

# EasyBuild Governance

Adam Huffman - University of Oxford - EasyBuild User Meeting 21st April 2026



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## Themes

- Motivation
- EasyBuild History
- EasyBuild Future Plans
- EasyBuild Sustainability
- EasyBuild Governance

# Motivation

# Why?

## Or, why not

- “I didn’t join EasyBuild to...”
- “Can’t I just keep submitting PRs to fix broken checksums in Bioconductor?”
- “Can’t I just keep running the PyTorch tests for two weeks then give up?”
- “Does it mean EasyBuild is turning all corporate?”



# Ecosystem Changes

- <https://ecosyste.ms/>
- <https://opensourcesecurity.io/2025/08-oss-one-person/>
- People are paying attention to open source software now
- Even people who wear suits



# Ecosystem changes part 2

- We should not be too reliant on individual people
- It's healthy to spread responsibilities around

# History

# History

- EasyBuild development started internally at UGent in 2008
- First public release in 2012
- Initially led by Stijn, Jens, and Andy, with Kenneth joining later
- Original founders moved on to other projects, Kenneth took over as sole maintainer



# History part 2

- Handover was essentially a UGent-internal decision
- Would we be happy with that now?
- E.g. UGent suddenly announces that Lara takes over from Kenneth?
  - Hmm, maybe that's a good idea..



# The HPC Community

- EasyBuild exists within the wider landscape of HPC
- We can benefit from being active participants
- They can benefit from our acting in a transparent and reasonable way

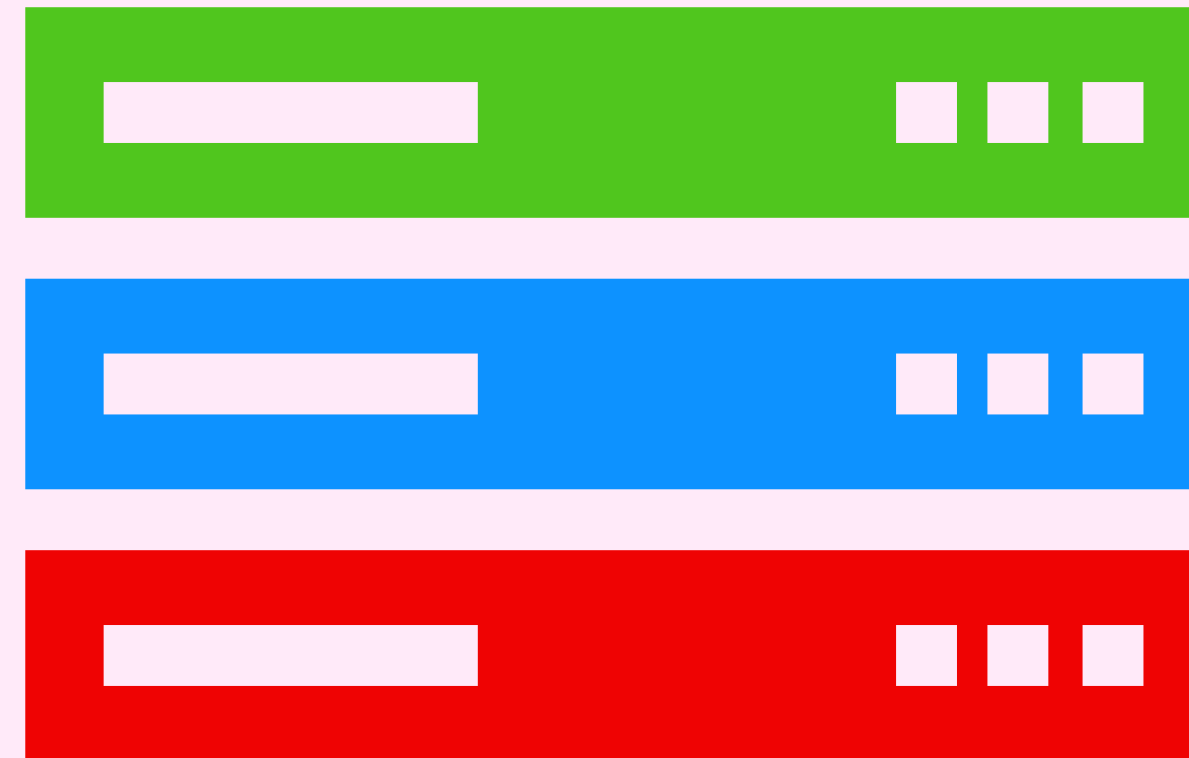


Photo by [Erika Giraud](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# HPSF

