

# LarKC Community Working Group Charter

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This document is the charter of the LarKC Community Process Working Group of the [Semantic Technology Institute \(STI\) International](#).

## [LarKC Community Working Group Charter](#)

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## 1. Mission

The LarKC FP7 project designed and implemented a platform for large scale semantic computation, and particularly for experimentation on new forms of large scale semantic computation. This platform also supports a number of plug-in modules that perform data curation and inference tasks, work-flows that make use of the LarKC platform and plug-ins to perform tasks, and instrumentation and management tools. The LarKC project products are beginning to be used in other projects, and have been developed under permissive open source licences that encourage wide use, but, to realise the full promise of LarKC will require an ongoing community process for software development, adoption, dissemination, research into large scale heterogeneous inference, and general community building. The purpose of this working group is to 1) Maintain the LarKC project products in good condition, moving them, where possible, to a small set of repositories that impose minimal dependencies on the administrative requirements of particular institutions; 2) Curate those products, extending and enhancing those that will be of most use to an ongoing LarKC Community Process, and appropriately archiving those more particularly related to the LarKC FP7 Project; 3) Maintain software development on the LarKC platform under a permissive open source software licence, and selected other tools under licences as permissive as possible, with a particular focus on maintaining the ability to perform cutting edge R&D on top of LarKC, 4) Encourage and support widespread research, commercial, educational and enthusiast use of the platform and tools; and 5) Design and implement a permanent LarKC Community process, with an associated organisational embodiment, and transfer the responsibilities of this working group to that organisation.

## 2. Scope

The WG is intended to bring into existence a permanent, large and vibrant LarkKC user community, and a community process with the organisational strength to support that community. Pending transfer of responsibility to that Community and its organisational embodiment, the WG has the responsibility to maintain and promote the LarkKC software and other work products.

## 3. Out of scope

This WG is not intended to serve as a permanent organisational home for LarkKC.

## 4. Deliverables

All existing LarkKC FP7 Project Consortium work-products and deliverables will be the input to this WG, with the exception of work-products explicitly claimed by LarkKC consortium members, as enumerated completely in Annex 1 of this charter, and with the exception of any work-products that might result in legal or ethical jeopardy for the WG, STI International, or their members or successors, or are otherwise excluded at the discretion of the WG.

The WG will produce the following documents, which in some cases have associated actions to be taken, which actions are to be enumerated with the documents. The documents shall be produced in a format to be decided upon by the members of the WG.

1) Resource Plan: A detailed plan for the disposition of living and/or archival versions of the LarkKC source forge (on SourceForge unless necessity dictates otherwise), manuals, wikis and web sites, tutorial materials, and deliverables. Once the resource plan is produced and accepted by the WG, a committee of the WG will be assigned the task of executing it.

2) Dissemination Plan: A program for rapidly growing the user community. Once the dissemination plan is produced and accepted by the WG, a committee of the WG will be assigned the task of executing it.

3) Charter for the Successor Organization: A founding charter for the successor organisation. Once this “Successor Charter” has been produced and accepted by the WG, a vote to accept it should be held. If that vote passes, the WG will be dissolved, and its duties will pass to the successor, in a manner to be detailed in the Successor Charter.

4) Periodic maintenance releases of the LarkKC software outputs, as needed, but approximately quarterly as a minimum rate.

5) Other planning and descriptive materials, as decided by the WG.

The process of developing the deliverables is as follows:

1. Each deliverable under development has a set of **Editors** (appointed by the WG Chairs), responsible for updating the content of the deliverable. The editors publish the first dated **Working Draft** (as described in [Section 8](#)) with an initial version number 0.1.
2. Apart from editors, a deliverable may have a greater list of Authors, which serves to acknowledge that these individuals have contributed significantly, but weren't involved as editors.

