The scientific program of the annual congress includes a number of research symposia. While the number of symposia has varied over the years (between 8-13), the most common arrangement has been organizing one symposium at a time in each time slot, which usually means having a total of nine symposia over the conference. Given that the EAA annual congress does not include keynote presentations, the symposia can be considered the flagship sessions of the congress, as they feature topical themes within the accounting field and attract a large number of delegates to the audience. As such, there is often considerable interest from academics, sponsors and other stakeholders, who wish to have a say in and provide input to the organizing of the symposia.

The following principles guide the design of the symposia programme:

- Symposia are part of the scientific program, and should meet academic criteria;
- Symposia topics should be diverse and cover various aspects of accounting, thus forming an overall balanced programme so that different interests of attendants are honoured
- One symposium is reserved to be filled at the discretion of EAR (EAR Symposium)
- One symposium is reserved to be filled at the discretion of AinE (AinE Symposium)
- One symposium is reserved to the ‘Editors’ Panel’

Given that the symposia are relevant for EAA’s key external stakeholders and for the Association’s relationships with the accounting practice and profession, it is paramount that in putting together the symposia programme care is taken to make sure that the views of interested parties are heard. For this purpose, the programme for the symposia is the outcome of cooperation and agreement between several parties: the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), the EAA Management Committee (MC), the EAA Standing Scientific Committee (SSC), and the EAA External Relations Committee.
Symposia are coordinated and decided upon by a Symposia Committee, which includes one EAA MC member, one LOC member, the SSC chair and the External Relations Committee Chair. To ensure continuity over the years and communication towards the EAA Management Committee, the Committee is chaired by the EAA MC member.¹

An invitation to submit symposia proposals will be shown permanently on the EAA website and advertised in the EAA Newsletter published in September. In addition, the symposia committee will directly solicit proposals no later than mid-September of the year preceding the conference. The recipients of the solicitation are at the discretion of the symposia committee, but should at the minimum include (a) the Editors of EAR and AinE, (b) key non-academic stakeholders, who have at times sponsored the EAA (e.g. professional bodies, accountancy firms), and (c) the members of the EAA SSC and EAA MC. The recipients may also include the chairs of the various EAA committees (e.g. FRSC, Corporate Reporting Committee, Publications Committee, Accounting Research Centre).²

The proposals for symposia (both solicited and unsolicited) should include a proposed title (topic), 200-words abstract discussing and motivating the theme, potential chair/speakers (if known at the time of the proposal), and potential stakeholders interested in sponsorship. The deadline for submitting the proposals will be the same as the one set for paper submissions (usually early December). The proposals should be sent to the Symposia Committee Chairperson and to the EAA Executive Secretary.

The Symposia Committee is responsible for the Editors’ Panel composition and theme. The Editors’ Panel will be organized according to the following guidelines:

- The Editors of the two EAA journals (EAR and AinE) will be part of the Panel
- The Panel will be composed of at least 5 and no more than 6 speakers
- Editors of non-EAA journals will be invited based on a rolling system, keeping into consideration diversity and the links with other big accounting associations
- The Editors’ Panel should not be chaired by an Editor.

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¹ We foresee that in this composition all the committee members would have different roles and bring in relevant knowledge, contacts and capabilities as follows [not to be included in the guidelines]:
- SSC Chair: oversight re Scientific Quality (can consult SSC members if needed)
- External Relations Committee Chair: contacts and relationships with sponsors and other external stakeholders
- LOC member: local knowledge, topics and perspectives, link to the local organizers.
- EAA MC member: Chair, communication with the MC, continuity with the MC.

² For congresses to be held in 2019 and 2020, sponsors will be offered the possibility to have a slot for a symposium and they will be involved in the choice of the topic (in line with academic criteria, diversity and stakeholder’s interest). After this transition period, the Symposia Committee (together with the EAA External Relation Committee) will reconsider the criteria to involve sponsors in symposia.
The final list of symposia has to be approved by the Management Committee. Decisions regarding the symposia programme should be made by December 15 of the year preceding the Congress. This would allow those responsible for individual symposium sufficient time to refine the content and confirm speakers before the publication of the Congress Programme. The symposia committee may decide to leave one or two symposia open until a later date, should there be some pending opportunities that would affect the decisions. The final list of symposia will be announced in due time through the Annual Congress website and the EAA Newsletter.³

Once decisions regarding the symposia programme are made, the LOC is in charge of following up with the detailed organization.

All symposia will be video-taped and made publicly available on internet upon discretion of the MC. The LOC is in charge of collecting the necessary approvals from the speakers according to the current regulation on privacy.

³ The deadlines related to the 2019 Annual Congress will be different as it falls in a transition period. In particular, proposals can be submitted until January 10th 2019 and the final decisions regarding symposia will be taken by the end of January 2019.