Structure and Organisation of the "European Technology Platform for Communications Networks and Services – NetWorld2020 Platform"

Governance Model

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Contents

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1. Introduction

Communications in general is fundamental to all social and economic activities with an impact much bigger than the Internet. Mobility of communications between people, and increasingly machines of all kinds, has further enhanced the impact. It has been instrumental in the optimisation of economic processes on a global scale with respect to productivity ("globalisation"). Mobile and wireless communications have become one of the most important global industries. This development is progressively extending from voice to data and multimedia services of all kinds. It will provide mobile and flexible access to electronic media, equipment and infrastructures, made up of a range of existing and future wireless technologies, in a seamless and transparent manner. "NetWorld2020" stands for this vision. All means of communication networks are part of this vision.

> **NetWorld2020**, *the European Technology Platform for seamless and transparent access to mobile and wireless, fixed and satellite-based voice, data and multimedia services.*

Communication networks are a key enabling technology for all sectors of our societies and economies. The telecommunications and the IT market represent a volume of about 4800 billion € globally in 2018 [1]. International studies like by the Worldbank and OECD have shown that access to broadband communication systems increase economic growth significantly. Communication networks enable a huge leveraging effect from direct employment in the communication sector to indirect employment from the support of the service sector and multiplier effects in application domains. The overall employment in the ICT domain in the EU 27 Member States is in the order of about 7 million people. Collaborative research in Europe contributed significantly to the development of new systems and the acceptance in global standards. However, Europe's position is being challenged by increased global competition with respect to innovation strength, know-how and cost factors. Continuous action is needed to ensure that Europe benefits fully from the coming waves of innovation and its associated employment growth and to ensure that Europe derives maximum economic and social benefits from this growth.

In order to reinforce Europe's position as the leading region in mobile and wireless, fixed and satellite communications, the

"European Technology Platform for Communications Networks and Services – NetWorld2020 Platform"

(hereinafter referred to as the "NetWorld2020 Platform") has been created based on a common vision and a set of recommendations, which were originally developed in 2004. In preparation of Horizon 2020, the European Technology Platforms in the communication networking domain were restructured in 2013 by a group of leading industrial players in different network infrastructure technologies from the FP6/FP7 European Technology Platforms

- eMobility [1] [2] – rebranded into Net!Works at Future Internet Assembly in Ghent, December 2010 [3] – and
- ISI,

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[1]   IDC: ICT Spending Forecast 2018 - 2022 Forecast. https://www.idc.com/promo/global-ict-spending/forecast.

following their both recognition as European Technology Platform in the context of the upcoming "Strategy for European Technology Platforms: ETP 2020" in July 2013 [9] [10]. Now, Networld2020 is involved in the preparation of parts of Horizon Europe.

In this context, **the scope of the technology areas of NetWorld2020** includes

- mobile and wireless communications – cellular, short range and point-to-point systems,

- fixed communications – wireline and optical systems,

- satellite communications – fixed, mobile and broadcast satellite systems, and

- communication network infrastructures combining some or all of the above technologies.

The eMobility / Net!Works and ISI Platforms formally evolved into European Technology Platforms (ETPs) in 2005 as described in [4 and 5]. The challenge of ensuring and improving European leadership in communication networks is part of a long-term programme of actions. Therefore, in the context of the preparation of the future European and national research programs and in particular of the Horizon Europe Programme of the European Commission (e.g. the 5G Infrastructures Public Private Partnership in Horizon 2020), the Net!Works and ISI Platforms formally evolved into a new technology platform NetWorld2020 in 2013.

Collaboration in research and innovation in current and previous EU Programmes has been very successful and has played a very constructive role in developing global leadership in communications networks markets. Industry is willing to allocate funds and human resources to the continuation and extension of collaborative R&D at EU level and is convinced that "NetWorld2020" will be essential for economic growth in Europe.

This Governance Model presents the organisational structure of the NetWorld2020 Platform. In this document the term "EU Commission" refers to these units in the Commission Services, who are responsible for research activities in the ICT domain.

2. Vision and Mission of the NetWorld2020 Platform

NetWorld2020 is the European Technology Platform for communication networks. Communications networks enable interaction between users of various types of equipment, either mobile or fixed; they are the foundation of the Internet. The NetWorld2020 European Technology Platform gathers players of the communications networks sector: industry leaders, innovative SMEs, and leading academic institutions.

