

# Academics4Rail



## Deliverable 1.1 Statues of the European Rail Excellence Scientific Community for ERJU

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## 1 Executive Summary

The European Rail Excellence Scientific Community (ERESC) emerges as a collaborative initiative between the EURNEX Network of Excellence and the Academics4Rail project partners, aimed at fostering advancements within the rail scientific community. With a commitment to enhancing the European Research Area and bolstering the competitiveness of the rail industry, ERESO aims to integrate knowledge, overcome fragmentation, and support cross-border collaboration.

ERESC's objectives encompass promoting research and development in the rail sector, facilitating knowledge transfer among European universities and research establishments, and forging links between academia, industry, and operators. Key strategies include organizing events for knowledge exchange, fostering multidisciplinary cooperation, and advocating for sustainable transport policies.

Membership in ERESO is open to entities within the European Union actively engaged in rail research, subject to approval based on criteria such as research excellence, collaboration, and knowledge sharing. Additionally, corresponding membership is extended to entities outside the EU willing to support ERESO's objectives.

The organizational structure of ERESO comprises the Assembly of Members, the Foreperson, and the Board. The Assembly of Members serves as the highest decision-making body, responsible for approving activities, admitting new members, and modifying statutes. The Foreperson, represented by the Secretary General of EURNEX, oversees the day-to-day operations and implementation of

decisions.

To ensure transparency and accountability, each member is entitled to access information regarding ERESK's activities, while confidentiality and intellectual property rights are safeguarded through specific agreements.

Overall, ERESK stands as a pivotal platform fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation within the European rail scientific community, poised to contribute significantly to the advancement of rail transportation and sustainable mobility in Europe.

## 2 Background

The European rail sector stands at a crucial juncture, facing both challenges and opportunities in its mission for sustainability, efficiency, and competitiveness. As the backbone of Europe's transportation infrastructure, the rail industry plays a vital role in facilitating economic growth, promoting environmental sustainability, and enhancing mobility for millions of citizens across the continent. However, to maintain and strengthen its position in an increasingly dynamic global landscape, the European rail sector requires robust scientific support and collaboration.

First and foremost, the European rail industry faces challenges in the domains of technological innovation, infrastructure development, and operational efficiency. With the rapid advancement of digitalization, automation, and renewable energy technologies, there exists a pressing need for cutting-edge research and development initiatives to modernize and optimize rail systems. Moreover, the ever-growing demand for seamless connectivity and multimodal transport solutions necessitates interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, engineers, and policymakers to address complex mobility challenges effectively.

Furthermore, in the face of intensifying global competition and evolving market dynamics, Europe's rail industry must enhance its competitiveness and attractiveness to investors, operators, and passengers alike. Achieving this goal requires a concerted effort to leverage scientific expertise and innovation to drive efficiency gains, reduce costs, and improve service quality across the entire rail value chain. Additionally, as Europe strives to achieve its ambitious climate, sustainability and competitiveness targets, the rail sector assumes increasing significance as a competing and low-carbon alternative to road and air transport, highlighting the imperative for scientific support to accelerate the transition to sustainable mobility solutions.

Moreover, the fragmented nature of European rail research and education poses a significant barrier to achieving synergies, sharing best practices, and fostering cross-border collaboration. In this context, the establishment of a unified scientific community such as the European Rail Excellence Scientific Community (ERESC) emerges as a pivotal initiative to overcome fragmentation, integrate knowledge, and harness the collective expertise of academia, industry, and policymakers. By facilitating collaboration, knowledge exchange, and joint research initiatives, ERESK aims to propel Europe's rail sector towards global leadership, driving innovation, sustainability, and economic growth in the process.

In summary, the necessity of scientific support for Europe's rail sector is evident in the face of multifaceted challenges and opportunities confronting the industry. By fostering collaboration, promoting innovation, and advocating for sustainable solutions, initiatives like ERESK play a crucial role in shaping the future of rail transportation in Europe and beyond, ensuring its continued relevance and resilience in an ever-changing world.



3 Statutes

# Academics4Rail



## European Rail Excellence Scientific Community

- Definition and aims -

Berlin, 04.10.2023



The project is supported by the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking and its members.

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## Preamble

The members of the EURNEX Network of Excellence and the project partners of Academics4Rail project

- being willing to continue implementing the objectives of the EURNEX network of excellence to continue improving the position of the rail scientific community,
- having decided to further overcome the fragmentation of European Rail Research & Education and integrate their excellent knowledge towards a world class player,
- contributing to build the European Research Area and Europe to the most competitive economy,
- supporting the rail industries and operators need for a more competitive rail system by supplying integrated Research & Education performance to the best quality,
- helping to overcome cross-border barriers & constraints in standardisation, harmonisation and modularisation,

have decided to support a stable and durable scientific community that in an organized way can share and exchange scientific knowledge with:

- Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (ERJU) years 2021 to 2027,
- any upcoming European rail research partnership from 2028,
- the European Rail Research Advisory Council (ERRAC),
- DG-MOVE and DG-Research.

