

Open Badge Network

Steering Committee – Statutes

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Statutes for the Open Badge Network

I. Mission, Vision and Goals

Mission

To establish Open Badge Network as a trusted source of independent information, tools and informed practice, facilitating a badge ecosystem to be developed across Europe.

Vision

- Remain an active and visible network representing the needs of the European Open Badge community (both across Europe and globally),
- remain a growing resource bank providing information on Open Badge developments, guidance and best practice to support organisations and individuals to implement badges,
- play an active role strategically to stimulate and influence discussions on Open Badges across education, employment and policy settings,
- facilitate a community of practice to develop via the OBN portal, on-site and online events.

Goals

1. Advocate the adoption of Mozilla's Open Badge standard across Europe to recognise learning achievements gained in variety of contexts,
2. provide information, guidelines and case studies to enable the widest possible adoption of Open Badges across policy, education, employers, service providers and individuals,
3. to maintain the network of strategic of partners and experts who can amplify, provide support and promote best practice for use of Open Badges across Europe and beyond, to grow the audience for this network.

II. Definitions, name, seat, legal status

Definitions

Open Badge Network (OBN): a 3-year-long Erasmus + project (running Sept 2015 – Aug 2017) which brings together organisations from across Europe (see: original OBN project partners) to support the development of an Open Badge ecosystem, promoting the use of Open Badges to recognise non-formal and informal learning.

OBN Community: within the framework of the OBN project a community has been established for those who are interested in the topic of Open Badges. Badge novices or experts are equally invited to this community. Members of the OBN Community are the original OBN project partners and OBN associated partners

OBN original project partners: Beuth University from Germany, CamProf and DigitalMe from the UK, EDEN from Scotland, ITeE from Poland, Artes from Italy, Supsi from Switzerland and DUO from the Netherlands.

OBN associated partner: a member of the OBN Community, active (or planning to become active) in one or more of the following:

- issuing open badges
- supporting the dissemination of Open Badge Network tools and information across European networks and sectors
- sharing information about existing open badge tools, materials and events
- sharing models of best practice
- establishing a localised Open Badge Network in a territory
- helping to influence policy at a national/European level and shape the future direction of the Open Badge Network in Europe
- contributing feedback, information and resources to the development of Open Badge tools, materials and infrastructure
- raising awareness with employers and opportunity providers who can build currency
- recognising or endorsing badges as an awarding body
- or any other activity associated with Open Badges

OBN Steering Committee: the Board responsible for sustaining the results of the Open Badge Network project, and keeping the OBN Community active, after the lifetime of the project.

OBN Members: an OBN associated partner or an OBN original project partners or an OBN Steering Committee member.

Status of the Network, Name and Seat

The **OBN Project** will officially end August 31, 2017.

The Steering Committee will take over governance over OBN project results and the OBN community on September 1, 2017, under the name “**Open Badge Network**”.

The virtual seat of the network will be the portal: www.openbadgenetwork.com

The Open Badge Network will start functioning as an informal network. At a later stage a legal status might be considered.

At the start, September 1, 2017, the Steering committee will be formed by representatives of the original OBN project partners:

- *Beuth University*
- *CamProf*
- *DigitalMe*
- *EDEN*
- *ITeE*
- *Artes*
- *DUO*

In a later stage, the composition o the Steering Group may change

The chair of the Steering Committee will be Beuth University

A secretariat will be hosted by

III. Structure, bodies of the network

OBN Steering Committee

Members of this committee have a strong intrinsic motivation to advocate for Open Badges, and raise the profile of themselves and/or their organisations within the European Open Badge community.

One of the Steering Committee members will be appointed as the chair, and one as the secretary/secretariat.