## High Performance Software Foundation

- Speaking of benefits...
- See the next talk
- Behave seriously in order to be taken seriously



# HPSF

HIGH PERFORMANCE  
SOFTWARE FOUNDATION

# Consequences of Maturity

- Need a clear, open, and rational way of making decisions
- Increasingly diverse perspectives within the community



# Interim Steering Committee

- Established to guide the community towards formal governance
- First concrete action is the proposal, discussion and adoption of the AI policy
- Kenneth, Caspar, Simon, Sebastian, Sam, Me (Adam)

# EasyBuild AI Policy

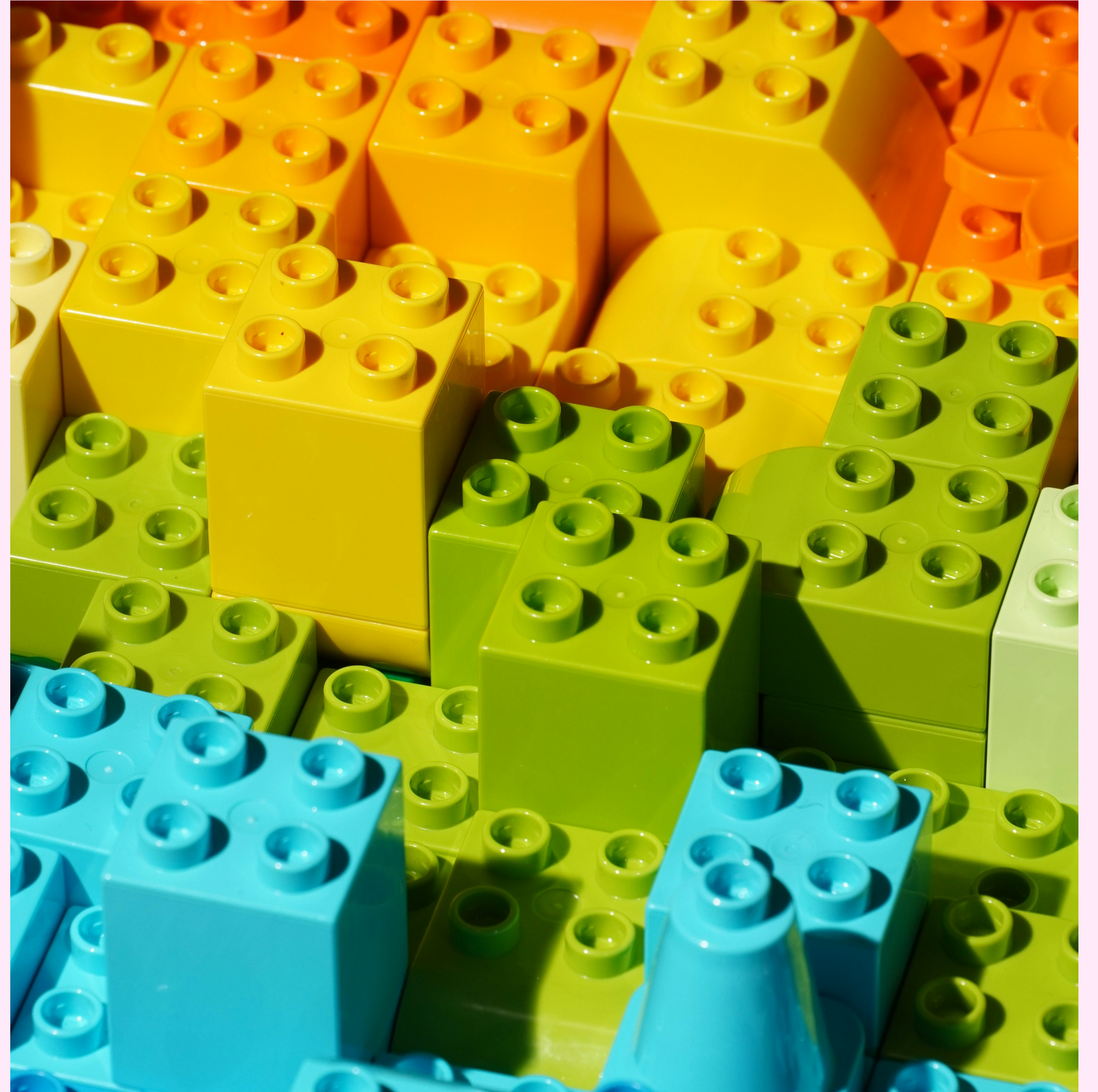
- Proposed by Simon, feedback from the Interim Steering Committee
- Now adopted:
- <https://docs.easybuild.io/policies/ai/#v10-19-april-2026>
- <https://github.com/melissawm/open-source-ai-contribution-policies>



