

Raison d'être, structure & membership of NEIWA

7th NEIWA meeting – Barcelona – 16 & 17 June 2022

1. Raison d'être

Building on the mission statement adopted by NEIWA in December 2021, NEIWA is a network of EU public authorities who have a central and / or pivotal role working in the field of whistleblowing (prevention and education, protection, investigation and advice), with the EU Directive as the common basis.

2. Structure

- The board of NEIWA, consists of 5 members:
 - A chairperson, who will be the “face” of NEIWA and who ensures that all the agreed upon activities are indeed done and deals with the more administrative aspects of governing NEIWA.
 - A vice-chairperson, who ensures together with the chairperson that all activities are done, NEIWA is represented where applicable and all administrative aspects of NEIWA are taken care of.
 - Three members of NEIWA consisting of the former, current and future hosts of the annual NEIWA in-person plenary meeting.
- The chairperson and vice-chairperson are from different member states and chosen from and by the NEIWA members, they rotate each 3 years.
- All members of the board of NEIWA will ensure that their office can perform the 'secretarial' functions attached to their task.
- The chairperson and / or vice-chairperson will organize a digital plenary annual meeting
 - The chairperson and vice-chairperson will, based on the input of all NEIWA members, draft the agenda together, where applicable with input from the other members of the board.
- Each member of NEIWA will at some point have the opportunity to organize the annual in-person meeting, either alone or jointly with another member:
 - The organizing member makes a draft agenda, in cooperation with the board, to which other members of NEIWA could add topics. The final program of the meeting is decided on together by all board members.

Members who would like to be part of the board or would like to be the chair or vice chair, can make themselves known as candidate and be appointed by agreement by the NEIWA members.

To ensure efficient hand over of information and documents to the new chair, vice chair and board, needs a document library with a license that can be passed on to the next chair, vice chair and board.

The further details need to be worked out after the Barcelona meeting and laid down in the Rules of Procedure.

3. Membership

The **criteria** for the membership is closely linked to the raison d'être of the network. The network strives to gather EU public authorities who have a central and / or pivotal role working in the field of whistleblowing (prevention and education, protection and support, reports and investigation and advice), with the EU Directive as the common basis.

The network is thus open to the following members:

- public (regional, national or EU) authorities;
- with tasks in the areas of reports (as described in article 5 of the EU Directive) and investigation or protection and support or prevention and education or advice;
- who have national or regional competences within an EU member state;

Organizations/authorities located in a candidate-EU country or are part of the EEA can be admitted as observers.

An **application form** will be sent to the candidate authorities to fill in (including information on the competence of the organization (which should include at least one of the following areas: prevention and education, support and protection, reports of investigation or advice), its mandate, its legislation, etc.). The application will be presented for validation / acceptance to the existing members of NEIWA. The modalities of the acceptance procedure (terms for acceptance, documentation of admission, quorum for the decision making process, etc.) are to be determined in the Rules of Procedure..

This document can be reviewed by the NEIWA members at the next in person meeting.