

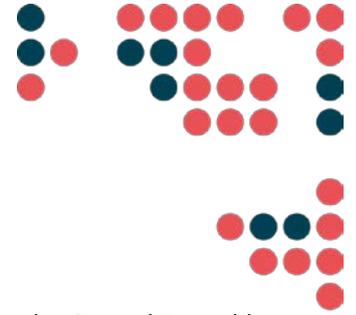
Mechelen, Belgium
5 September 2018

2018 CENTR Board of Directors offsite conclusions

The CENTR Board of Directors met on 4-5 September 2018 in Mechelen, Belgium for a strategic offsite meeting with the goals to review the strategic plan and budget, to review the basic elements of CENTR's strategic planning in the light of its mission statement and to assess the Board's planning process.

In the course of its discussions, the Board came to the following conclusions:

- The Board assessed progress-to-date on the strategic plan and notes that the execution of operational plans is on track.
- In order to increase engagement and act swifter on policy issues such as EU regulatory initiatives, policy updates will become a regular part of the Board meetings.
- The Board notes the effect of continued investment in CENTRstats, commends the secretariat for the timely roll-out of further improvements and thanks the members for their data contributions and survey answers.
- The Board wishes to express appreciation for Working Group Chairs & Vice-Chairs, as well as active Working Group participants. After analysing the internal data, the Board noted growing engagement. Working Groups are essential to succeed in achieving CENTR's strategic goals. The Board instructs the staff to increase support for Chairs & Vice-Chairs where and as needed.
- In order to provide additional opportunities for participation, the secretariat is instructed to promote tools for remote participation and virtual meetings.
- The Board noted staff efforts to contain costs and avoid a general fee increase in 2019. The Board will propose additional membership fee bands and encourage members to consider voluntary fee band increases, as well as project-based targeted sponsorship.
- Based on input from the membership and the dedicated webinar on the concerns related to the changing membership landscape and following the discussion with the members during the last GA on the "blurring landscape", the Board believes that a Code of Conduct will strengthen the trust and invigorate members' mutual engagement. A draft will be shared with the membership before the end of the year.
- Triggered by new membership applications, the Board noted that the statutes do not give guidance on how to maintain the European identity of CENTR. The Board therefore suggests looking into additional specifications on how to define full members as "European". Guidance should be provided by the United



Nations geoscheme for Europe (M49 standard)¹. In the future, it is also advised that the General Assembly discusses the essential elements in the statutes that at the moment seem to lead to unpredictability. Both associate membership criteria and the European nature of CENTR should be clarified

- Recalling that the Market Study Phase II was agreed on by the General Assembly in Belgrade, the Board instructs the secretariat to move forward with Phase II of the Market Study, if possible in collaboration with volunteers from the Marketing Working Group.
- The Board thanks outgoing staff members Nina Elzer and Alexandrine Gauvin for their strong contributions to the CENTR community and welcomes new CENTR team members Polina Malaja and Lydia Stoddart.

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>