

What do NMOs do?

According to a recent survey of NMOs, the most popular activity of IFAC NMOs is to organize IFAC Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops. Many NMOs also organize national conferences, and offer an awards program.

All IFAC NMOs are invited to appoint members to the IFAC technical committees.

Some NMOs organize TC meetings, sponsor PhD summer schools or lecture series, and participate in standards development.

What are the benefits of being an IFAC NMO?

According to a recent survey of NMOs, the following were perceived as a benefit by the majority of respondents:

1. International visibility
2. International connections/networking
3. Organizing IFAC conferences/workshops/symposia
4. Conference papers archived on PapersOnLine

What is the process to follow to propose a new NMO?

1. First, an organization needs to be chosen for the NMO. This should be a legal organization in the country. If a new organization will be created, it is advisable to contact a local lawyer regarding tax and other legal issues that may arise.
2. The group needs to send the Secretariat/Kurt Schlacher (in care of the Secretariat) a letter of intent, as well as copy of the group's constitution/statutes (both documents must be in English.)
Template available: Application-Letter-Template.docx
3. The secretariat sends these documents on to the IFAC Executive Board to check.
4. If the EB feels that the group fulfills the requirements for membership (this criteria is set out in the IFAC Constitution in Section 2)

<http://www.ifac-control.org/structure/IFAC%20Constitution-and-By-Laws.pdf>

then the application is voted on by the IFAC Council whether or not to recommend membership.

5. If the IFAC Council recommends membership, the application is voted on by the IFAC General Assembly (comprised of all of the IFAC NMOs.)

How long does the process take to become an NMO?

If an organization already exists that can function as the NMO, then not much time is needed for this step. The process of forming a new organization in a country could take many months or even more than a year, depending on how the organization is structured, and any legal issues that may arise.

The voting by the Executive Board, Council and General Assembly can be done by mail (it is not necessary to wait for a General Assembly meeting at an IFAC World Congress). The approval process may take a several weeks.

What is the typical model structure for an NMO?

Currently, there are 3 different models for an NMO:

1. People are members. Would people be willing to pay a membership fee to this organization annually to support it?
2. Organizations are members. Are there existing societies in the country who could become members of this new organization, and pay an annual fee to support its activities? Are there technical committees or societies of these organizations that are focused on automatic control?
3. The NMO is part of a national organization, such as a research center or national laboratory.

Based on a recent survey of NMOs, there were 14 NMOs in the first category, 8 in the second, and 3 in the third. There were also 2 NMOs that had a hybrid model of 1&2.

What should the level of NMO dues be?

Most NMOs pay 1500 euro per year. Countries with large economies pay 12,000 euro; many in Europe pay 3000 or 6000 euro.

As stated in the Constitution and Bylaws, each NMO can choose its level of membership (within the ordinary member category).

The reduced membership fee (500 euro) is for countries where the GDP is far outside the top 50.

The introductory member category (150 euro) is for countries that have not had an NMO for three years. The introductory membership category can be retained for up to one year after an IFAC event is organized. However, in this category, only TC members and not officers can be proposed.

Are there sample bylaws for NMOs available?

Many of them can be found on the websites of the relevant NMOs, for example:

Argentina: http://www.aadeca.org/html/institucional/institucional_historia.php

Austria: <http://www.ifac-austria.at/>

India: <http://www.acdos.org/>

South Africa: <http://sacac.org.za/about/>

Switzerland: http://www.sga-asspa.ch/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5&Itemid=5

UK: http://ukacc.group.shef.ac.uk/?page_id=186

USA: <http://a2c2.org/about/documents>