

Minutes of the 2024 SIRA Annual Conference

November 15, 2024 14:00 – 16:00

Physically in Zurich at the Department of Informatics of UZH and online in Zoom

Attendees

In person:

Christian Tschudin – UniBas, SIRA President

Martin Glinz – UZH (substitute for Burkhard Stiller) and SIRA Board member

Online in Zoom:

Philippe Cudré-Mauroux – UniFR

Paolo Favaro – UniBE

Pascal Felber – UniNE

Benoît Garbinato – UniL (15:10-end)

Matthias Grossglauser – EPFL and SIRA Board member

Matthias Hauswirth – USI and SIRA Board member

Christine Legner – SIRA Board member (14:00-14:57)

Stéphane Marchand-Maillet – UniGE (substitute for Giovanna Di Marzo Serugendo)

Kenny Paterson – ETHZ

Sandro Pedrazzini – SUPSI

1. Welcome and set-up

The president welcomes the participants. Initially, 11 voting members are present.

Minute keeper: Martin Glinz – approved

Agenda: Unanimously approved

2. Report on amending the bylaws of SIRA

The president repeats the information about acceptance of the two amendments of the SIRA statutes as reported by e-mail on October 23, 2024:

Ballots distributed: 21*

Votes received: 14

Valid votes: 14

Two-thirds majority of those voting: 10

Vote turnout rate: 66.7 %

*There are 19 institutions with an institutional vote, exercised by the respective SIRA representatives. Additionally, according to Article 5.3 lit. d of the SIRA statutes, two board members who are no representatives of their institutions have a vote ex officio.

Amendment of Article 5.4 (“Ambiguity Removal”)

The invitation to a SIRA Conference is to be distributed together with the agenda at least thirty days in advance. If this condition is fulfilled, then decisions of the SIRA Conference are binding. The SIRA Conference takes decisions by simple majority of those voting. Amendments to the Statutes require a two-thirds majority of those voting with yes, no, or abstention. Elections and decisions are held by open vote.

13 yes – 0 no – 1 abstention --> **Approved**

Amendment of Article 5.7 (“Legalize Hybrid/online SIRA Conferences”)

In lieu of a physical meeting of the SIRA Conference, the SIRA Board may decide to hold the SIRA Conference as an online or a hybrid (physical and online) meeting. The form of the meeting is communicated with the invitation. The SIRA Board ensures that the voting rights and the votes of online participants are recorded properly.

The SIRA Board may further request a decision of the SIRA Conference by letter or suitable electronic means from the SIRA members who have a vote in the SIRA Conference. In this case, at least 10 days must fall between the delivery of voting materials and the deadline for submitting ballots.

14 yes – 0 no – 0 abstentions --> **Approved**

3. Minutes of the SIRA Conference 2023

Paolo Favaro remarks that the name of Athina Tzovara was misspelled; this will be corrected. The minutes are unanimously approved with this change.

4. Report on activities, communications

There is not much to report from the previous year. SIRA has supported two conferences in 2024. For 2025, the board received six funding proposals with a total amount of 19 kCHF requested. The board has approved all proposals, but with significantly lower grants than those requested. The total amount of grants is 7.5 kCHF. The SIRA website has been renovated. The board tried to reserve the web domain sira.swiss, but our request was declined.

5. SIRA fees 2025 (unchanged)

The SIRA Board proposes to let the SIRA fees unchanged for 2025.

Decision: Unanimously approved

6. Approvals

Financial report of 2023

Martin Glinz presents the financial matters on behalf of our treasurer Siegfried Handschuh. The financial report of 2023 (Figure 1) has been sent to all SIRA representatives. SIRA legally is an association of its own, owning all its assets. SIRA has delegated all financial bookkeeping to SI. So the SIRA closing is also done by SI.

- The miscellaneous expense of CHF 527.10 in the closing of 2022 has turned out to be a mistake. SI Finances have re-booked this amount as an extraordinary income in 2023.
- The expenses of CHF 6'000.00 are for SIRA's membership in ParIDigi.

SIRA 2023 accounts

Profit and Loss

Expenditures SIRA		Income SIRA	
4001 SIRA contractual expenditures for SI	27'360.00	3000 Membership fees SIRA	44'400.00
4002 SIRA contractual expenditures for groupings	1'550.00	3110 Various: SI-SE Invoice wrongly paid by SIRA	527.10
4003 Contractual expenditures for SISR Active	2'180.00		
4004 Contractual expenditures for SISR Emeriti	980.00		
4100 Membership fees of SIRA in other organisations	6'000.00		
4200 SIRA events and event sponsorings	0.00		
6000 Admin costs	0.00		
6900 PoFi account costs	15.00		
80 Taxes and profit/losses			
8500 Taxes	0.00		
8900 Profit and losses			
Total spendings	38'085.00	Total Earnings	44'927.10

Accounting balance

10 Liquid assets		20 Passive	
1024 PF account SIRA	233'428.90	2000 Creditors	
		2001 Creditors SI	27'360.00
11 Debtors		2002 Creditors SIG	1'550.00
1110 Debtors billed	44'400.00	2003 Creditors SISR	3'160.00
1120 Debtors paid	-1'440.00		
Total Debtors	42'960.00	2990 Capital SIRA	238'003.90
		Profit	6'842.10
1300 Transitory Active	527.10		
Total Active	276'916.00	Total Passive	276'916.00

Figure 1. Financial closing 2023 of SIRA

Decision: The SIRA closing of 2023 is approved unanimously.

