

REGULATION FOR THE CREATION OF NEW COMMUNITIES – LOCAL, TECHNICAL AND OTHER

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 5 September 2016.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Members frequently request information about setting up volunteer groups in new locations, or connected to specific technical subjects.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 This Regulation is to provide information to anyone interested in starting a new community, or who is concerned that their existing community is faltering. It is also to assist staff, and volunteers who are part of the communities governance structure.

3. Scope

- 3.1 This Regulation covers requests to start a new volunteer community which might come from a group keen to start activity in a specific location, or related to a specific technical area. Information for members is also available on the website or from the staff in the communities team.

4. Statement of Regulation

- 4.1 The IET supports groups of engineers around the world, whether united by their location, their area of specialism, or due to their age or career stage. Communities are provided with funding, tools, resources, and staff support as required, to deliver programmes of activity and / or opportunities for engineers to connect and collaborate, that help further the IET's strategic aims and objectives.
- 4.2 Communities come together to deliver a variety of activities depending on their interests, the level of volunteer contribution they have available to them, and the requirement of their area of expertise. Some communities exist purely online, offering engineers the opportunity to connect and share information, others deliver annual programmes of events, with many offering combinations in between.
- 4.3 The IET has a flexible operating model for communities that is sustainable and scalable because it is not reliant on staff support, but is predicated on the contribution of groups of volunteers. Staff support is available, but this is to provide guidance and support rather than to deliver activities on behalf of groups of volunteers.
- 4.4 The IET's portfolio of communities is managed by a governance structure of Communities Committees, overseen by the Communities Resourcing Committee. These governance groups, also made up of volunteers, set the strategy for community development around the world, and allocate funding and resources to communities, monitoring delivery and measuring success.

- 4.5 Bye-law 79 allows “Groupings of members, based on territory, knowledge or special interest may be established or disestablished. These groupings shall be established, constituted or disestablished, and their affairs carried on, in accordance with Regulations to be approved from time to time by the Board who shall have power to vary the same subject always to the provisions of the Charter and Bye-laws.”
- 4.6 This document constitutes the Regulations referred to in Bye-law 79.
- 4.7 Any individual or group of members keen to start a new community should first contact either the staff team, or members of the relevant governance group. If there is a group already in existence in either that location or subject area then you’ll be encouraged to join the existing group and the staff and volunteers will help make introductions. If you want to start a group in a new area, or there are cultural or geo-political reasons that make working with an existing group difficult, then the staff and volunteers can discuss with you the resource needed to start a new group. The Communities Resourcing Committee has the delegated authority to authorise the creation of new communities.
- 4.8 As long as there is sufficient volunteer resource available, and a community is still delivering activity aligned with the IET’s strategic aims and objectives, then it should never be necessary to ‘close’ or ‘disestablish’ a community. However, there may be times when a lack of volunteer resource, or a desire from a community to move away from supporting the IET’s strategy, may mean that a community ceases to be active. The authority to close a community sits with the Communities Resourcing Committee.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- 5.1 Any member of staff, and volunteers supporting the IET via the communities governance structure, asked to advise members on how the IET will support volunteer activity, should be aware of this regulation and follow the related procedures.