The communications networks industry represented in NetWorld2020 is supporting the following NetWorld2020 vision for the further development of mobile and wireless, fixed and satellite communications:
- Contribute to **collaborative research programmes** on European and national level for collaborative research in the domain of **mobile and wireless, fixed and satellite communication networks** by a regularly updated research and innovation agenda.
- Future communication networks aim to provide, amongst others:
  o Automised network operation allowing self-operating and self-optimizing networks.
  o Significantly reduced service deployment time compared to similar tasks in 2020.
  o Terabits per second communication for optical and wireless systems and provide seemingly infinite network capacity.

- o Application to application response time in the sub-millisecond range (latency) for a new class of highly responsive and interactive applications as well as a new level of industrial automation.
- o Robust, trusted and secure networks and services for critical applications including trillions of IoT devices.
- o improved environmental perspectives in energy and natural resources usage to better sustain Earth resources.
- o significant energy reduction of network operation.
- o A Combination of global reach, ubiquitous availability and optimised local service delivery capabilities.
- o Geographical and social inclusion, by allowing Internet access at minimum costs.
- o Infrastructure solutions that allow efficient deployment capital expenditures, especially for very low-population density areas.
- o Autonomous and self-adapted networks and systems based on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning mechanisms combined with cyber physical security.
- o Networks which are EMF-aware in order to allow deployment in areas with challenging EMF limits despite the operation in new additional spectrum bands and network densification.
- Support for **business & government processes** improves the competitiveness of the European economy.
- Services **hide complexity** from the user with interoperability between different access systems.
- **Multi-layered mobility** – users move & change devices, sub-networks in trains & cars move, software moves.
- **Peer-to-peer** communities emerge to empower people to collaborate.
- Opportunities for **social applications** expand through always-with-you qualities and reducing isolation.

This results in the mission statement of the NetWorld2020 Platform:
- To develop position papers on future research programs, work programs, research topics as input to regularly updated Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas and societal issues, which are agreed in NetWorld2020 bodies to receive a joint mandate.
- To seek discussion of issues with decision makers in the political and public domain as well as in the industry and research community to bridge the gap between research and innovation and the expectations from the European society.
- To regularly develop an updated Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for Europe in the communication networks domain in an open process in order to guide industrial and long-term oriented research and to provide means for future economic exploitation in global standards and the widespread deployment of communication systems and networks.
- To strengthen Europe's leadership in networking technology and services so that it best serves Europe's citizens and the European economy.
- To support the 5G PPP initiative and the Smart Networks and Services (SNS) Partnership through the provision of the Association Members, the provision of the SRIA (including revisions) and promoting the active involvement of the ETP community in respective project proposals and projects.
- To support general communication networks R&D&I issues.

Further details are available at: http://www.networld2020.eu/.

These activities provide value for Europe in:

- Helping to ensure **eInclusion** in Europe using an advanced communication infrastructure and **bridging the Digital Divide**.
- **Empowering citizens** with new applications.
- Creating **new opportunities** for businesses and governments.
- Creating **new wealth** in the European economy.
- Focussing **European resources** to achieve critical mass in R&D and build on **European leadership** in communications technology.
- Aligning a range of **EU instruments** in relation to the key issues of communications technology.

3. Basic Conditions

With respect to [6] the key objectives of the Technology Platforms are:
- The drawing up of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.
- The achievement of the necessary critical mass for research and innovation.
- The mobilisation of substantial public and private funding.

The EU Commission, DG Research & Innovation, redesigned the ETP strategy [7] with the mission

ETPs will:

1) *provide a coherent business focused analysis of research and innovation bottlenecks and opportunities related to societal challenges and industrial leadership actions and develop strategies to address these: strategy function;*
2) *mobilise industry and other stakeholders within the EU to work in partnership and deliver on agreed priorities: mobilising function;*
3) *share information and enable knowledge transfer to a wide range of stakeholders across the EU: dissemination function.*

The objectives of the ETPs will be delivered through the following activities, which can be broadly categorised as:

- *developing Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas, including the identification of skills requirements and of regulatory as well as other non-technological barriers;*
- *encouraging industry participation in Horizon 2020 and helping widen participation and build capabilities within Member States through active cooperation with networks/partnerships in Member States.*
- *identifying opportunities for international collaboration and developing the necessary understanding to facilitate future collaboration;*
- *delivering networking opportunities including with other ETPs to address cross-sectoral challenges and help the move towards more open models of innovation, by providing opportunities for stakeholders to meet, exchange knowledge, make new contacts and develop ideas for joint working;*
- *facilitating the formation of new partnerships utilising expertise and understanding within the ETP for example, to identify parties capable of working together to exploit the outcomes of a research project or address a specific challenge.*

These objectives are especially related to the preparation of Horizon Europe.

