work of young scholars in argumentation (awards, training schools, grants, etc.)
 3. Acting as an ambassador for the ACE work and community in relevant student and young researchers networks.

Article 5. Governing Board

- (a) The ACE Governing Board comprises the Chair, Chair-Elect, immediate Past Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Young scholars' representative, and other members as needed (see Art. 4(d)). No person may hold two positions on the Governing Board. A quorum of the Governing Board is a majority of its incumbent members.
- (b) The general duties of the Governing Board are to advise the Chair on all matters of interest to ACE. Specific duties or responsibilities may be specified in these Bylaws or assigned by the Chair. All of the major management policy decisions of ACE must be approved by a majority of the Governing Board.
- (c) All members of, or candidates for, the ACE Governing Board must be full active Members of ACE.

Article 6. Elections

- (a) In normal cases, no later than 3 months before the biennial ECA Conference, the Chair will call for candidates for the offices of ACE's Chair-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Young scholars' representative.
- (b) The election will be completed by the Past Chair during the ACE meeting at the end

of the biennial ECA Conference, following the election procedures open to all the active members of ACE (the General Assembly) via an online poll. Of all the ballots returned in an election, the candidate receiving the largest numbers of valid votes wins. The Governing Board will resolve ties by drawing lots.

- (c) In special cases as approved by the Governing Board, the election-related dates could be adjusted.
- (d) The elected officers will take office 30 days after the election.

Article 7. Vacancies and Appointments

- (a) Should the Chair leave office before their term expires, the Chair-Elect will assume the duties of Chair for the rest of that term and will continue as a Chair for the following 2-year term, as per their prior election to the office of Chair-Elect. Vacancies in other positions will be filled by the decision of the Governing Board based on simple majority voting.
- (b) Should a vacancy be unfilled, either because of inadequacy of these Bylaws, or because of a dispute, or for any other reason, the Chair may fill it by appointment, with simple majority approval of the Governing Board.
- (c) Should an appointed officer not fulfill the officer responsibilities as specified by the Bylaws, the Chair may ask the officer to step down and appoint another individual to fill this position, with simple majority approval of the Governing Board (save the officer in question).

Article 8. Membership, Dues, and Voting Privileges

- (a) A person becomes a member only after enrolling and paying the required dues in ACE. The dues for ACE are determined by the Governing Board.
- (b) All Europe-based, full members of ACE – the ACE’s General Assembly – may vote in any ballot conducted by ACE.

Article 9. Amendments

- (a) Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by the Governing Board, or a petition from 10% of the full active members of ACE General Assembly.
- (b) The proposal is adopted only if the absolute majority of the active members of the Governing Board approve it. The Secretary will send a clean copy of the amended bylaws to the Governing Board.

Article 10. Dissolution

- (a) ACE dissolution may be proposed by the absolute majority of the active members of the Governing Board, or a petition from 20% of the full active members of ACE General Assembly.

- (b) The ballot on the proposed resolution will be conducted among the full active members of ACE General Assembly via an online ballot. The proposal is adopted only if at least 2/3 of the effective votes of returned ballots approve it, and only if at least 50% of the ballots are returned.
- (c) Should ACE be dissolved, its assets will be supervised by the Governing Board, and managed by the Treasurer responsible before the General Assembly.

Article 11. Meetings

ACE meetings are called by its Chair. ACE Governing Board will meet at least once a year: in an online, hybrid, or face-to-face form, as the circumstances allow. The Governing Board will organize ACE's General Assembly (in a hybrid form), at least once in two years, preferably at the conclusion of the ECA Conference. All meetings sponsored by ACE must be open to all members of ACE.