

Starting a VSAI Chapter

If you would like to start a VSAI Chapter for your specific **language, territory, or city**, you can learn more by reading the criteria and policies below. Then [contact us](#) with any questions or if you're interested in beginning the process.

Criteria

We provide the following points for any new VSAI Chapter Head to consider:

- You need 5 or more Committed Members – It is the emphasis on the 'Committed' that is important. This means that you need to make sure that your **prospects seriously aspire to speak professionally** (aspire to being paid to speak, not just paid to train or coach). This in turn means that you need to have a way of measuring this. You may begin by pooling together existing professional speakers in your specific language, territory, or city, who would serve as role models and would like to help build the metrics and the base.

Being Committed also means that the founding members (who come together for us to announce the start of a VSAI Chapter) **attend at least 4 virtual meetings** VSAI organizes in every quarter. Only the first of these 4 meetings will be permitted with a direct entry via a zoom link. The following ones will be attended in their capacity as VSAI members.

- You do not need to have an organization registered as a legal entity, however you are advised to **have a Governance Board** and the processes necessary to elect Board Members. We would also be looking for how you are doing your succession planning for the Board. You need to have the necessary structure in place to ensure responsibilities lie with the team and not with one or two individuals.
- You need to **follow the code of ethics** that VSAI members agree to abide by. You will need a local person who is the custodian of ethics and to whom people can take an issue and know it will be dealt with professionally, legally and ethically. This code includes the payment of VSAI dues, (mis)use of VSAI education resources, interaction with other VSAI members etc.
- You need to urge all **members to follow VSAI's program of events** at all times. Alongside this is the need for marketing communication and creation of locally-relevant virtual programs. If your Chapter is limited with a city or small geographical region it may be valuable for members to **attend Coffee-Club meets** to practice their talks, generate photographic assets, brainstorm using the VSAI educational replay library, and generally build camaraderie.

All this will be locally steered and paid for by individuals outside of their VSAI commitment. Being professional means that you have good administrative support so that people are kept informed and new and current members are dealt with in a way that they get the most out of their VSAI membership and these specific opportunities.

Policies

A. New Chapter Opening: Eligibility requires the new VSAI Chapter Head to:

- Be a VSAI Member for 12 calendar month's standing at the time of application
- Apply in writing for the new Chapter to the VSAI Chair (Global Outreach), enclosing LinkedIn profiles of the founding members (5 or more)
- Ensure the payment of the non-refundable Euro 49/99* VSAI Membership fee for at least 5 other members from the specific language, territory, or city
- Ensure all founding members are 'Committed' as determined by the VSAI Board of Directors and outlined above
- Agree to comply with the Policies and Bylaws of the GSF and uphold an image of integrity, with a written commitment to enforce a Code of Professional Ethics of VSAI
- Present a foreseeable plan to organize and implement local events and programs for their specific language, territory, or city
- Agree to conduct activities in compliance with the not-for-profit rules and regulations of the respective home nations
- Agree to conduct all administrative and marketing activities in a professional manner

B. Chapter Review Process

1. New Chapter applications for VSAI are reviewed by the VSAI Board once every 3 months
2. During the review phase, the committee evaluates the application documents and the speaking experience of the proposed founding members and expected requirements
3. Once the Chapter inclusion is approved VSAI makes a formal announcement on social media, on its website, during its meetings, and through its representatives at meetings of all existing and active GSF associations at that time
4. Chapter Heads are invited to share local chapter meeting information with the VSAI Chair (Global Outreach) from time to time as well as photos and reports of activities conducted virtually or in Coffee-Clubs
5. Based on point #4 above and internal review of member attendance at VSAI meetings, Chapter continuance – or upgradation to an independent GSF Association – will be considered on a yearly basis
6. In the unfortunate event of discontinuance, the members will be obliged to continue adherence to the VSAI Code of Ethics and indemnify VSAI in all events and circumstances
7. In the event of spinning off into an independent Association, the Chapter Governance Board is advised to refer the link for next steps:
<https://www.globalspeakersfederation.net/join>

* Euro 49 for all regions worldwide. Euro 99 for aspiring members in the following countries: USA, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Singapore, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, China, European Union, Scandinavia, UK and Ireland.