

.POST Group (DPG)

Associate membership guidelines

Introduction

This document sets out the participation guidelines applicable to Associate members of the UPU .POST Group (DPG), on the basis of the following premises:

- The DPG provides a platform connecting members showing an interest in the digital transition and innovation in the postal community, particularly within the context of the .POST project.
- The DPG members are a representative sample of the world from a geographical, language, cultural and economic perspective.
- In order to work together on the development of the .POST project, it is important to acknowledge and understand as much as possible the complexity of the UPU rules and regulations within which the DPG operates.

Background

The aim of the DPG is to oversee the management and development of the UPU .POST platform and to study, analyze and implement new products and services within the .POST platform for the benefit of the postal community at large. The DPG reports to the UPU Postal Operations Council (POC), as a user-funded subsidiary body without its own legal personality.

The DPG is managed by an elected Steering Committee made up of seven officials.

Membership

The DPG comprises UPU member countries as full members who have paid annual fees in order to participate in the group's activities. They contribute to and steer the development of the .POST platform and benefit from the project.

In addition, Associate membership is open to postal entities representing a vast array of commercial organizations supporting the provision of postal services and the postal sector, which may include (without limitation) the following: communications entities, logistics entities, suppliers, and payment and technology entities providing support to the postal community. Communication is shifting almost completely to digital means, and such a forum needs to be set up to help understand and develop digital services in this context.

In today's rapidly changing world, knowledge and expertise in the area of digitalization and Internet development is crucial for the success of the DPG and the postal community it serves. Therefore, the interest of associate members willing not only to share their knowledge and contribute their expertise but also to learn from others is greatly appreciated.

How do Associate members participate?

Associate members may contribute to and participate in the activities of the DPG, but will not be eligible to vote. They may present technical papers, receive DPG documents, contribute proposals and participate in the formulation of the DPG's activities, host and organize dedicated workshops, and to present solutions and technologies related to .POST projects.

What are the Associate membership fees?

There are two levels of Associate membership to the DPG :

- Associate members in sub-class 1 shall be entitled to participate in meetings of the General Assembly, and, upon invitation of the DPG Steering Committee, be eligible to participate in the project groups;
- Associate members in sub-class 2 shall enjoy all the benefits of sub-class 1, and additionally shall have the possibility of hosting and organizing dedicated workshops, and to present solutions and technologies deemed to be of interest to .POST;

The annual fee for Associate members is 10,000 CHF for sub-class 1, and 20,000 CHF for sub-class 2.

What is an Associate member?

An Associate member is an organization with the skills and knowledge to contribute to the delivery of generalist or specialist services/applications within the DPG and its members. Operating within the field of activities of the DPG, an Associate member is likely to be responsible for its own performance and possibly that of a small team providing specific services.

Whatever the nature or size of the organization, Associate members must have a good understanding of the priorities of the DPG and of the regulatory and legal framework of the UPU, and will use that knowledge to shape and develop solutions and provide advice in line with business needs. To this end, they will apply their specialist or generalist skills and knowledge for the benefit of the DPG and the postal community as a whole.

Associate membership signifies:

- An organization demonstrates that it has the skills, knowledge and approach to make a significant supporting contribution to the .POST project and deliver results aimed at its development.
- Associate members agree to abide by the policies outlined in the DPG Rules of Procedure and the DPG code of ethics, and to work in accordance with the standards and criteria set forth therein.

What are the benefits of Associate membership?

Associate members will:

- receive via e-mail a regular update/bulletin containing a synopsis of the latest developments in .POST;
- have secure access to the .POST website exclusively for full members and associate members;
- receive periodic notification of key issues (release of new information bulletins, revised terms and conditions) related to the DPG;
- have the right to participate in the DPG General Assembly;
- receive a complimentary directory of full and associate members' contact details;
- receive invitations to attend special presentations and other events hosted by the DPG, and to participate in consultations initiated by the DPG which may relate to associate members;
- be eligible, at the DPG Steering Committee's discretion, to join and participate, in a non-voting capacity, in project groups established by the DPG; and
- have the opportunity to network with other similar individuals and organizations in this field, and to present issues on a secure bulletin board for discussion among associate members and full members;
- have the possibility of hosting and organizing dedicated workshops, and to present solutions and technologies deemed to be of interest.