3. The editors may update the deliverable at any time and publish a new Working Draft, notifying the Working Group about the new update.
4. Every deliverable in an advanced stage of development has at least one **Reviewer** (approved by the WG Chairs). When the editors consider the deliverable finished, they will propose to do a final formal review with the Reviewer(s); less formal early reviews are encouraged.
5. After the final formal review, the editors report on the reviewer comments, how they were handled, and may propose the deliverable to be closed by the WG. The WG may then publish a dated **Final Draft**, potentially with an increased version number (e.g. 1.0 for mature material).
6. The Working Group may, at any time, start a new version of a Final Draft deliverable; the selected Editors should then proceed to publish a first dated Working Draft with the appropriate increased version number; then the deliverable process is repeated.

## 5. Schedule and duration

This schedule is approximate, and may be modified by agreement of the WG;

- 1) Three months: Dissemination Plan
- 2) Four months: Resource Plan
- 3) Four months, 8 months, 12 months, 16 months: LarKC software releases, and roadmap for the next release

It is anticipated that the WG will take no more than 2 years to effect the transfer of responsibility, but this duration may be extended in case of necessity as agreed by the WG members. Any duties of the WG unfulfilled at the time of founding of its successor under the terms of the Successor Charter and consequent dissolution may be transferred to that successor.

## 6. Participation

The initial Chairs of the WG are: Frank van Harmelen (Frank.van.Harmelen@cs.vu.nl) and Michael Witbrock (witbrock@cycorp.eu). The anticipated initial member organisations of the WG, which have committed to provide resources to the WG, are VUA, WICI, Cycorp Europe, IJS, UIBK and Softgress. Those organisations will be invited to name representatives to the WG as the first act of the working group, with the chairs acting as representatives for their respective organisations. Immediately on selection of the initial member organisation representatives, they shall select from their number an additional chair or chair, or remove one of the initial chairs, so as to maintain an odd number of chairs.

The role of the Chairs is to guide and moderate the discussions, to appoint deliverable editors and reviewers, and to assure the timely progress of the Working Group. For ease of resolving disputes, the number of chairs should be an odd number.

The Working Group is open to participation by individuals delegated from organisations members of the original and expanded LarKC consortium, delegates of organisations whose offer of dedicated staff time is accepted by the WG, or others who are invited by the WG to join and for whom there is universal assent by the chairs and majority assent by the members. All participants must agree to this charter and abide by its rules, otherwise they may be removed from the WG.

Prospective participants may contact the WG by sending a simple request by email to at least one of the WG Chairs. Withdrawal from the WG may be effected in the same manner. The Chairs shall maintain a list of active WG participants.

Every deliverable under development is maintained by its Editors. Other members of the WG are expected to provide comments or other contributions, or raise issues. In case of disagreement within the WG, the members should seek the most suitable solution to the issue at hand with respect to its tendency to facilitate the community adoption and management of LarKC. Continuing disagreements may be resolved by the Chairs, by consensus if possible, but by majority vote if necessary.

It may be helpful for the Working Group to maintain a list of issues and their resolutions, however, this is not required, as sufficient record (especially in case of dissent) may be provided in the form of meeting notes and mailing list archives.

## 7. Meetings

The Working Group is expected to hold frequent regular distributed meetings (e.g. teleconferences), scheduled by the Chairs to optimize participation.

The Working Group may also organize face-to-face meetings, in order to utilize the increased bandwidth of such a setting. In case of limited participation in such a meeting, the WG should communicate the notes of the meeting to the participants who were absent, to give them a chance to catch up and comment.

## 8. Communication, confidentiality

The Working Group maintains a public website at [larkc.eu](http://larkc.eu) which contains this charter, links to the mailing list and its archive (as specified below) and all the deliverables, both final and those under development. All technical discussions by the WG should be public, unless they involve the prospective public release by the WG of material, to be included in LarKC, that is not at the time of discussion publically released. The WG Chairs will appoint the administrator(s) of the website.

The WG website (or other information sharing network site of the WG's choice) may contain an area restricted only to formal WG participants, with information such as contact lists, meeting schedules and other administrative information. The Working Group will communicate electronically by any means it finds convenient.