The NetWorld2020 Platform is supporting the establishment and operation of a Smart Networks and Services Partnership to
- Allow the development of highly intelligent and secure communication networks solutions from an end-to-end perspective, also taking into account means of e.g. artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and cloud computing as well as IoT and components and devices.

- Enable a close and direct cooperation of complementary projects in collaborative research programs.
- Ensure sufficient impact in the international domain of mobile and wireless, fixed and satellite communications.
- Maintain and improve the position of European industry with respect to global competition.

Networld2020 is involved in the preparation of a new Partnership on Smart Networks and Services (SNS) as part of Horizon Europe and future similar initiatives. The research work will be carried out in Horizon Europe projects, in the SNS Partnership and non SNS projects with a wider time horizon and other collaborative research programs. Budget for funding of research will be allocated to these established project consortia, which will have a grant agreement with the Commission.

Technology Platforms should be led by the industry [7 and 8] in order to maintain and improve Europe's position in the area. However, the activities will be shared with the SME and academic and R&D centre domain to involve all the available expertise and resources in Europe.

4.   NetWorld2020 Platform Tasks

The NetWorld2020 Platform is the facilitator to prepare the future research and to enable harmonisation and consensus building in the area. The cooperation with other research programmes on EU and national level has to be ensured.

The actual activities of the NetWorld2020 Platform towards Horizon Europe are
- to support and consult the Commission and national authorities on Horizon Europe and to discuss with the EU Parliament and associations;
- to update annually the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda;
- to support the establishment of Horizon Europe projects and projects in other European and national programs.

The NetWorld2020 Platform will have the following main tasks:
- Draft the technical description of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) reflecting the perception of sector actors based on the state-of-the-art and shared vision of future developments.
- Consult the sector actors concerned and establish a shared perception.
- Identify requirements and opportunities for EU R&D collaborative efforts taking into account commercial developments and work within other frameworks.
- Assist the Commission in the identification of requirements, options and priorities for collaborative R&D funding (related parts of the SRIA on which the Commission bases its Call for Proposals).
- Support the initiation of complementary research projects with respect to an end-to-end perspective.
- Monitor and advise on the on-going work taking into account the evolution in the understanding of requirements and options.
- Report to the Commission and sector actors on the progress and re-orientation of the SRIA.
- Support rapid uptake of technology developments by application industries.
- Provide a general communications plan and publicity for the NetWorld2020 framework.
- Cooperate with related communities such as IoT, Cloud, components and devices.
- Conduct a continuous dialogue with the EU Parliament and regulatory agencies.

The NetWorld2020 Platform is establishing close links to basic research in order to exploit early results, which can have a very profound impact, and inversely to initiate basic research where problems do arise.

NetWorld2020 intends to establish a cooperation with 5G Infrastructure Association in areas of common interest, e.g. common working groups, by means of an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) of a Collaboration Agreement.

