

European Summer School in Information Retrieval (ESSIR) Steering Committee

The European Summer School in Information Retrieval (ESSIR) is a scientific event founded in 1990, which gave rise to a series of Summer Schools held on a regular temporal basis to provide high quality teaching of information retrieval and advanced information retrieval topics to a mostly European audience of researchers and research students. ESSIR is typically a week-long event consisting of guest lectures and seminars from invited lecturers who are recognized experts in the field.

The role of the ESSIR Steering Committee is to ensure that the ESSIR Summer school series continues to meet the needs of European students of information retrieval. In particular, maintaining the quality and frequency of the ESSIR summer schools are the main responsibility of the Steering Committee.

In order to promote continuity and quality of ESSIR Summer Schools, the membership of the Steering Committee consists of past organizers of ESSIR plus the organizer of any forthcoming ESSIR Summer School. The organizer(s) of the latest edition of ESSIR Summer School normally act(s) as chair(s) of the Steering Committee until the completion of the next edition when the chair responsibility is passed over to the organizer(s) of the newly completed edition. Each member will normally join the committee on the date of approval of the ESSIR they are scheduled to organize, and serve until they rotate out on a first-in/first-out basis when the steering committee reaches a total of nine previous and known future Summer School organizers. The Committee may meet as part of an ESSIR Summer School or may conduct its business electronically, and has the power to co-opt additional members for specific meetings. The current membership of the steering committee is as follows:

- Maristella Agosti (organizer ESSIR 1990, Bressanone; organizer ESSIR 2000, Varenna)
- Keith van Rijsbergen (organizer ESSIR 1995, Glasgow)
- Fabio Crestani (organizer ESSIR 2000, Varenna)
- Gabriella Pasi (organizer ESSIR 2000, Varenna)
- Catherine Berrut (organizer ESSIR 2003, Aussois) (chair)
- Yves Chiaramella (organizer ESSIR 2003, Aussois) (chair)
- Alan Smeaton (organizer ESSIR 2005, Dublin).

Individual ESSIR Summer Schools are organized and run by individual institutions, which may be commercial, academic or public sector. It is the Steering Committee's responsibility to select an appropriate institution to run each ESSIR Summer School and to give that institution whatever advice is needed to ensure the smooth and effective running of the Summer School. The selection process will be based on an open competition, under terms set out in an "invitation to tender" document which will be distributed to all those with a known interest in ESSIR, and placed on whatever ESSIR websites are in existence.

Invitations to tender will normally be issued at least two years in advance of the expected date of the Summer School and the Steering Committee will consider all bids received before the advertised deadline, taking into account the proposed Summer School venue, timing and location, programme, likely financial viability and plans for organization and publicity. Members of the Steering Committee whose institutions are bidding to host a Summer School are excused from evaluating proposals for that bid. A final decision will be taken by the Steering Committee and both successful and unsuccessful bidders informed as soon as possible after that date. The Steering Committee's decision is final and no appeals will be permitted.

January 2005