Any Working Drafts and Final Drafts produced by this WG will bear a version number and a date. The policy for forming deliverable URIs is specified by the website administrator.

## 9. IPR policy

The Working Group (represented legally by STI International) will be the holder of record for the copyright to all deliverables produced by the WG. Where legally possible, copyright of LarKC deliverables produced during the LarKC project should be transferred to the WG. If this is not possible, the affected documents should be licenced by their copyright holder under a permissive Creative Commons (CC0 or CCby) licence. In the case of source or executable code deliverables (either from this WG or LarKC), the deliverable should be licenced under a licence no more restrictive than an Apache 2.0 Licence (a more detailed definition of this restriction exists in the LarKC IP deliverables, and should be referred to if clarification is needed). The deliverable editors must ensure that their deliverables do not infringe on copyright held by

external parties. The chairs may at their sole discretion, prevent the publication or other dissemination of any material for which reasonable suspicion exists that the material is not licenced in a form that permits its dissemination under the requirements of this Charter, until that suspicion has been allayed, or indefinitely if it is not.

Any registered names and trade marks are held by their respective owners, and should only be used by the WG in ways that are permitted by the holders. Organizations represented in this Working Group should generally not restrict the use of their registered names and trade marks in the deliverables of this Working Group, and any limitations should be clarified early, in order to avoid issues when the work is advanced; failure to either make a timely notification or to provide a licence for use may result in the removal of an organisation from the WG..

The participants of this Working Group make a commitment to license any patents core to implementing the technology developed by the LarKC project or by this WG on a Royalty-Free basis to any and every interested party, unless a specific patent is explicitly exempted from this commitment. A patent is exempted if the participant does not have the authority to license the patent on a Royalty-Free basis, or if the participant does have the authority but chooses not to license the patent on a Royalty-Free basis.

Each participant must disclose all such exempted patents of which they are aware (i.e. the participants need not perform an exhaustive patent search), as soon as possible after the moment when they become aware of the patent. Patent disclosures must be communicated to all the Chairs of the WG, and the Chairs should strive to resolve the situation so that implementations of the deliverables produced by the WG do not require any non-Royalty-Free patent licences. Failure to licence a patent, necessary for the operation a deliverable, in the required manner, where the participant has the power to furnish such a licence, may result in the removal of that participant from the WG.

## **10. Updates to this charter**

This charter is maintained by Michael Witbrock. Only the Board of STI International may authorize changes to this charter.

# Annex 1: LarKC deliverables excluded from transfer to the WG

The following LarKC project deliverables have been identified by (a subset of) their creators or editors as containing materials incompatible with distribution under the terms of this charter. These are excluded from transfer to the WG, but this exclusion does not preclude the identification of a transferable subset of the materials to be licenced appropriately and delivered by this WG.

1. Concerning content contributed by CEFRIEL/PolIMI JRU:
  - a. - the content of all WP6 deliverable D6.1-D6.11 is available under CC-by (apart from the papers attached to the deliverables for which the publisher copyright holds)
  - b. - the content of D2.6.1, D2.6.2, D3.3, D4.6.1 is available under CC-by (apart from the papers attached to the deliverables for which the publisher copyright holds)
  - c. - all the plug-ins in the marketplace are available under open source licenses, primarily Apache 2.0.
  - d. None of: the C-SPARQL Engine, the BOTTARI plug-ins and any external software which is not included in the released plug-ins are released by their creators or are to be released under open source licenses; these pieces of code are not in the plug-in marketplace.
  - e. D3.7 and D4.6.2 are not publicly available, because they contain material that has not been published, yet. The authors have not yet granted the right to this material to the WG at this time, but may do so after publication.
2. Concerning content contributed by VU University Amsterdam (VUA): Copyright of all deliverables will remain with VUA. All report deliverables are hereby made available under CC-by. All software deliverables are hereby made available under Apache 2.0 license.