5. Organisational Structure of the NetWorld2020 Platform

The NetWorld2020 Platform is a facilitator to establish complementary and cooperating research projects in collaborative research programs. The NetWorld2020 Platform should comprise all stakeholders in the value chain, Member States, and the potential financial community. This includes industry, SMEs, academia, European Commission in a consultancy role, and other potential sources of funding (e.g. European Investment Bank and/or Structural Funds). Figure 1 shows the structure of the NetWorld2020 Platform.
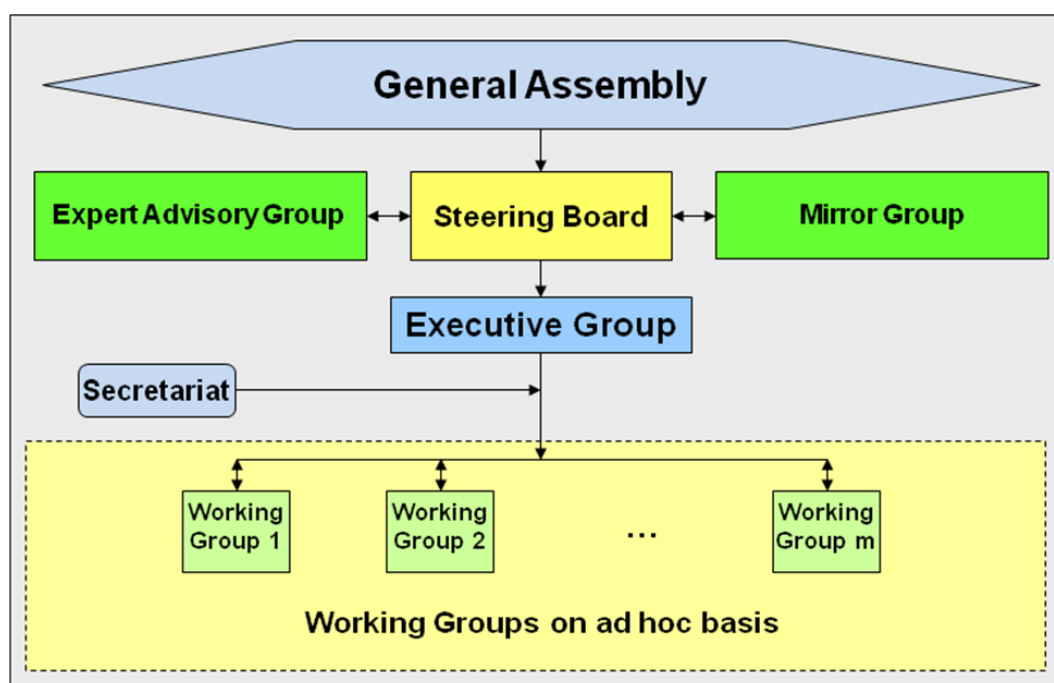

Figure 1: NetWorld2020 Platform structure

The different stakeholders will be represented in different bodies and capacities according to Figure 1. The organisational bodies are:
- General Assembly: Participation for all member organisations (5.1.1).
- Steering Board: Participation according to an election procedure. The Steering Board composition (Section 5.1.2.2) ensures industry commitment and industry lead (5.1.2). The Steering Board is composed of member organisations
- Executive Group: Responsible for the daily work formed out of Steering Board organisations (5.1.3). The Executive Group is composed of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Steering Board.
- Expert Advisory Group: The Expert Advisory Group is composed of technical experts from academia, SMEs and industry to support the Steering Board (5.1.4). NetWorld2020 membership is desirable but not an obligatory prerequisite for participation to this group.
- Mirror Group: The Mirror Group is composed of representatives of public authorities, national and regional bodies (5.1.5).

- Working Groups: Participation out of the NetWorld2020 Platform member organisations (5.1.6).

The organisational structure has to ensure:
- on the one hand openness for participation and transparency of information flow and decision making and
- on the other hand, an efficient management of the activities and the decision-making process.

The NetWorld2020 Platform is a supporting instrument in Horizon Europe to support the launch of complementary and cooperating projects.

5.1. Bodies in the NetWorld2020 Platform

5.1.1. General Assembly

The NetWorld2020 Platform should represent a broad membership from all interested stakeholders in order to take into account in the activities the views and interests of all sector actors and active players. All member organisations in the NetWorld2020 Platform are represented in the General Assembly

Full Membership

Any
- legally established corporation, in the form of a legal entity, university and research institute,
- based in the European Member States, Candidate States and Associated Countries and
- supporting the mission and vision of the NetWorld2020 Platform
is eligible for applying for membership in the NetWorld2020 Platform. Each organisation should declare in its membership application to which of the three Stakeholder Groups it belongs
- industry (e.g. vendors, operators, content providers, and other service providers),
- SMEs or
- research domain (universities, R&D centres)

COOP Membership

Any legal entity or non-incorporated organisation that does not qualify for full membership as detailed above, e.g. government bodies, international organisation or organisations from a region outside of the area required for full membership may apply nevertheless. For the avoidance of doubt COOP Membership is not open to individuals. These organisations can be accepted as COOP (Cooperation) member organisations. As a COOP member the organisation can express its support to the activities of the NetWorld2020 Platform, contribute to the activities, and will also be able to timely receive news and information from the Platform. COOP member organisations do however not have voting rights in the General Assembly and cannot be elected to the Steering Board.

General requirements on membership application

Each Full or COOP member organisation can become member only with one entity; affiliated companies, or branches setup in the same or a different country do not qualify for separate membership. All members must be reachable via preferably two, but at least one contact person by e-mail. It must be possible to verify the existence of the applicant, e.g. through their webpage or alternatively through the provision of suitable documents. Member applications are for approval by the Steering Board.

