

# **Governing Statute of the Regional Network for Education and Training in Nuclear Technology STAR-NET**

## **Regionales Netzwerk für Aus- und Fortbildung in Nukleartechnologie**

### **§1 Preamble**

- 1.1. This Statute establishes the **Regional Network for Education and Training in Nuclear Technology (STAR-NET) - Regionales Netzwerk für Aus- und Fortbildung in Nukleartechnologie**, hereinafter referred to as the STAR-NET, as a non-governmental and non-profit organization. In doing so, it describes the objectives, governance, structure, functions, and other essential characteristics of the STAR-NET.
- 1.2. The STAR-NET is an international voluntary undertaking established by state and private universities, R&D centers, state and industry enterprises, training-related institutions, and other interested entities involving in education activities in the field of nuclear technology and operating in accordance with the STAR-NET's objectives and this Statute.
- 1.3. The availability of nuclear technology is essential for meeting growing energy demands, safe and sustainable use of energy, but also in the areas of non-power applications (health, industrial and agricultural development, protection of the environment etc.) In many countries of the region, nuclear technology can be a catalyst for establishing a culture of science and technology, while at present, use of various applications of nuclear technology is less than optimal.
- 1.4. Using nuclear technology requires highly qualified human resources. Many nuclear education and training resources are available in different countries of East Europe and Middle Asia, while differences in the level of knowledge and resources are observed, depending on the national level and usage of nuclear technology. On the other side, shortage of human resources is a serious concern in some countries, while other countries have developed educational systems and can supply education and training as well as qualified human resources. There is a strong need to foster cooperation between educational institutions and nuclear industry oriented training centers in these countries.
- 1.5. Information and resources sharing scheme through networking could contribute quick spreading of the benefits of atomic energy, as well as to reduce associated risks. A number of on-going activities in the countries of the region could potentially be linked through the STAR-NET.
- 1.6. The creation of networks, distance learning and the use of shared facilities would be fundamental pillars for achieving efficient cooperation in education and training in the context of the STAR-NET. These joint activities are expected to strengthen national developments in education and training in nuclear technology.
- 1.7. Public awareness (directed towards potential students) about the desirability of using nuclear technology and its applications should be enhanced. Accordingly, a regional

level motivation is required by identifying challenges in nuclear technology and its applications that would attract talented youth.

## **§ 2 Name, Abbreviation and Logo**

- 2.1 The Organization's name is the Regional Network for Education and Training in Nuclear Technology (STAR-NET) – Regionales Netzwerk für Aus- und Fortbildung in Nukleartechnologie, abbreviated as STAR-NET. Its official English logo appears below.



## **§ 3 Seat, Legal Status, Duration**

- 3.1 The organization's seat is Vienna, Austria, with activities in the territory of Austria and all over the world.
- 3.2 The STAR-NET is founded as an association under the Austrian Law of Associations with international memberships. It aims at the status of an International Non-Governmental Organization to be granted by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria under the Austrian Law on NGOs Federal Law Gazette BGBl. Nr. 174/1992.
- 3.3 The STAR-NET shall exist permanently, unless dissolved as provided in Article 16.1.

## **§ 4 Objectives and Approach**

- 4.1 The STAR-NET is established to promote, manage and preserve nuclear knowledge and to ensure the continued availability of talented and qualified human resources in the nuclear field in the countries, which educational organizations participate in this network, and to enhance the quality of the human resources for safe and sustainable use of nuclear technology.
- 4.2 The STAR-NET's objective is to facilitate co-operation in education and professional training, related research and outreach in nuclear technology through:
- Identifying the educational problems and needs in nuclear education in the region;
  - Assessing educational resources and offerings in nuclear education and training in the region;
  - Collaborating in projects in nuclear education and nuclear technology;
  - Exchanging information, teaching materials and advanced tools for education, training and outreach in relation to nuclear technology;
  - Developing common curricula and facilitating mutual recognition of degrees;
  - Developing educational and methodological materials;
  - Promoting exchanges of students, teachers and researchers;
  - Promoting collaboration among STAR-NET member organizations and other regional educational networks;
  - Sharing best practices in nuclear education and educational resources.

