

# IUSSI - North West European Section

## Terms of Reference

This document outlines the Terms of Reference for the North West European Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects (NW-IUSSI) Society - Committee remit and Members' obligations.

### 1. The Section and its Members Purpose

**Purpose:** The NW-IUSSI is the Section of the IUSSI serving those interested (directly or otherwise) in social insects in the regions of North Western Europe, including but not exclusive to UK, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Republic of Ireland. It was set up in WHEN. The core purpose of the Section is to bring people within these research areas together to share research, build connections and share ideas. The Section does this primarily through an annual Winter meeting, traditionally held in December and hosted by the Membership at locations within the Region.

**Remit:** The Remit of the Section is to:

1. Promote the study of all aspects of the biology of social arthropods
2. Support networking and knowledge exchange among these researchers, who are working or resident in Region across all levels of academia (Undergraduate to Professor)
3. Provide a platform for Members to talk about their research
4. Provide opportunities for Members to attend talks from (and meet with) non-member scientists who are leaders in the fields of ecology and evolution

### 2. The Executive Committee

**Executive Committee Organization:** The Section Executive Committee is made up of three Members, The President, Treasurer and Secretary. The Committee members must have permanent positions as principle investigators at a university or research institution from within the Region. The Section strives to achieve and maintain a diverse representation of board members. The Executive Committee is able to co-opt further committee members to represent Section members studying social insect groups not otherwise represented.

**Committee Appointment:** The Committee are appointed by nominations, including self nominations. Each nominee requires two supporters from within the Membership. All eligible nominees are presented at the AGM for an open vote by the Membership. Appointments are for 3 years; the President and Secretary are synchronised; appointment of the Treasurer is staggered by a year, to facilitate hand over between consecutive committees. The Section strives to achieve and maintain a diverse representation of board members.

### **3. The Membership**

The Section is open to all interested persons who pay the membership fee approved at the AGM of the Section.

### **4. Equality and diversity statement**

The Section commits to ensure that there is equal gender representation among speakers at all events and to increase representation of all kinds of diversity in its membership and speakers. The Section will implement measures to determine its success in these aims, including formal and informal surveys of participation. The Section observes the highest standards of equal opportunities for its Members and Speakers.