

## *Bebras Community*

# **Statutes**

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## **Foreword**

The Bebras International Challenge on Informatics and Computational Thinking (short: Bebras Challenge) was founded in 2004 by Valentina Dagiene in Lithuania. As an easily accessible contest for students of all school ages, it serves to promote informatics and to support informatics education. In the following years, in more and more countries, the Bebras idea found followers who annually met to develop tasks for Bebras. Now, the Bebras Challenge has spread all over the world. Bebras challenges are taking place all over the world, and millions of participants have a positive experience with informatics and computational thinking and the opportunity to discover or challenge their talent in this area.

The community of organizations that run Bebras challenges has become quite large. While in the early years of Bebras their representatives formed a small group of closely related enthusiasts, now hundreds of people (including everyone working only on a national level) are involved in the preparation of the annual challenges. Bebras has grown and grown up. In order to ensure a stable and continuous development and to allow for further growth, the Bebras Community decided to formulate and adopt the following statutes.

# 1 Preamble / The Bebras Community

- S1 The *Bebras Community* is an association of organizations which are involved with informatics<sup>1</sup> and educational activities in this area.
- S2 It is the goal of the Bebras Community to promote informatics and computational thinking among teachers and young people in particular, among decision-makers in the area of education, and to the public at large.
- S3 As a central tool to achieve this goal, the community members organize easily accessible and highly motivating online challenges in many countries. Each of these challenges follows the pattern of the *Bebras International Challenge on Informatics and Computational Thinking* (“Bebras Challenge” further on), and is therefore referred to as *national Bebras Challenge*.
- S4 The working language of the Bebras Community is English.
- S5 This document defines the statutes of the Bebras Community. The Bebras Community may accept further documents as appendices to the statutes. Alternatively, other documents may be accepted as guidelines which are not mandatory and are not part of the statutes.

## 2 Membership

- S6 The members of the Bebras Community are organizations responsible for running a national Bebras Challenge in their country. For the Bebras Community, a country is a state that has an officially recognized relationship with the United Nations, UNESCO, or the International Olympic Committee.
- S7 A member organization of the Bebras Community is referred to as *National Bebras Organizer* (NBO)<sup>2</sup>. There may be only one NBO per country.
- S8 The Bebras Community lives on contributions by its members. In particular, NBOs are asked to contribute tasks to the Bebras Challenge. The Bebras Community equally welcomes all other contributions which the Bebras Community and its members will benefit from.
- S9 The Bebras Community requires an NBO (among other duties mentioned later on)
  - 9.1 to have expertise in the area of informatics education, nationally or internationally;
  - 9.2 to annually organize a national Bebras Challenge in its country;
  - 9.3 to promote the national Bebras Challenge and provide the resources necessary to make the challenge available to as many young people in the country as possible;
  - 9.4 to make visible to the public that their national activities are part of the international activities of the Bebras Community, and to provide a website that can be used by the Bebras Community to point to the NBOs national activities;
  - 9.5 to provide a contact person and contact data for permanent liaisons with the Bebras Community; and
  - 9.6 to annually report about its activities to the Bebras Community.

1 The term „informatics“ is consistently used throughout this document. It refers to the science and the school subject that in other contexts may better be known as „computer science“ or „computing“.

2 The terms “NBO” and “member” are used interchangeably throughout this document.

- S10 If an NBO misses to meet the requirements or to make contributions, its membership in the Bebras Community may be suspended or dismissed.
- S11 The Bebras Community may accept new members from countries without an NBO. Organizations from a country with an NBO are invited to get in touch with the respective NBO to form a joint NBO organization. In particular, this holds when the respective NBO is currently suspended.
- S12 In order to become a new member of the Bebras Community, an appropriate organization needs to apply to the Bebras Board (cf. Section 3.3). In its application, the organization is to lay out if and how it is planning to satisfy the requirements mentioned in S9.
- S13 There are two states of membership: provisional and full. Any general reference to members includes both provisional and full members.
- 13.1 Decision on an application for membership (provisional and full) will be based on the applicant's fulfilment of the requirements set out in S9.
- 13.2 After having been accepted as new member, an organization will be a provisional NBO.
- 13.3 Beginning with the first International Bebras Workshop (see section 3.1) after becoming a provisional NBO,
- (a) a provisional NBO may apply to become a full NBO after at least two years, and after running at least two national Bebras challenges (perhaps as trials); and
- (b) an NBO must not remain provisional for more than four years.

## **3 Organization, Bodies, Office Bearers and Duties**

### **3.1 International Bebras Workshop**

- S14 The Bebras Community has an annual meeting, the *International Bebras Workshop*. The main goal of the workshop is to work on tasks for the next national Bebras Challenges; therefore, the main result of the workshop is the *annual Bebras task pool*. Moreover, the workshop must offer opportunities for exchanging the experiences and best practices of organising a Bebras challenge and utilising it in informatics education.
- S15 The workshop is organized by the *Workshop Host*, usually an NBO. Among the duties of the workshop host are to provide accommodation, food, and the infrastructure (rooms, electricity, internet access, ...) needed by the workshop participants.
- S16 The workshop host may ask for a participation fee from workshop participants. This fee is to cover the cost of organising the workshop and must be accepted by the Bebras Board (cf. Section 3.3). The workshop host is expected to avoid or reduce fees with the help of sponsors; the Bebras Community supports the host in the search for sponsors.
- S17 Each NBO should send at least one delegate to the workshop. The workshop host may invite individuals not related to any NBO as guests, if approved by the Board. Guests will be given access to Bebras resources only as far as required by their contributions at the workshop.