5.1.1.1 General Assembly Meetings

Each member organisation in the General Assembly has the right to send a representative to General Assembly meetings and has one vote. Further representatives from a member organisation may attend if space permits but these do not have a vote.

General Assembly meetings will be organised by the Steering Board at least once a year. The meeting date should be published at the website 3 months ahead of the meetings.

The Chairperson of the Steering Board will convene and chair the General Assembly meetings.

The invitation including the agenda has to be distributed to the member organisations at the latest three weeks ahead of the meeting. Topics for decision have to be indicated in the agenda.

Additional General Assembly meetings may be convened if at least 20 % of its members so request. The notice period for such additional General Assembly meetings shall not be less than three weeks.

5.1.1.2 Responsibilities of the General Assembly

The main responsibilities of the General Assembly are:
- Decision on changes in the Terms of Reference and the organisational structure.
- Election of the members of the Steering Board in the different Stakeholder Groups.
- Decision on suspension, exclusion or expulsion of members in the NetWorld2020 Platform.
- Contribute to the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, reports and recommendations.
- Contribute to the NetWorld2020 workplan for the establishment of Working Groups and the initiation and facilitation of project proposals.

Each member organisation of the General Assembly may submit contributions to the Steering Board for review on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, the workplan, the Terms of Reference and the organisational structure.

The General Assembly will review the work done by the Steering Board and the Working Groups.

5.1.1.3 Decision Making Process

Decisions should be taken by consensus wherever possible. The Chairperson shall make every reasonable effort to facilitate consensus amongst the member organisations of the General Assembly. If no consensus can be reached, decisions will be made by a voting procedure:

A: Simple majority of the member organisations represented in the meeting or answering electronic voting in the cases:
- Election of the members of the Steering Board in the different Stakeholder Groups (procedure: c.f. Steering Board under Section 5.1.2).
- All other decisions except decisions under B:).

B: Two-thirds majority of the member organisations represented in the meeting or answering electronic voting in the case:
- Decision on suspension, exclusion or expulsion of member organisations in the NetWorld2020 Platform.
- Revision of the Terms of Reference for the NetWorld2020 Platform.

Decisions either in physical meetings or via electronic voting require a quorum of at least ten percent of the member organisations in the General Assembly.

Voting decisions are made either in physical meetings, in which case voting is by members being represented, or via electronic voting. In the case of electronic voting a time period for answering of 21 days (3 weeks) has to be provided.

Member organisations who are not able to send a delegate of their own organisation may be represented in the physical General Assembly meeting by providing a proxy to a delegate of another member organisation. The following rules apply:
- Representatives of the SME and Research stakeholder group can have up to 10 proxies and
- representatives of the Industry stakeholder group can have up to 3 proxies.

Proxy holders can vote on behalf of non-represented member organisations only in the same Stakeholder Group:
- SME proxy votes by SME representative,
- Research proxy votes by Research representative and
- Industry proxy votes by Industry representative.

A proxy holder needs to present a power of attorney from the represented organisation, on which behalf the proxy holder is entitled to vote.

5.1.2. Steering Board

The Steering Board is the governing body of the NetWorld2020 Platform.

5.1.2.1 Responsibilities

The main responsibilities of the Steering Board are:
- Election of the Steering Board Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons. The Chairperson will also chair the General Assembly.
- Management of the NetWorld2020 Platform.
- Initiation of the election process of Steering Board members in the General Assembly in time by publishing a Call for Candidature in minimum 6 weeks ahead of elections.
- Guidance on strategic direction and conflict resolution.
- Invitation of members of the Expert Advisory Group.
- Decision on the appointment of up to 3 observers in the Steering Board. The observer from the Commission is nominated by the Commission Services. The observer from ESA is nominated by ESA.
- Proposal and preparation of changes in the Terms of Reference and the organisational structure.
- Approval of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, of reports and recommendations.
- Development and approval of the workplan for the establishment of Working Groups and the preparation of project proposals.
- Support and facilitating of complementary project proposals in collaborative research programs. Handling of membership issues such as accepting new member organisations in the NetWorld2020 Platform.
- Proposals for suspension, exclusion or expulsion of member organisation in the NetWorld2020 Platform.
- Organisation of General Assembly meetings.
- Organisation of electronic voting procedures for General Assembly decisions, if no physical meeting is called for.