A Steering Committee member should be one of the following:

- a network leaders who can support the dissemination of OBN outputs across Europe (ranging across learning, employment, voluntary settings)

- a policy leader/National Agency, who can influence change at a national/European level
- thought leaders /influential individuals who can both inform and share OBN work within Europe and globally
- employers or other organisations who have a certain “position” and can help raise awareness through recognising or endorsing badges
- a partner who is willing to invest some time (and maybe some financial funds) in managing the “Secretariat”

Foreseen activities Committee:

- initiating projects and stimulating discussions on Open Badges at education, employment and policy levels
- belonging to the ones influencing the evolution of Open Badges and policies around them
- initiate new collaborations
- acting as a speaker on seminars & congresses, especially the own networking event
- stimulating and guarding the actuality of the content on the portal
- publishing articles, blogs
- quarterly (Skype?) meetings of the Committee
- preparing the agenda for the network meeting
- invite associate partners to join the steering committee
- appoint a chair
- appoint a secretariat
- change/append this statutes
- fundraising

Foreseen activities Secretariat:

- planning and organising the committee meetings
- managing the Portal and keeping all the OBN end products available to the greater public
- managing other Open Online resources (like MOOC's)
- organising a yearly networking event
- publishing a half yearly newsletter (before and after the networking event)
- calling authors, for writing blogs for the website and newsletter....

OBN Special Interest Groups

The Steering Committee, or one or more members of the OBN can decide to start a special interest group, on a certain theme or subject. The secretariat can create a dedicated Portal-page and/or a place within the forum, for this group.

IV. Participation in the network

Participation

Registering as an OBN Associated partner is possible through the Portal. A user account is granted, and the person or organisation is a member of the Open Badge Network, and has access to all the outputs of the project, and has access to the discussion forum, thus having a platform for questions, sharing information and discussion.

All members of the OBN network receive invitations for the yearly networking event and optional other events in the future.

All members of the OBN network receive the bi-annual newsletter

Ending participation

Unregistering as an OBN Associated partner is possible, by deleting the user account. From that moment on, access to the portal is no longer possible, and the former member is opted out from newsletters and emails.

V. Governance

Decisions

The Steering committee's decisions are made democratically. Majority vote will decide upon actions to be taken or decisions to be made.

Vacancies

The Steering committee can invite associate partners to join the steering committee, appoint a new chair or a new chair, at any moment where such an action seems necessary

Attendance at meetings

Attendance at the yearly OBN network meetings is open to anyone interested in Open Badges. An attendance fee may be requested. There may be a difference between the fee requested from OBN members and others.

Attendance at meetings of the Steering Committee is open to members of the Steering Committee and invitees.

Sponsorship

One or more of the Steering Committee can be assigned the task of fund raiser, and organise necessary funding for the annual network meeting, or other activities of OBN

VI. Communication

The OBN Portal

Contains all formal intellectual outputs, produced during the lifetime of the project, and:

- a news blog
- a registration option for new members
- a forum for discussions
- the option to comment on news articles or other

The Newsletter

A bi-annual newsletter is distributed amongst the OBN-members, publishing news articles, announcing the next networking event, or reporting about results of the last one.

The Annual Network Meeting

The Steering Committee decides the place and date the annual Open Badge Network meeting is held. It decides too about the agenda of this meeting.

This meeting can be held in cooperation with, or under the umbrella of other related major events, like the Mozfest in the past.

VII. Finance

Finance

Membership of OBN is free. (This may be subject to change in the future)

Apart from what is described in the paragraph “Sponsorship”, there will be no regular source of income for the Open Badge Network. (This may be subject to change in the future)

VIII. Other

Intellectual Property Rights

All the work from the Open Badge Network is licensed under a Free Culture Licence Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

Professional behaviour expected

Members of OBN, especially the steering committee, are expected to behave according to generally accepted professional standards and to refrain from fraudulent and otherwise unethical practices.

Conflict of interest policy

Participants who are undertaking activities on behalf of the Open Badge Network must avoid any potential conflicts between their personal, professional or business interests and the interests of the Network.

Dissolution

The decision to dissolve the network can be made by the Steering Committee