

On subgroups. Version 3 dd 15-08-2003

These are some preliminary thoughts;
I am open to ideas, comments and suggestions.

In version 3

- events have disappeared
- SG -> SIG
- sponsoring has been left out
- major rewrite w.r.t version 2

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Motivation (not part of the bylaws)

FME does not yet have proper regulations for subgroups; there are neither regulations on the financial responsibilities between FME and its subgroups, nor ones on possibly combined membership between FME and FME subgroups.

Nor does FME have any proper regulation about taking part in a larger organisation.

This note tries to rectify this situation by sketching a framework covering the above issues.

This note may become part of the 'huishoudelijk reglement' (by-laws) of the 'vereniging' (association) FME.

Start of the bylaws

Regulation 1: Special Interest Groups:

The FME board may establish Special Interest Groups (SIG) to further activities pursuant he aims of the association.

Explanatory note:

A SIG may be established for a range of activities such as:

- organisation of a symposium,
- covering special interests of members of FME,
- FME taking part in some larger organisation.

A SIG may be established for a particular event or for longer-term activities.

Regulation 2: Goals of the SIG:

A SIG of FME must subscribe to the goals of FME.

In order to be accepted as an FME SIG, the following information must be provided to the board of FME:

- the goals of the SIG; the benefits for its members,

- the intended benefits for FME,
- the organizational structure of the SIG,
- the membership requirements of the SIG,
- the legal status of the SIG,
- financial structure of the SIG.

The board of FME may undertake inquiries and seek opinions on a proposal for SIG formation. It may then decide to accept or decline the application of a proposed SIG.

Regulation 3: Membership and board of Special Interest Groups

A SIG can consist of one or more individuals or can be an institutional member of FME.

An independent organisation may also apply as a SIG of FME

The SIG shall have a member designated as the Convener.

The convener must be a member of FME.

Explanatory note:

Members of a SIG may be, but need not be members of FME, although they are encouraged to become so.

Regulation 4: Special Interest Group reporting:

Annually, and upon the termination of a SIG, the board of an SIG will provide FME with a report on:

- which purposes of the SIG have been obtained and how this has been accomplished,
- the financial status of the SIG.

The report should be received by the FME secretariat no later than one month before the Annual General Meeting of FME.

Regulation 5: Parting company:

FME and the SIG may go their separate ways again at the request of either of the two.

Before they can part, however, any mutual financial obligations have to be resolved.

Regulation 6: Shared responsibilities:

FME and a SIG may enter into a co-operation sharing responsibilities.

This co-operation will usually take the form of a contract regulating responsibilities, (financial) risks and returns.

Explanatory note:

Because:

- The organization of a large event (e.g. an FME-symposium), entails considerable investments and risks, and,
- FME finances depend on income generated during such events:

FME and a SIG may decide on a financial co-operation to share the risk of such an event.

Regulation 7: Declination of responsibilities:

Members of a SIG are not empowered to enter into contracts and/or obligations on behalf of FME.

Such remains the sole responsibility and and authority of the board of FME.

Explanatory note:

In no way can FME be held responsible for any decisions taken in one of its SIGs.

SIGs are responsible for handling their own tax duties.

In particular FME cannot be held financially responsible for any deficit of one of its SIGs, unless this is agreed upon in a contract regulating the financial responsibilities of FME and the particular SIG. In the latter case, the financial responsibilities of FME are explicitly restricted to the contractually defined amount.

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