### **3.2 International Bebras Committee**

- S18 The *International Bebras Committee* (IBC) is composed of NBO representatives. During the International Bebras Workshop, all NBO delegates are considered IBC members. For all IBC actions to be taken in between the workshops, each NBO nominates one representative as a member of the IBC.
- S19 The IBC is the main decision body of the Bebras Community. Among its duties are
- 19.1 to decide about full membership, including suspension and dismissal;
  - 19.2 to decide about changes to the statutes, including appendices;
  - 19.3 to decide about guidelines for the work of the Bebras Community;
  - 19.4 to elect members of other Bebras Community bodies, as well as office-bearers.
- S20 The IBC will decide on proposals made by the Board or those brought forward by a group of at least 3 NBOs at a workshop.
- S21 The IBC meets once a year at the International Bebras Workshop. In between the workshops, the IBC is expected to use appropriate means of communication for discussion and decision-making.
- S22 In general, IBC decisions need to be voted on. In IBC meetings, voting is on the basis of “one vote per full NBO”.
- 22.1 For a decision to be accepted, at least half of those entitled to vote must cast a valid vote.
  - 22.2 For a decision to be accepted, at least 2/3 of the valid non-abstaining votes must be in favor.
  - 22.3 In between the workshops, virtual votes may be organized.

### **3.3 Bebras Board**

- S23 The *Bebras Board* is the executive body of the Bebras Community. It is responsible for all ongoing business of the Bebras Community. Among the duties of the Bebras Board are
- 23.1 to deal with membership issues such as receiving applications, accepting new provisional members, checking with NBOs for satisfaction of NBO requirements, suggesting suspensions or dismissals of membership to the IBC;
  - 23.2 to find hosts for upcoming International Bebras Workshops;
  - 23.3 to support workshop hosts;
  - 23.4 to manage financial issues as being related to the international operations of the Bebras Community;
  - 23.5 to prepare proposals for changes to the statutes;
  - 23.6 to report to the IBC with at least one written summary of all activities per year.
- S24 The Bebras Board consists of six voting members who are elected by the IBC, and a seventh voting member who is nominated by the host of the next International Bebras Workshop. The Board may co-opt further individuals to assist the Board in fulfilling its duties. In particular, the Bebras Board should involve representatives of future workshop hosts in its work.

- S25 Elected members of the Bebras Board serve for a term of three years. Each year, two members are elected by the IBC. Re-election is possible.
- S26 From its elected members, the Bebras Board chooses one as chair. The other members will take over other responsibilities as needed. In addition, the Board may appoint a secretary as a non-voting member for a term of three years.
- 26.1 The *Bebras Board Chair* is the main representative of the Bebras Community both within the Bebras Community and to the outside world.
- 26.2 The *Bebras Secretary* is responsible for minuting meetings and organizing appropriate means of communication amongst the bodies and office-bearers of the Bebras Community.
- 26.3 The Bebras Board Chair has the right to propose an appropriate person to the Board for the secretary position. The chair overlooks the work of the secretary and may organize compensation for the secretary's work.
- S27 The Bebras Board meets during the International Bebras Workshop. In between the workshops, the Bebras Board is expected to use appropriate means of communication for discussion and decision-making.
- S28 The Bebras Board is supported by long-term, standing committees, dealing with (a) *membership*, (b) *task handling* (in preparation of the workshop), and (c) *technical issues*.
- S29 The IBC may install further temporary committees.
- S30 Each committee must consist of at least three members. The Bebras Board is obliged to support the work of all committees. For that purpose, at least one Board member is associated with each committee.

## 4 Bebras Challenge

- S31 The Bebras Challenge is implemented by the national Bebras Challenges that are organized by the NBOs.
- S32 A national Bebras Challenge needs to meet the following requirements:
- 32.1 It should take place during the *International Bebras Week*, the dates of which are set by a decision of the IBC. For countries in the northern hemisphere, the Bebras Week is usually the second full week of November. For countries in the southern hemisphere, a different week may be chosen.  
An NBO may ask the Bebras Board for exemption from this requirement.
- 32.2 It should be offered to participants of different ages. Participants should be students of primary or secondary education.
- 32.3 It should be offered nation-wide, i.e. not be limited to a region or specific part of a country. In a multi-lingual country, the national Bebras challenge should be available in as many official languages as possible and asked for.
- 32.4 It should draw a major part of its tasks from the annual Bebras task pool.
- 32.5 The majority of its tasks should not require foreknowledge in informatics.
- 32.6 It should be organized as a non-profit offering. Participation fees may be required in order to cover organizational cost.

S33 Each NBO takes full responsibility for its national Bebras Challenge, and is free to decide about organizational details within the requirements listed above. The Bebras Community cannot be made liable, financially or legally, for any issues arising with respect to any national Bebras Challenge.

## **5 Revision of the Statutes**

S34 Revisions of the statutes may be proposed by the Bebras Board or by at least three NBOs together.

S35 Revisions of the statutes require a decision by the IBC.