#### 4.3 The STAR-NET will strive to:

- a. Share knowledge and integrate available resources for implementation of educational and training programmes by looking for ways to create synergy with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other existing mechanisms;
- b. Build public awareness of the benefits and risks of nuclear technology and its applications;
- c. Attract talented young people to work in the area of nuclear education and nuclear technology;
- d. Facilitate and extend access to nuclear education and training;
- e. Encourage professionals in the nuclear field to share their experience and knowledge with younger generations;
- f. Foster, to the fullest possible extent, the use of modern information and communication technologies for training and education;
- g. Facilitate linkages and cooperation with other educational networks;
- h. Cooperate with industry and governmental organizations, research and academic institutions.

### **§ 5 Scope, Activities and Recourses to achieve the organization's objective**

- 5.1 The scope of the STAR-NET activities are included but not limited to: education (levels of bachelor, master and specialist and post graduate/PhD), professional training (continuous training, professional development training, etc.) as well as educational, research and development projects in all subjects in the area of nuclear science, technology and management.
- 5.2 The main STAR-NET activities are to be implemented through the thematic groups as provided in Article 15.2.
- 5.3 The objective of the STAR-NET shall be realized through the following recourses:
  - a. Membership fees,
  - b. Generating revenue through the provision of services, like training, consultancy, research and development,
  - c. Donations and other means of financial sponsorship.

### **§ 6 Membership, Admission and Fees**

- 6.1 Membership is open to legal entities (universities, research centers, governmental organizations and other institutions involved in the nuclear education activities) and individuals by application subject to approval by the General Assembly. Other organizations, e.g. from outside the region or international organizations, may contribute to STAR-NET as collaborating members.
- 6.2 Admission may be denied without stating a reason.
- 6.3 Membership in the STAR-NET is subject to a fee.
- 6.4 The annual membership fee is determined every year by resolution of the General Assembly.

- 6.5 Subject to a decision by the Presidium, the fee for educational institutions or individual outstanding experts may be reduced or waived.
- 6.6 The new members shall pay the membership fee within 21 days from the day of admission as a member.
- 6.7 Each new member-organization nominates an official representative who represents it in the STAR-NET. The member-organization can change its official representative at any time by a written notice to the Presidium.

## **§ 7 Responsibilities and Rights**

- 7.1 The members shall comply with the STAR-NET's objectives and refrain from actions that might harm the STAR-NET's reputation or compromise the goals or the purpose of STAR-NET. They shall actively engage in preparing and implementing activities as outlined under Article 4.3.
- 7.2 All members shall uphold the internal rules of procedure as defined by the Presidium, specifically including requirements to maintain information confidential, when required by the Presidium and Managing Director.
- 7.3 Members of the STAR-NET are allowed to take part in the events and activities of the STAR-NET and have access to the STAR-NET resources, except where access to such activities and resources has been restricted by the Presidium for a given reason.
- 7.4 If a member fails to pay a membership fee within 21 days of receiving a second notice calling upon the member to do so, then such member shall be deprived of the right to vote at meetings of all of the STAR-NET's governing bodies until the fee has been paid.

## **§ 8 Resignation, Expulsion and Suspension**

- 8.1 The voluntary exit of a member is possible at any time by written notification to the Presidium.
- 8.2 Presidium can expel or suspend a member if the member violates the internal rules of procedure or otherwise, in the judgment of the Presidium, acts against the interests of the STAR-NET.
- 8.3 Expulsion means the permanent termination of all rights and status as a member of the STAR-NET. Termination occurs upon the decision of the Presidium to expel a member. Expelled members are allowed to reapply for membership in the STAR-NET. All members will be notified about any member that has been expelled.
- 8.4 Suspension results in the temporary revocation of all rights and status as a member of the STAR-NET. Suspension may be for a specific period of time, or indefinite. A suspended member's right and status as a member of the STAR-NET can be restored by a decision of the Presidium.

## **§ 9 Cooperation with the IAEA**

- 9.1 The STAR-NET is aiming the close cooperation with the IAEA. The STAR-NET will compliment existing international initiatives including the initiatives of the IAEA by focusing on the area of education and training and will address problems related to nuclear technology, education, training and outreach. In addition, the STAR-NET

could benefit from the experience gained in already established national and regional education and knowledge networks, for example in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

9.2 Representatives of the IAEA may participate in the meetings of the General Assembly and the Presidium.

## **§ 10 Organizational Structure**

10.1 The STAR-NET shall consist of the General Assembly (§ 11), the Presidium (§ 12), the Managing Director (§ 13), and the Auditor (§ 14). A substantial part of the organization's work is done within Thematic Groups (§15).