## ARTICLE 1 NAME, SUPPORT, HOST

- (1) The name of the scientific community is "European Rail Excellence Scientific Community" henceforth ERESK
- (2) The ERESK shall be supported and hosted by EURNEX, as well as represented and impersonated by EURNEX after the finalization of the project Academics4Rail.

## ARTICLE 2 AIMS, STRATEGIES, ACTIVITY

- (1) The objective of ERESK is to promote research and development of the rail system, particularly
  - to enhance co-operation in research and education as well as the knowledge transfer between the Members of the ERESK, European Universities and Research Establishments being interested in railway research, incl. multidisciplinary capabilities,
  - to facilitate the scheduling and implementation of joint research projects between Members and to build up a sustainable research environment for the railway sector,
  - to develop links between Members of the ERESK, industrial partners and operators within the railway sector,
  - to increase the awareness of specific high-quality research needs and opportunities for cooperation with the railway sector,
  - to promote the railway contribution to sustainable transport policy and
  - to improve the competitiveness and economic stability of the railway sector and industry.
- (2) The aim of the ERESK will be achieved particularly by the following activities:
  - Organizing congresses and meetings for the exchange of knowledge and experience related to the rail system;
  - Integrating excellent research through specific disciplinary areas and with cross multidisciplinary cooperation;

- Developing, promoting and providing strategies, technologies and methods to improve the performance and attractiveness of rail transport;
- Providing a platform for the Members to coordinate, structure and perform collaborative research in rail related projects and general transport issues;
- Supporting the Members in sharing resources and research capacities as appropriate and necessary;
- Concentrating and promoting concerted neutral expertise for stakeholders such as the railway industry, national and international authorities and bodies;
- Promoting in a stable manner sustainable relationships with European and National Governmental institutions and other relevant stakeholders;
- Become a neutral, independent expert on rail research and development as well as policy issues, training and education in the railway sector;
- Promoting technical standardisation and harmonisation of the rail system;
- Increasing the availability of existing research and development resources in the railway sector;
- Increasing the availability of existing research and development resources in the other sectors where railway can be of pivotal importance

(3) The ERESO is non-commercial.

## ARTICLE 3 MEMBERS OF THE ERESO

- (1) ERESO members are the EURNEX members joined by Academics4Rail project partners, and any other legal entities (*juristische Personen*) established under civil or public law and having their registered/main office in the territory of the European Union provided that such entities develop regular activities in the field of rail research.
- (2) New Members need to be proposed by two existing Members, and accepted by a resolution of the Assembly of Members taking in account the following attributes:
  - Quality: Members of the ERESO are expected to demonstrate research excellence and to contribute to the general welfare of the ERESO;
  - Collaboration (transparency and competition): Members should be prepared to be active in poles and engage in open discussion of project proposals with other Members as appropriate;
  - Contribution (knowledge contribution): membership in the ERESO demands the willingness to share knowledge, to provide information on projects and research topics currently undertaken and to cooperate within poles and on cross-pole activities.
- (4) Legal entities having their registered/main office outside the territory of the European Union might be admitted as Corresponding Member by the Assembly. Corresponding Members neither have the rights nor obligations which the regular Members of the ERESO have but might support the ERESO and its objectives on a constant basis, e.g. by joining meetings, participating in projects of regular Members or by sharing information of the ERESO. The following stipulations are exclusively addressing regular Members (Founding Members and Members)
- (5) The membership shall end if
  - a member has ceased to exist,
  - a member was excluded from the ERESO or
  - the membership is terminated by the member itself.



- (6) A member can be excluded
- upon request of the Board by a resolution of the Assembly of Members adopted with a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast for a substantial reason, particularly if the Member has systematically disrespected the three attributes listed above (para. 2). The Board has to announce such request in writing vis-à-vis the member concerned at least two weeks before the Assembly of Members. A written statement of the member concerned has to be read out to the Assembly of Members before it decides about the exclusion. The member concerned has no vote in the decision or
- The exclusion becomes valid with the decision of the Board or the Assembly of Members, as the case may be. The decision shall be announced to the excluded Member by registered letter of the Foreperson if the Member concerned did not attend the decision.
- (7) A Member can terminate its membership at the end of a calendar year by giving written notice to the Board not later than three months before the end of such calendar year. If membership ends in the course of a financial year, the annual membership fee shall remain due for the full year.

