

## EARN EXECUTIVE

## EARN Charter

For approval by the EARN Executive

issued by  
A Cohen  
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## 1 EARN Objectives

EARN (European Academic and Research Network) is a computer network open to all universities, educational, academic and non-commercial research institutions.

The objective of EARN is to provide an information exchange system to satisfy the need for international academic co-operation and the fast, unrestricted exchange of data between the members of this academic and research community, for non-commercial academic, scientific, educational and research purposes.

## 2 EARN Membership

EARN members are institutions in Europe, the Middle East, or Africa. In addition, EARN members are institutions responsible for at least one node of EARN, who are able and willing to support communications with other EARN members. A node is a computer system, connected to the main EARN network directly or via a National Research Network with an agreed EARN Gateway, which is able to send, receive and distribute files, messages, mail and jobs, using appropriate communication standards and protocols as specified by EARN.

### 2.1 Country Eligibility

Any country in Europe, the Middle East or Africa is eligible to connect to EARN as a COUNTRY member and to nominate one director to the EARN Board of Directors.

COUNTRY members of EARN are considered to have the same status within EARN, independent of the size or implementation of their national network.

Any country not located within the region of Europe, the Middle East or Africa is eligible to connect as a CO-OPERATING COUNTRY and to nominate an observer to the EARN Board of Directors.

Requests for EARN membership from the first institution or the national research network for COUNTRY or CO-OPERATING COUNTRY members should be directed to the Office of the President of EARN.

Admission of all new COUNTRY members of EARN requires a decision by the EARN Board of Directors.

## 2.2 Institute Eligibility

All universities and non-commercial research institutions within COUNTRY members of EARN are eligible to be FULL INSTITUTE members of the EARN Association. Requests for FULL INSTITUTE membership are handled and decided upon by the EARN Director in the respective country.

Other research institutions, or organisations with significant links to academic institutions, are eligible to become ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE members. Associate membership status can be obtained for both COUNTRY members as well as for CO-OPERATING COUNTRY members.

## 2.3 Application

The member of the EARN Board of Directors in each country decides on applications for FULL INSTITUTE or ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE membership according to the regulations established by the Board. Acceptance of ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE membership must be reported to the EARN Board of Directors.

For a period of 60 days, any EARN Director can appeal the acceptance of an ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE member. In the case of an appeal, the EARN Board of Directors will vote on whether to permit acceptance or not.

## 2.4 Disconnection

Any COUNTRY or CO-OPERATING COUNTRY may request disconnection from EARN, provided a six month warning is supplied.

The EARN Board of Directors may request the disconnection of any FULL or CO-OPERATING COUNTRY from EARN, provided a warning is supplied, according to Article 7 of the Statutes.

### 3 EARN Usage

All use of EARN must be to the benefit of academia. No commercial use or political activism, whether direct or indirect, is permitted.

All users of an EARN node may be permitted to access EARN provided that their use is consistent with the Charter and the Code of Conduct of the EARN Association.

#### 3.1 Communication with other Computer Networks

The members of the EARN Association agree to restrict their communications to other networks via agreed upon gateways and according to the regulations agreed upon between the Association and these networks.

#### 3.2 Responsibilities

All FULL INSTITUTE and ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE members shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure that users of their computing facilities abide by these rules and any other regulations governing the use of EARN as the EARN Board of Directors shall introduce:

- All COUNTRY members shall install at least one permanent (leased line) telecommunications link, for which they are responsible, to a node on the main network of another EARN COUNTRY member.
- All ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE members are only permitted to communicate with FULL INSTITUTE members of EARN and other accessible networks. ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE members are allowed to participate in all electronic discussion forums (i.e. LISTSERV) that are managed by EARN.
- All COUNTRY members shall allow at least one other COUNTRY member of EARN to install a link to one of their FULL INSTITUTE nodes.
- All COUNTRY members shall allow traffic destined for the nodes of other countries to transit their node(s), without charge and without restrictions other than those that may be necessary due to exceptional traffic conditions.

All country members are expected to comply with the rules laid out in the "EARN Directives and Regulations".

### 3.3 Caveats

EARN does not guarantee the security, the confidentiality, or the integrity of the data and messages sent on the EARN network. It is the user's responsibility to protect their computer systems and to secure data transmissions on the network that concern them by all means they feel appropriate

No EARN COUNTRY member (both FULL and CO-OPERATING) nor any FULL or ASSOCIATE INSTITUTE member shall be held responsible for unintentional damage that his use of the network may cause to other members.

## 4 EARN Regulations

Regulations governing the connection to, access to and the use of EARN and EARN Services are determined by the EARN Board of Directors.

A decision of the EARN Board concerning the membership of EARN, the regulations governing EARN and any other matter concerning EARN shall be complied with by all members.

### 4.1 EARN Board of Directors

The EARN Board of Directors shall comprise one Director from each COUNTRY member, along with one observer from each CO-OPERATING COUNTRY member.

The EARN Board of Directors may co-opt additional members to the Board as appropriate.

The members in each EARN country shall determine by themselves the method of choosing their EARN Director.

The EARN Board of Directors work and decides according to the Statutes and the Operating Procedures of EARN.

### 4.2 Voting

Each COUNTRY member is entitled to one vote on all EARN decisions. CO-OPERATING COUNTRY members are not entitled to a vote. The rules for voting are covered in the Operational Procedures of EARN.

### 4.3 Costs

Every COUNTRY and CO-OPERATING COUNTRY member will be required to pay annual dues to cover the costs of EARN. Each country's share of the costs will be based on decisions by the Board of Directors of EARN.

5 EARN Related documents

EARN Statutes

EARN Code of Conduct

EARN Operational Procedures

EARN Directives and Recommendations