## **§ 11 General Assembly**

11.1 The General Assembly is composed of STAR-NET members. Each member has a right for one vote at the General Assembly.

11.2 General Assembly meetings may be either ordinary or extraordinary.

11.3 An ordinary meeting of the General Assembly is held once a year. It is convened by the Presidium. Notice of the meeting, including the meeting agenda, shall be sent to the members one month in advance.

11.4 The General Assembly meeting may pass resolutions if at least one third of its members are present at the meeting. It passes resolutions by simple majority.

11.5 Resolutions concerning amendments of the Statute or the dissolution of the STAR-NET shall be passed by a 2/3 majority of votes.

11.6 An extraordinary General Assembly is held whenever the STAR-NET's interest so dictates. An extraordinary General Meeting is convened by the Presidium within a month from receiving a request. The request may be submitted by at least one tenth of members or at Presidium's discretion.

11.7 In urgent cases, the General Assembly may pass resolutions by circulation (i.e. e-mail, facsimile etc.). In such case, at least half of the members must take part in voting.

11.8 The General Assembly:

- a. Changes or amends the STAR-NET Statute,
- b. Appoints members of the Presidium and of the Managing Director,
- c. Sets the STAR-NET's agenda for the next year,
- d. Specifies the amount of the annual membership fee,
- e. Approves the STAR-NET's long-term agenda,
- f. Resolves whether to dissolve the STAR-NET.

## **§ 12 Presidium**

12.1 The Presidium is composed of the STAR-NET members – President, Vice-President and one representative from each participating country.

12.2 The members of the Presidium, President and Vice-president are appointed by the General Assembly for a term of two years.

12.3 Meetings of the Presidium are held at least annually.

12.4 The Presidium builds international relations with relevant stakeholders, represents the STAR-NET in external events, subject to prior coordination with the Managing

Director, and provides strategic recommendations to the General Assembly and the Managing Director.

- 12.5 Decisions of the Presidium are passed by a simple majority, with at least one half of all members being present.

### **§ 13 Managing Director**

- 13.1 The Managing Director is appointed by the General Assembly for a term of two years.
- 13.2 The Managing Director is accountable for the day-to-day management of the STAR-NET and for establishing and implementing all internal and operational procedures to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the organization. This includes the launching and supervision of projects, financial affairs, internal and external information and communication needs, provision of confidentiality, staff matters, and reporting thereon to the General Assembly. The Managing Director has the power to represent the STAR-NET vis-à-vis third parties and may bind the organization contractually, subject to such limitations as the General Assembly or Presidium may provide by resolution.
- 13.3 The Managing Director shall ensure that all members have equal access to services like training courses, materials, intangible assets, fixed assets, and equipment purchased as part of projects implemented by the STAR-NET or co-financed by its members or other funding organizations.

### **§ 14 Auditors**

- 14.1 The General Assembly shall appoint two auditors who are responsible for auditing the statement of accounts on an annual basis and report their findings and conclusions to the General Assembly.

### **§ 15 Thematic Groups**

- 15.1 Thematic groups are formed and dissolved at the request of at least three members by resolution of the Presidium.
- 15.2 Thematic groups shall be responsible for developing, preparing and submitting projects and setting the STAR-NET's objectives in the relevant areas (Articles 4.2 and 5.1). Thematic groups may issue opinions and submit remarks, but do not represent the opinion of the STAR-NET.

### **§ 16 Dissolution and Liquidation**

- 16.1 The voluntary dissolution of the STAR-NET can only be resolved at a meeting of the General Assembly called in for that special purpose.
- 16.2 In the event of dissolution, the STAR-NET will ensure that any assets or money in its possession will be properly managed, returned and allocated in accordance with contractual commitments and stakeholder agreements. Any remaining assets or money will be allocated by the Board of Directors to another not-for-profit

organization for charitable, scientific or educational purposes, or to government instrumentality for public purposes.

## **§ 17 Dispute Resolution**

- 17.1 A Board of Arbitration shall decide all disputes arising within the organization.
- 17.2 The Board of Arbitration shall be composed of five full members. It shall be formed in that every party to a dispute proposes two members as arbitrators within 14 days to the General Assembly. These shall then elect another member of the organization as Chair of the Board of Arbitration by a majority vote. In case of a tie, the Chair of the Board of Arbitration shall be elected by drawing lots among the proposed candidates.
- 17.3. The Board of Arbitration shall render its decision in the presence of all members by a simple majority of votes. It shall decide to the best of its knowledge and abilities. The decisions of the Board of Arbitration are final within the organization.