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# EuroCG and Social Safety

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**The Problem.** Scientific events should support the open exchange of ideas in a respectful and inclusive atmosphere. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Over the years there have been several (sexual) harassment incidents at computational geometry events and more generally within the area of theoretical computer science. In 2019, the community decided that CG Week joins SafeTOC (<https://safetoc.org/>) and adopted a code of conduct for CG Week (<https://www.computational-geometry.org/codeofconduct.html>) that all conference attendees agree to follow upon registration.

## Short version of the CG Week Code of Conduct.

CG Week is dedicated to providing an environment that is free from harassment, bullying, discrimination, and retaliation for all participants, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion (or lack thereof), or technology choices. Bullying, intimidation, personal attacks, harassment, sustained disruption of talks or other events, and behavior that interferes with another's full participation will not be tolerated. Sexual language and imagery is not appropriate for any conference venue. CG Week participants violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference without a refund at the discretion of the conference organizers.

**Enforcing the Code of Conduct.** Unfortunately, experience with past events has shown that adopting the code of conduct alone is not sufficient, as there needs to be a legal basis for its enforcement. That is, the community needs to have a mechanism to exclude perpetrators from upcoming events.

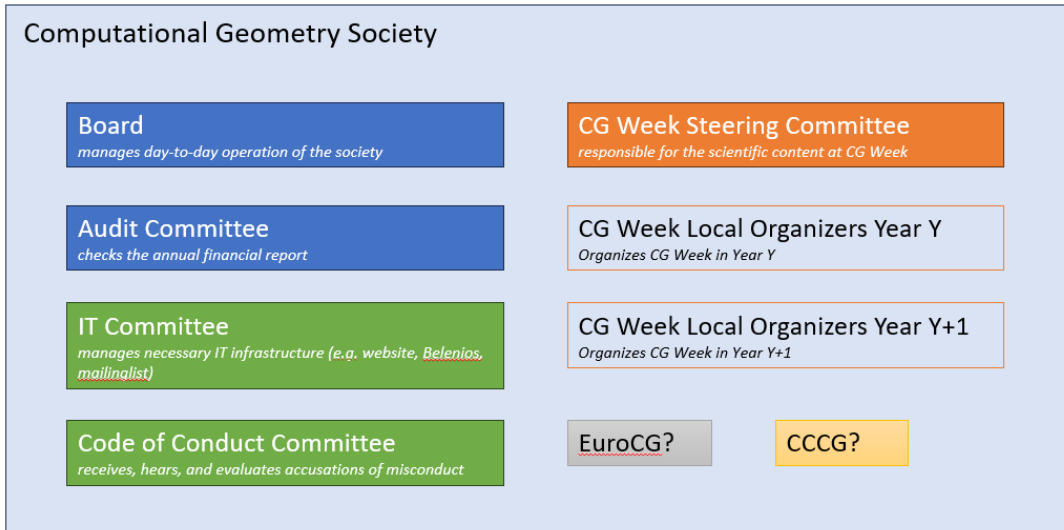
The CG Week SC installed a task force (Anne Driemel, Herman Haverkort, Ivor van der Hoog, and Patrick Schneider) which considered options to create the legal foundations to allow CG Week and other computational geometry events to enforce the code of conduct and ban offenders from attending events. The legal foundations task force presented their findings at CG Week 2022 ([https://www.computational-geometry.org/documents/CoC\\_enforcement.pdf](https://www.computational-geometry.org/documents/CoC_enforcement.pdf)). Their proposal was to establish a new society with a membership structure including procedures for dealing with violations of the code of conduct.

The mandate of the new society is to organize scientific events in a safe and inclusive manner. Only members of the society can buy tickets and attend the events. The new society will have a code of conduct committee (CCC) which adjudicates cases of potential code of conduct violations. Based on the findings of the CCC, the board of the society can terminate membership in the society for members found guilty of code of conduct violations. In August 2022 a community vote on Belenios decided to establish the new society.

The legal foundations task force recommended to found the new society in either the Netherlands, Germany, or Switzerland because of the "favorable legal climate" in those countries. The CG Week Steering Committee asked Herman Haverkort, Bettina Speckmann, and Frank Staals, later joined by Marc van Kreveld, to found the society in the Netherlands. The legal issues are now settled and the society will exist very soon. Starting next year, CG Week will be organized as an event of the new CG Society.

**EuroCG and Social Safety.** At the moment EuroCG has no provisions in place to protect the social safety of its attendees and it is not a SafeTOC member. There is no code of conduct and there is no legal basis to exclude attendees if that should prove necessary.

**Question:** Does EuroCG want to be organized as an event of the CG Society?



**The CG Society.** The basic structure of the society is sketched above. If EuroCG were to join, then the local organizers for the upcoming workshops would form another (temporary) committee. There will be a yearly online general assembly, and the board members, as well as the Code of Conduct Committee members are elected using a procedure very similar to the one for electing the CG Week Steering Committee.

Once the CG Society is established, the current code of conduct of CG Week will become the code of conduct of the CG Society and apply to all events organized by the CG Society. Hence this code of conduct would also apply to EuroCG should it decide to become an event of the CG Society. According to the proposal of the task force (see [https://www.computational-geometry.org/documents/CoC\\_enforcement.pdf](https://www.computational-geometry.org/documents/CoC_enforcement.pdf)) the code of conduct covers all activities pertaining to the organization of a CG Society event. This includes satellite events, events and activities organized by the local organizers of the CG Society event, and all private gatherings of participants of the CG Society event in the local area of the event. It also includes PC work and actions by members of the CG Society committees during their tenure.

### Frequently Asked Questions.

1. Membership in the society is free. Register once on a web-page.
2. Small burden on the local organizers: request the membership number as part of registration and connect to the society to authenticate. Exact procedure to be agreed upon individually per year.
3. The CG Week Steering Committee steers only CG Week and no other conferences that are events of the society.
4. If there were to be a steering committee for EuroCG then this committee would become a committee of the CG Society.
5. The costs for maintaining the CG Society are small (web hosting and administration of membership information) and are covered by CG Week.
6. CG Week is financially guaranteed by the funds of the CG Society. In exchange, CG Week transfers any surplus at the end of each conference to the CG Society. EuroCG can consider a similar arrangement or simply use only the legal protection the CG Society affords.
7. There is a Society for Computational Geometry in the USA which currently holds the surplus of CG Week. For legal reasons that society cannot serve in the way the new society will. Deliberations are ongoing on how to settle things financially.