## ARTICLE 4 ORGANISATION OF THE ERESO

- (1) The organs of the ERESO are
- The Assembly of Members
  - The Foreperson
  - The Board

## ARTICLE 5 ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS

- (1) The Assembly of Members is the highest organ of the ERESO and may make resolutions on any matter of the ERESO's activity if this task has not been transferred to another organ by these Statutes. The Assembly of Members has the power to discuss the general policy of the ERESO according to the aims described in Article 2 and to take the required measures to implement the decisions. Specifically the Assembly of Members possesses the following authority:
- To approve the scheme of activities;
  - To approve the annual report of activities;
  - To approve any budget planning;
  - To admit new Members to the ERESO and to terminate memberships;
  - To set the date of the following meetings;
  - To modify the articles of the Statutes;
  - To receive and to accept the report from the Board.
- (2) Members may be represented in the Assembly of Members by other Members by means of a proxy given in writing. Each Member can represent up to three other Members at the most. Members may also be represented by a third party representative by means of a proxy given in writing. Such representative shall be a high-level officer within the organisation of the member.
- (3) The Assembly of Members shall be convened indicating place and time by the Foreperson with a notice period of not less than four weeks at least once a year or whenever the interest of the ERESO makes it necessary.

- (4) The notice of convocation must be accompanied by a draft agenda. The final agenda will be handed over to the Members two weeks in advance of the meeting. The meetings of the Assembly of Members shall be chaired by the Chairman of EURNEX or a deputy elected by the Assembly of Members. The meetings of the Assembly of Members and its resolutions shall be minuted by the Foreperson or a deputy elected by the Assembly of Members.

## ARTICLE 6 RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS

- (1) A quorum of the Assembly of Members shall be constituted when one-third of the Members are present or represented.
- (2) Each Member has one vote. Resolutions of the Assembly of Members shall be adopted by a majority of the valid votes cast, unless these Statutes require otherwise.
- (3) The following resolutions of the Assembly of Members require a majority of two third of the votes cast:
  - To approve the strategies and the Joint Programme of Activities set by the Foreperson
  - To approval of the annual report of activities,
  - To admittance of new Members and the termination of membership of the ERES C,
  - To adoption of the ERES C's annual budget and accounts or any amendment thereto,
  - Any amendment of these Statutes,
  - The liquidation of the ERES C,
  - If such majority is provided for elsewhere in these Statutes.
- (4) The agenda for the Assembly of Members and proposal(s) for resolution(s) have to be forwarded in copy to all Members at least two weeks prior to the Assembly of Members.
- (5) If a quorum of the Assembly of Members according to para. 1 hereof is not constituted a further Assembly of Members with the same agenda might be convened by the Foreperson observing the provisions of Art. 7 para. 3 sentence 1 hereof. Such second Assembly of Members is constituting a quorum irrespective of the quantity of members being present or represented. In the convocation of the second Assembly of Members the facilitated requirements to constitute a quorum have expressly to be indicated.
- (6) Resolutions of the Assembly of Members may be adopted in writing and if there is no need for confidentiality by fax or e-mail if all Members assent or take part in such procedure.

## ARTICLE 7 BOARD

- (1) The Board of ERES C consists of the Chairman of EURNEX, the Vice Chairman of EURNEX and the Secretary General of EURNEX.
- (2) Any management activity of the Board and/or its members has to strictly respect the terms of these Statutes as well as the budget, joint programme of activities and any other regulation and/or instruction adopted by the ERES C's organ being competent according to these Statutes (Assembly of Members).
- (3) The Foreperson is entitled to solely represent the ERES C.

## ARTICLE 8 FOREPERSON

- (1) The Foreperson of ERESO is the Secretary General of EURNEX
- (2) The Foreperson is solely responsible for overall organisation and the management of the ERESO and in particular shall
  - Convene the Assembly of Members and meetings of the Board;
  - Organise meetings and events;
  - Supervise the archives of the ERESO;
  - Implement the decisions of the Assembly of Members;
  - Prepare the Joint Programme of Activities
  - Conduct public relations and promote activities towards third parties;
  - Be responsible for the daily internal and external operations.

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of EURNEX shall jointly represent the Foreperson in the management if the Foreperson is temporarily prevented to manage the ERESO.

- (2) The Foreperson must coordinate activities of major interest for the ERESO in the Board.
- (3) The Foreperson remains in position until the election of a successor.

## ARTICLE 9 INFORMATION

Each Member is entitled to obtain any information about the business of the ERESO and to look at any business documents or accounts.

## ARTICLE 10 CONFIDENTIALITY & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Specific agreements on Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Right issues shall be entered for each specific activity of the ERESO and for any other activities between Members that may arise under the ERESO's umbrella.

## ARTICLE 11 LIABILITY

- (1) The Members of the ERESO and their representatives are not and shall not be responsible for the obligations and liabilities of the ERESO, except in the case of their own mismanagement. Therefore, the ERESO and its representatives shall not bind or otherwise obligate any of its Members towards third parties with respect to the ERESO's commitments and shall not enter into any other obligation or liability on behalf or in the name of any of its Members without the prior written approval from such Member(s). If the ERESO acts on behalf or in the name of one or more of its Members upon such Member(s)' express written approval, the respective Member(s) shall be the only one(s) responsible for such act and any ensuing obligations.