

Draft Membership Criteria for EARN

Objectives of EARN

- To provide independent policy analysis on issues of common concern for Africa and Europe, such as peace and security, governance, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, reform of multilateral institutions, climate change, energy, trade and regional integration, pandemic diseases, migration, science and technology, and other key political and development issues
- To influence, through practical research, the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership;
- To encourage co-operation, co-ordination and partnerships between policy research institutes in Europe and Africa with a view to explore innovative ways of improving joint responses to common problems and to develop the institutional capacities of the network members, so as to reduce asymmetries between African and European policy research capacities;
- To enhance interaction between the world of policy research and policy making to contribute to a better informed decision-making process of the European and African policy makers – multilateral, regional and national bodies;
- To increase public awareness on issues concerning EU and Africa within the academic world, the broad diversity of NGOs and civil society stake-holders, the private sector and the media.

Who can apply?

Any institutional candidate **to be considered for membership** by the board must:

- possess a long-term vision and commitment to their own mission and the objectives of EARN;
- increase the reach, impact, effectiveness, and/or relevance of EARN;
- possess in-house (core) capacity to administer programmes of cooperation and implementation with other EARN members and external parties;
- be financially viable independently of EARN;
- be able to produce regularly audited accounts or financial reports (past and present);
- be an independent policy research institute, with no fixed political agenda or affiliation.

The fulfilment of these basic requirements is to be shown by the applying institution and submitted to the board of EARN.

The applicant institution becomes an **effective member of EARN** when:

- a) at least half (i.e. five) of the SC members have stated in written their approval and no members objection.
- b) In the case of objections by one or more members, the acting chair may choose to put the issue to the vote of all members. A majority of 75% of all members must vote in favour and /or less than 25% of the members have objected.

Approval or objection statements by the members must be sent **in writing** within twenty working days of the date the application request was sent to the members.

In case the required number of approval or objection statements is not received with the set timeline of twenty-working days, a second twenty-day period is announced, after which membership is accepted.

Upon fulfilment of the requirements and acceptance of the application, applicants shall receive a **confirmation** of membership in writing and EARN members shall be informed.

Membership of EARN is not time restricted. However, if any organisation develops concerns regarding the continued eligibility of an existing member, then a formal and public letter of concern should be sent to the secretariat. Upon receipt of such a letter a vote should be held within 20 working-days by the members. 75% of all members must vote in favour of expulsion for the motion to carry. If the motion fails to pass no similar vote can take place for 24 months unless this condition is waived by the secretariat.

There is no automatic right or claim to membership, and no recourse to correspondence or legal action.

Documents to be submitted in support of an application may include (amongst others) the following:

- Mission statement of the applicant organization;
- Complete list of the applicant organization's senior staff and board of directors;
- Most recent annual financial statement or report listing income sources (preferably audited);
- Copy of the applicant organization's registration status;
- Latest annual report.

Some degree of flexibility in the application of the capacity criteria (in-house capacity) can be allowed by the SC in light of the EARN capacity-building objective agreed by the members, provided there are no objections to the applicant on the part of any of the SC members. When applicants provide well-based justification for their inability to comply with the required application documents, their candidacy can still be considered by the SC.