The Steering Board organises collaborations with other related Technology Platforms and R&D activities.

The Steering Board may establish liaisons with other research activities for information exchange. In such case a liaison officer will be nominated by the Steering Board.

5.1.2.2 Composition of the Steering Board

The General Assembly is electing the Steering Board members representing the following Stakeholder Groups with the following number of seats on the Board:
- 18 Industry Representatives (e.g. manufacturers, vendors, operators, content providers, and other service providers) (voting rights)
- 6 SME Representatives (voting rights)
- 6 Research Domain Representatives (universities, R&D centres) (voting rights)
- 3 Observers appointed by the Steering Board (no voting rights)
- 1 observer from the Commission (directly nominated by the Commission services) (no voting rights)
- 1 observer for the European Space Agency (ESA) (no voting rights)

This results in:
- 30 member organisations with voting rights and
- 5 observers without voting rights.

Members of the Steering Board have to fulfil the following conditions:
- Strategic commitment to European R&D in particular by the following means:
  - Strong European footprint: Organisations with headquarters outside of the EU Member States, Candidate States and Associated Countries can participate, if they demonstrate a commitment to European R&D. *
  - Participation in European research programs (e.g. Horizon 2020. Horizon Europe and/or Eureka or other programs) either with relative significant manpower and/or accepting the task to coordinate research projects *
  - or the ability of the organisation to contribute to the solution of EU societal challenges.

* These requirements are related to the size of the organisations.

5.1.2.3 Election Procedure for the Steering Board

The members of the Steering Board will be elected for a period of two years. The term is starting January 1 of the beginning of a two years period and is going until December 31 two years later. Each Stakeholder Group (Industry, SME and Research) will elect its own representatives out of the members in the Stakeholder Group in the General Assembly according to the following procedure:
- Each Stakeholder Group will collect a list of candidates for the available positions in the Steering Board based on a Call for Candidature.
- If the number of candidates is above the number of available seats, a formal election procedure in the Stakeholder Group will be necessary.
- A secret ballot will be held to elect the representatives of its Stakeholder Group.
- Every member in the Stakeholder Group will submit a ballot with the list of its preferred candidates up to the number of seats available, chosen from the candidates of its Stakeholder Group.
- The candidates with the most votes per Stakeholder Group become elected as representatives in the Steering Board up to the number of available seats.
- In case of a tie a second ballot between the involved organisations will be necessary.

- If the number of candidates is below the number of available seats per Stakeholder Group, no formal election for this Stakeholder Group will take place and all available Candidates are becoming the representatives of their Stakeholder Group, which will remain smaller than the number of available seats.

The Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons of the Steering Board will be elected from the Steering Board members by the Steering Board member organisations by simple majority for a term of two years, equal to the term of their mandate as members of the Steering Board, meaning starting January 1 and is going until December 31 two years later.

5.1.2.4   Steering Board Meetings

Steering Board meetings will be organised by the Chairperson about three to four times a year. The meeting dates should be agreed at least 3 months ahead of the meetings. The meeting invitation should be issued at least 3 weeks ahead of the meeting and include the agenda and topics for decision. Intermediate Steering Board meetings could be organised through conference calls whenever needed.

5.1.2.5   Decision Making Process

Decisions should be taken by consensus wherever possible. The Chairperson shall make every reasonable effort to facilitate consensus amongst the members of the Steering Board. If no consensus can be reached, decisions will be made by a voting procedure:

A: Simple majority of the members of the Steering Board represented in the meeting or answering electronic voting in the following cases:
- Election of the Steering Board Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons.
- Management of the NetWorld2020 Platform.
- Decision on the invitation of members of the Expert Advisory Group.
- Decision in the appointment of up to 3 observers in the Steering Board.
- Decision on accepting new members in the NetWorld2020 Platform.

B: A two-thirds majority of the members of the Steering Board represented in the meeting or answering electronic voting in the following cases:
- Approval of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, reports and recommendations.
- Approval of the workplan for the establishment of Working Groups and the initiation and facilitation of project proposals.
- Decision on suspension, exclusion or expulsion of members in the NetWorld2020 Platform as proposal for the General Assembly.
- Decisions on the Terms of Reference and the organisational structure.

Decisions either in physical meetings or via electronic require a quorum of at least two-thirds of the Steering Board members.