# Governance

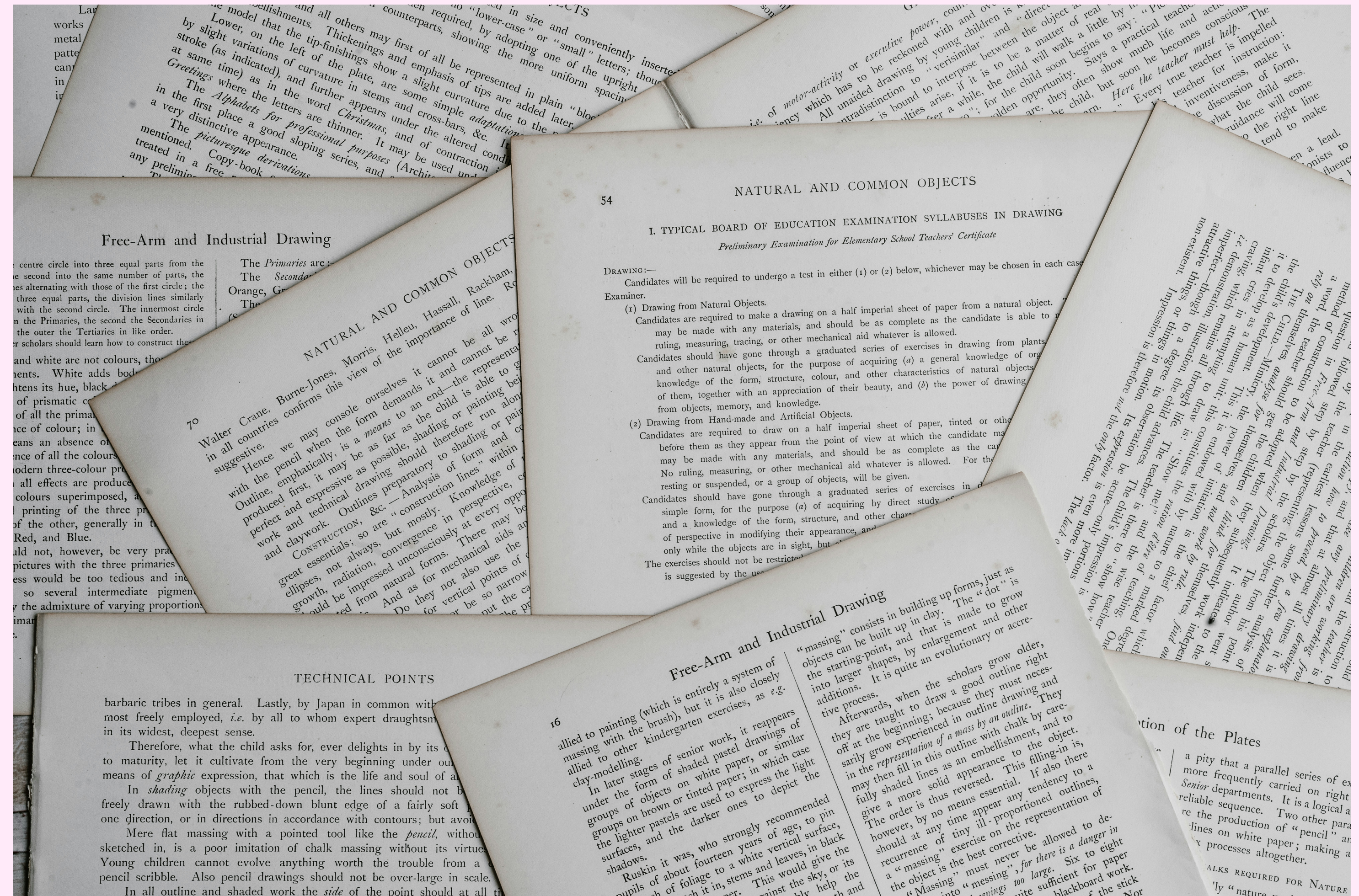
# Governance Components

- Charter
- Code of Conduct
- Governance (principles/ processes)
- Policies
- Steering Committee



# Charter

- What is EasyBuild?
- Why does it exist?