Discharge of the board

Decision: The SIRA Board is discharged with 5 yes and 6 abstentions (five abstentions by the Board members).

Budget 2025

Martin Glinz (on behalf of the treasurer) presents the budget for 2025 (Figure 2).

SIRA Budget 2025

	2025 Budget	2024 Expected	2024 Budget	2023 Closing	Comments
Income					
Membership fees (gross income)	43'320	44'040.00		44'400.00	Income for 2025 estimated from membership database
SI share of SIRA membership fees	-26'384	-26'768.00		-27'360.00	
SISR share of SIRA membership fees	-3'120	-3'120.00		-3'160.00	
SI SIGs share of SIRA membership fees	-1'550	-1'530.00		-1'550.00	
Other income				527.10	Other income in 2023: correction of a wrong booking in 2022
Net income (rounded to multiple of 100)	12'300	12'622.00	13'600	12'857.10	
Expenses					
Sponsoring ParlDigi	6'000	6'000.00	6'000	6'000.00	Or supporting a suitable SI-Event
SIRA Event 2024	1'000	0.00	2'000		
Support for major Informatics conferences in CH	7'500	6'500.00	7'500		
Other measures/events at discretion of the board	2'000	0.00	2'000		
Miscellaneous expenses	100	60.00	600	15.00	
Taxes	50	55.00	500		
Total expenses	16'650	12'615.00	18'600	6'015.00	
Deficit (-) / Surplus (+)	-4'350	7.00	-5'000	6'842.10	
Assets as of Jan 1 of indicated year	244'853	244'846.00	244'846	238'003.90	Estimate for 2025
Assets as of Dec 31 of indicated year	240'503	244'853.00	239'846	244'846.00	Estimates for 2024 and 2025

Figure 2. SIRA Budget 2025

Members have questions about conference funding by SIRA. The president shows the spreadsheet with the applications and the SIRA Board's decisions. Pascal Felber proposes to have two application deadlines per year instead of one. The SIRA Board will follow-up with this suggestion.

Decision: The SIRA budget 2025 is approved unanimously.

7. Elections

[14:57 Christine Legner leaves]

Pascal Felber volunteers act as a chair for the elections.

Election of the Board

The board members Martin Glinz, Matthias Grossglauser, Matthias Hauswirth, and Christian Tschudin run for re-election for another term. The board members Siegfried Handschuh and Christine Legner are not running for re-election. No further candidate is nominated. The conference decides to elect the candidates in corpore. According to article 5.4 of the SIRA statutes, the election is held by open vote.

Election result: 7 in favor, 3 abstentions (Martin Glinz voted yes as a substitute for UZH, not as a candidate)

All elected board members declare that they accept their election.

Election of the President

Christian Tschudin has served for two terms as president and cannot be re-elected for a third term. Unfortunately, the candidate search by the board has failed. No candidatures or nominations are made by the attendees.

Without a president, an association under Swiss Civil Law cannot function properly anymore.

To avoid such a situation, Christian Tschudin and Martin Glinz both offer to step in as an acting president until a new president is found.

The SIRA statutes say: "The president may be re-elected for at most one additional term."

Pascal Felber moves that this clause forbids re-election for three terms in a row, while it does not proscribe to elect a person who had been the president four years ago, which means that Martin Glinz (president from fall 2016 to fall 2020), is eligible as president. No attendee opposes. Martin Glinz confirms that he would accept being elected, but only to avoid a situation where SIRA would have no president anymore.

[13:10 Benoît Garbinato joins]

No attendee demands to discuss the candidacy of Martin Glinz in his absence.

Election result: 10 in favor, 1 abstention.

Martin Glinz declares that he accepts his election.

8. Relationship between SIRA and SI

As SIRA is a special interest group of SI, Martin Glinz, who is a member of the SI Board, informs about the impact of SI's plans to run the ECDL/ICDL certification business itself from January 2025 on. The attendees discuss the situation.

Decision (unanimous): The SIRA Board is tasked to investigate the situation further and come up with a motion or a small set of motions to be filed at the forthcoming extraordinary general assembly of SI concerning the 2025 budget proposal of SI.

9. Miscellaneous

No topics

The conference is closed a few minutes after 16:00.