Voting decisions will be made either during physical meetings or via electronic meetings. In the latter case a deadline for responding within 10 days will be provided.

The Steering Board can decide to invite further observers from relevant organisation to its meetings, where appropriate. The Chairperson of the Steering Board may invite experts and advisers.

5.1.3.   Executive Group

The Steering Board may delegate organisational issues and the daily business to the Executive Group in conformance with guidelines and decisions of the Steering Board

and to run the activities between Steering Board meetings, including the preparation of the proposals for the Steering Board.

The Executive Group has decision power on organisational issues and the daily business under the mandate of the Steering Board. Decisions will be formally adopted by the Steering Board.

Decisions in the Executive Group have to be based on consensus. They will be taken either during physical meetings or via electronic voting. If decisions are made via electronic voting, a positive acknowledgement will be required.

The Executive Group is composed of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Steering Board.

5.1.4. Expert Advisory Group

This group should mainly represent R&D centres and the academic domain. Representatives from other stakeholder groups can also contribute. The major objective and responsibility of this group is to consult and give advice to the NetWorld2020 Platform from the scientific perspective and to advocate for the interests of the research community.

The composition of the group will be renewed latest in each election period of the Steering Board.

The chair of the Expert Advisory Group is an invited participant to the Steering Board meetings but has no voting rights in the Steering Board.

5.1.5. Mirror Group

This group will represent the EU Member States and the Associated Countries that are interested in participating in the NetWorld2020 Platform. These representatives may be regulators, government representatives, funding agencies and the European Investment Bank and/or Structural Funds. The ministries of research and economics and other related government agencies should be involved. Possibly, other stakeholders could be represented in this group. Special attention should be paid to the involvement of the new Member States in the Mirror Group.

The major objective and responsibility of this group will be to consult the NetWorld2020 Platform and to advocate for the interests of different groups.

5.1.6. Working Groups

The Steering Board will establish Working Groups on request of a group of interested organisations or based on a Steering Board decision to support the Steering Board, which are responsible for specific tasks such as but not limited to:
- Developing of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.
- Interaction and coordination with other Platforms relevant to the NetWorld2020 Platform.
- Interaction with other research activities relevant to the NetWorld2020 Platform.
- Implementation issues of the NetWorld2020 Platform.
- Preparing a research roadmap.
- Preparing a legal framework for the EU framework programmes and advice for Consortium Agreements.
- Policy aspects in relation to research topics.

Working Groups are developing position papers in their area of interest, which reflect views of that Working Group. Such positions can be published as Working Group views and marked as Working Group position papers. It should be possible in

exceptional cases that also minority positions can be expressed and published, if they reflect the agreed position of the Working Group and even if no consensus could be reached in the NetWorld2020 ETP. However, an effort should be made by cooperation in NetWorld2020 and discussion of different positions in the NetWorld2020 ETP in order to achieve consensus positions as much as possible by respecting positions of particular groups. In case a consensus in the NetWorld2020 ETP cannot be reached, the publication should clearly state that it provides the views of the respective Working Group and does not represent the opinion of the whole ETP/Steering Board.

Members of the Working Groups are from the member organisations of the General Assembly. In order to ensure efficiency of Working Group activities the following approach is implemented:

- For each Working Group, the list of organisations that are participating in respective Working Groups (through the Working Group members) will be published on the public NetWorld2020 web site, in compliance with GDPR and associated Regulations.
- In the NetWorld2020 member organisations section of the web site (i.e. password protected access for member organisations only), also the names and affiliations of experts are listed without contact details.
- The Working Group membership lists are provided by the respective Working Group Chairperson to the NetWorld2020 secretariat who will publish the lists on the web site, as defined above.
- The addition and removal of members to a Working Group is handled by the Working Group internally.

The Steering Board appoints a facilitator to start a newly established Working Group. The Working Group Chair and Vice Chair will be elected by the members of the Working Group in a secret election. Working Group Chairs are responsible for reporting to the Steering Board and will participate in Steering Board meetings but without having voting rights in the Steering Board.

The list of existing Working Groups will be made available on the ETP website.

5.1.7. Secretarial Support

The secretarial support will be performed by a project management organisation. In the case of a membership fee the amount will be due from the date of entry into membership and covers one year from January 1 to December 31 of the same year. The amount will be decided on an annual basis. In the case of other funding solutions a membership fee should be avoided.