# Code of Conduct

- Standards of behaviour
- Other spellings are available
- Derived from the Contributor Covenant
- Enforced by the Steering Committee

# Project Governance

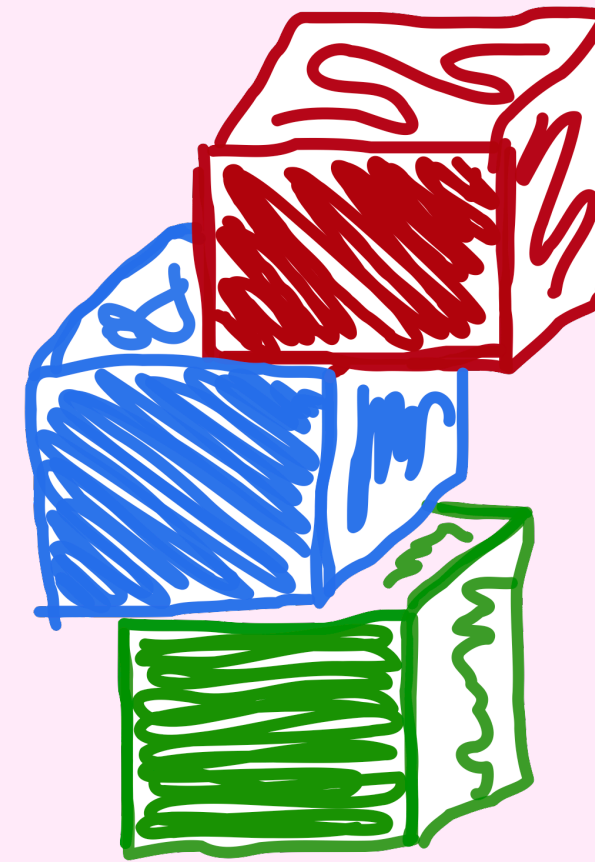
## Goals

- Facilitate growth of EasyBuild, which increases its value
- Ensure it is welcoming for new users and contributors
- Aim for trustworthiness in who makes decisions and how they're made

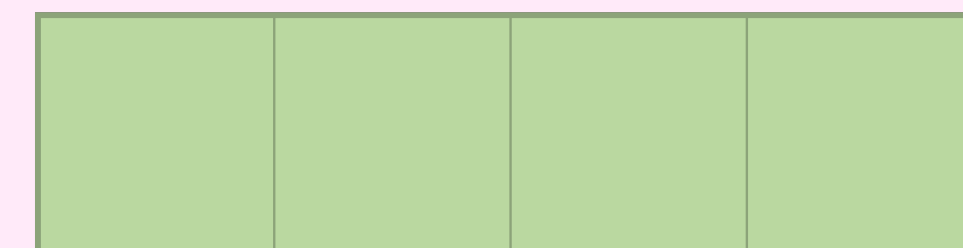
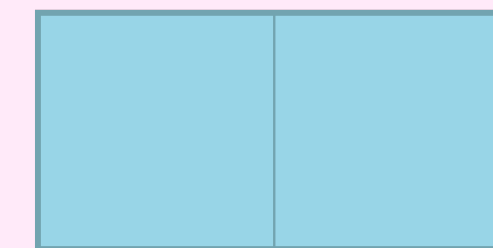
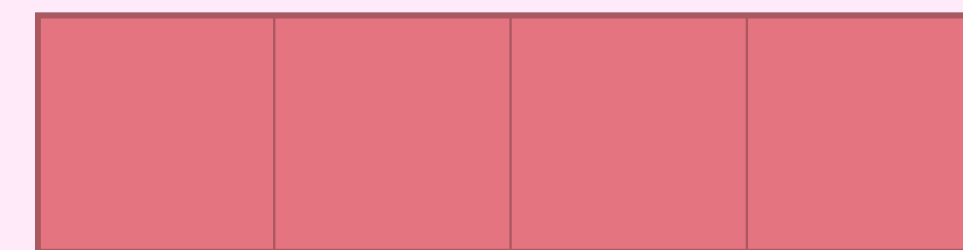


# Principles

- Consensus-based decision making
- Voting not required
- May be used as a way of achieving consensus
- Steering Committee can resolve disputes
- Teams empowered to self-organise



easybuild



**EASYBUILD**.io  
building software with ease

# Steering Committee

- Aim to avoid concentrations of power (or perceived influence):
  - Commercial entities
  - Employers
  - Countries



# Steering Committee

## Procedures

- Meetings
- Voting
- Membership
- Special process for amending Charter or Governance



# We Want Your Input

- We want comments and suggestions on the draft governance document
- <https://github.com/easybuilders/easybuild-docs/pull/374>
- Please do contribute



# Questions for the Steering Committee

- Improve the EasyBuild release process
  - Dependent on Kenneth
  - Tighten up release security (cf. recent spate of repository compromises)
- Become an independent legal entity?
  - Easier to handle grants?
- **Your question here**



# Thank you

- <https://github.com/easybuilders/easybuild-docs/pull/374>