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OBSOLETE - Proposal for Unified Membership

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[Terminology & considerations](#)

[Background & goals](#)

[Proposal for Unified Membership](#)

[“No MyData Hub membership
without MyData Global ry
membership”](#)

[Aligned processes, structures and
fees](#)

Resources:

- [Membership fees](#)
- [Bylaws](#)
- [Hubs Guidebook](#)
- [Org Development Slidedeck](#)
- [Strategy Grounding memo](#)
- [Strategy Long - Organisational Development](#)

Terminology & considerations

- All terms are defined in the [Glossary](#).
- Updated Hubs regulations are described in [the Internal regulations document](#)

Background & goals

This document describes the recommendation from the Hubs Governance Strategy Grounding task force (Sille Sepp, Viivi Lähteenoja, Paul-Olivier Dehay, John Wunderlich, Charlie Martial Ngounou) to unify and streamline the membership across the **MyData Global association and type C Hubs**. Outside of the scope of this proposal, further development needs to take place to clarify the role of hub participants (across all types of hubs).



Currently, Hubs operate very differently and there are three types of Hubs:

- A. Hubs without the facilitation of any legal entity, which operate as an informal community (type A)
- B. Hubs facilitated by another previously existing legal entity (type B)
- C. Hubs that have founded a specific legal entity for the MyData hubs operations (type C)

Currently, Type C hubs have their own membership (either paid or free) and there is no linkage between them and the MyData Global ry membership.¹

This fragmented landscape of membership(s) is not sustainable in the long run when the number of hubs and their strength and influence grows. Double membership schemes do not support the drive of membership to MyData Global ry which will also be a significant revenue stream for the hubs.

Importantly, double membership schemes can also significantly hinder the objective of hubs and MyData Global ry being highly aligned as there would exist only partially overlapping constituencies and therefore unclear accountabilities, such as individual hubs having big membership bases out of whom only few would be members of MyData Global ry.

This unified membership should be implemented as soon as possible since later, if many hubs develop their own membership models, it will be much harder to implement.

Proposal for Unified Membership

“No MyData Hub membership without MyData Global ry membership”

There is first-most one membership of MyData Global association, on top of which legal entity hubs (type C) can offer additional membership. This means that to become a member of a type C hub, one has to be a member of MyData Global ry. **It is explicitly forbidden to provide hub membership only, with no MyData Global ry membership.**

Type C hubs, whose legal form is a membership-based association, the options for aligning with this proposal are as follows:

By default...	If necessary...
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¹ See further details about Type C hubs membership situation [here](#).

A1: add an option to MyData Global membership application form to also apply as a member to that Hub	A2: If the “by default” option is not possible due to legal constraints, create its own membership application system and collect the fee for MyData Global ry membership together with the application to become a member of MyData Global ry + “MyData <i>Location</i> ” hub Then pay the agreed-upon share (50%) to MyData Global ry
B1: Charge no additional membership fee for Hub membership	B2: Charge additional “supporting fee” on top of the membership fee in MyData Global ry for specific activities of the Hub.
C. In principle, the MyData Global membership fee sharing % should be made appropriate to be sufficient to the legal entity hubs.	

Members have the opportunity to become an official member of several legal entity hubs, but they can only share their MyData Global ry membership fee with one of them. In order to support other Hubs of their choice, members can do that for example via [Open Collective platform](#) if a Hub has set up a Collective or by paying the possible “supporting fee” described above as B2.

Aligned processes, structures and fees

While we recognise that membership of a local entity is subject to local laws, all type C hubs are requested to streamline the processes for a) admission of a member, and b) resignation and expulsion of a member, as well as set definitions of c) membership classes, d) admission fee and e) membership fee according to the respective articles described in the MyData Global’s bylaws Articles 3.1-3.4 as much as possible.

After several consultations in monthly Hubs calls, it seems that there is a shared wish for a simple and coherent process, and unified membership categories and fees across the MyData Global ry and type C hubs network.

Due to the [diverse nature of current type C membership](#) and different needs, further work needs to be carried out to agree on the unified structure, fees and membership

fee sharing ratio, which will be clarified latest by MyData Global's AGM 2020². Our guiding criteria for figuring out the practical details are as follows:

Criteria:

1. Simple and coherent process, structure and fees across the MyData Global organisation
2. No double (partially overlapping) membership bases
3. Fees and structure is attractive for
 - a. Hubs to drive membership
 - b. New members to join and sustain existing membership
4. Eventually, the adoption of a high-quality membership registry, where individuals and organisations can self-declare as participants of a particular hub and to whose contact details and membership status the hub's coordinators have access.
5. Gradual transition from current situation towards unified membership
6. Introduced with an “as a service” mentality from the very beginning, and all reasonable efforts have been made to develop this proposal from the perspective of the hubs themselves and making sure that MyData Global hubs network, as well as individual hubs, benefit from the unified membership scheme here proposed.

² Development work takes place in <https://mydata-global.org/unified-membership-development>