The following tasks will be performed:
- Maintenance of the NetWorld2020 Platform web site.
- Corporate identity and branding.
- The NetWorld2020 Platform member organisations register.
- Maintenance of mailing lists.
- Membership management including the handling of membership applications.
- Handling of NetWorld2020 Platform documents.
- Support of the Chairperson of the NetWorld2020 Platform and the Working Group Chairpersons to organise meetings.

The responsible persons for the secretarial support are responsible for reporting to the Steering Board.

5.2. Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion

The General Assembly can decide to suspend or expel a member organisation of the NetWorld2020 Platform in the following cases:

- Severe violation of these Terms of Reference, procedures, policies, duties of membership or resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.
- Breach of confidentiality provisions by a member.

Membership in the General Assembly shall automatically cease in case of bankruptcy, withdrawal, dissolution or cessation of business or of change in the nature of business of such that criteria for membership would no longer be complied with.

A new membership application may be made after one year from the date of expulsion.

5.3. Resignation

Resignations have to be notified in writing to the NetWorld2020 Platform secretarial support. Any such notice to withdraw shall take effect from the following membership year starting on January 1.

5.4. Transparency

The Steering Board shall have a high regard for the transparency of its activities and the need both for including and informing all relevant stakeholders of the activities of the NetWorld2020 Platform.

Adopted and approved documents being prepared for publication will be made available to the public via the Internet.

The NetWorld2020 Platform shall make every effort to consult all relevant stakeholders on documents under preparation that have a general interest (e.g., the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda).

6. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference and the Rules of procedure may be reviewed and amended at any time on request of at least three members of the Steering Board. The General Assembly has to decide on such changes, which will be prepared by the Steering Board.

7. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

For individual research and technology development projects under public programmes such as Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, future European Commission programs, Eureka projects, intergovernmental, national or regional programmes the IPR provisions of the respective public programmes and of the project specific Consortium Agreement will apply.

All contributions to the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda must have a legal status that the material can be published.

8. Disclosure of Information and Confidentiality

Any and all information either orally disclosed or presented as material by a member of the NetWorld2020 Platform or its subgroups shall be deemed non-confidential and not limited with respect to its further dissemination inside and outside the NetWorld2020 Platform.

Non-technical information discussed inside the Networld2020 platform, such as Steering board minutes, personal information or attorney work products, shall be made public pending a decision of the Steering Board, which may limit its reproduction, dissemination, copying, disclosure, modification, distribution, and/or publication outside the Networld2020 Platform and Steering Board.

After resignation, suspension, exclusion, expulsion or non-renewal as a member, for any reason, a former member organisation has a continuing duty under this Article.

9. Entry into Force

These Terms of Reference or any changes to these Terms of Reference enter into force at the date of the adoption by the Steering Board and the agreement by the General Assembly.

References

[1]   Mobile Communications & Technology Platform: Final Report, Brussels, 8 January 2004.

[2]   Mobile Communications & Technology Platform: Final Report, Brussels, 9 June 2004.

[3]   Future Internet Assembly December 2010, Ghent, Belgium, December 13 to 17, 2012, http://fi-ghent.fi-week.eu/ and http://www.future-internet.eu/home/future-internet-assembly/ghent-dec-2010.html.

[4]   Communication from the Commission on a European Initiative for Growth: investing in networks and knowledge for growth and jobs, COM(2003) 690 final.

[5]   Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Building our Common Future: Policy challenges and budgetary means of the enlarged Union 2007-2013, COM(2004) 101 final.

[6]   Commission of the European Communities: Communication from the Commission, Science and technology, the key to Europe's future – Guidelines for future European Union policy to support research, COM(2004) 353, 16.06.2004.

[7]   European Commission, Directorate General for Research & Innovation: European Technology Platforms 2020– DRAFT STRATEGY. Brussels, February 21, 2013.

[8]   European Commission: Seminar on Technology Platforms. Brussels, December 15, 2004.

[9]   EU Commission, DG Connect: Recognition of European Technology Platform ISI, letter to N. Chuberre (ISI chairman) from Robert Madelin, Director General Directorate Generate Communications Networks, Content and Technology, Brussels, CONNECT/F3/CO/ai, July 1st , 2013.

[10] EU Commission, DG Connect: Recognition of European Technology Platform Net!Works, letter to W. Mohr (Net!Works chairperson) and U. Herzog from Robert Madelin, Director General Directorate Generate Communications Networks, Content and Technology, Brussels, CONNECT/F3/CO/ai, July 1st, 2013.