

Guidelines for the ESA Conference

This document contains the steering committee (SC) guidelines for the European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA) conference. It is aimed at program committee (PC) chairs, organizing committee (OC) chairs, workshop organizers, test-of-time committee members, and other stakeholders in the conference. The SC should be consulted on matters arising during the organization of ESA conferences where additional advice or policy decisions are needed. Separate documents contain additional information for PC chair and organizing committees. The ESA webpages contain more information on recent and upcoming editions of the conference.

ALGO and ESA

Since 2001, ESA has been co-located with various algorithms workshops and conferences, together forming the ALGO conference. Workshops that wish to be part of ALGO should contact the OC well in advance (ideally one year ahead) with information about the workshop's topic, who is responsible for running it, the desired number and length of presentation slots, and expected number of participants. The OC decides which workshops are chosen for inclusion in consultation with the SC. The main criteria for inclusion are scientific value and practical feasibility. Priority should be given to workshops that have historically been part of ALGO, and thus may reasonably expect to be included again.

Bids for organizing ALGO. The steering committee welcomes bids for arranging ALGO in any European country. Historically ESA has also been held in Israel. Ideally, the bid is presented two years in advance and presented at ALGO's community meeting, such that members of the community can give feedback. The presentation for each candidate location should *not* be too long (about 5 minutes). The presentation should provide the following information:

- Who will be organizing?
- Which dates? (Should be Monday to Friday, around the first week of September.)
- What is the proposed location and how does one get there?
- What is the expected registration fee and cost range for accommodation?
- Will there be an on-line component, like streaming or recording of talks?

The SC may subsequently request more information. Late bids for hosting ALGO are also possible, and can be made by contacting the SC chair with a written description of the bid. Assuming that viable bids have been received, the SC makes a decision on the location of ALGO in year x by the end of the year $x - 2$.

ESA Program Committees

ESA currently has three tracks: Track A aimed at algorithm theory, track B aimed at algorithm engineering, and (since 2022) track S, focusing on simplicity in algorithms. Each track has its own program committee and separate chairs, but the PC chairs work together to jointly create a program for ESA.

The PC chairs of ESA year x are selected by the ESA SC about one year ahead, and no later than the end of year $x - 1$. In choosing PC chairs, the SC strives to reflect the international, open, and diverse community around ESA. Nobody should be a chair more than once in a 10-year period. The SC welcomes nominations of potential chairs from members of the community. There is no fixed format for nominations, but they should contain enough information to assess the suitability of the candidate, including how they would contribute to the international, open, and diverse community around ESA.

The SC may also appoint a publication chair who manages the publication process for the ESA proceedings together with the publisher. In absence of a publication chair the publication process is handled by the PC chairs. All assessment tasks are performed independently, and in particular are not influenced by the SC or the OC.

Invited Speakers

There are usually two plenary invited ALGO talks selected by the ESA PC chairs in collaboration with the OC. In particular, the OC should agree that the expenses for covering the travel costs of invited speakers can be covered by the ALGO budget. The selection of invited plenary speakers should ideally be coordinated with the ALGO workshops which may have their own invited speakers. Diversity is important when considering speaker invitations and it would be good to always have at least one speaker from an underrepresented group.

Publication

Starting in 2016, the proceedings of ESA conferences have been published in the LIPIcs series. The agreement with LIPIcs needs to be periodically renewed through a reapplication, currently every 5 years. The OC should take the processing charge of LIPIcs papers into account such that it can be covered by the budget. The PC chairs (and publication chair, if applicable) are editors of the LIPIcs volume.

Test-of-Time Award

- The ESA Test-of-Time Award recognizes paper(s) from ESA proceedings from 19-21 years prior (i.e., in year x papers from Procs. ESA $x - 21$, ESA $x - 20$, ESA $x - 19$ are considered) that have best met the “test of tim”.

(As a special case, the first ESA Test-of-Time Award, in 2015, considered papers ESA 1993–1996.)

- The winner of the ESA Test-of-Time Award is selected by a committee of three members, appointed by the SC. The regular term of an award committee member is three years. Since 2017 one award committee member leaves the committee each year.
- All papers from given years are eligible for the award, except those that are authored or co-authored by members of the awards committee.
- The prize may be shared by more than one paper, and the award committee reserves the right to declare no winner at all.
- Although the award committee may consult with the theoretical computer science community at large, it is solely responsible for the selection of the winner of the award. All matters relating to the selection process that are not specified here are left to the discretion of the award committee.
- The ESA (year x) Test-of-Time Award winners are announced around the end of year x . Moreover, the ESA year x Test-of-Time Award winners are presented at ESA year $x + 1$, typically by a talk on the result and its impact. The SC chair invites authors of ESA year x Test-of-Time Award papers to attend ESA year $x + 1$. If winners are unable to present their results, a substitute presenter may be appointed.