

Blueprint of the future of the Eisenhower Fellows' European Network (EEFN).

On 16 October 2016, the European fellows participating at the EF European Conference in Dublin agreed to establish a more structured cooperation among themselves, through a EF European Network (EFEN) or Hub. *The geographical extent of the Network is to be decided but there was general agreement this should not be overly restrictive.*

Objective and role of the EFEN

EFEN's main objective is to strengthen the cooperation among the EF National chapters within Europe via common purpose and actions. It also aims at an enhanced dialogue and a more regular interaction among the European fellows.

Moreover, a more structured engagement of the fellows at European level will boost the national chapters' commitment toward the whole network. EFEN will also be the vehicle allowing those fellows, whose national chapter is not yet well developed, to participate in the network.

EFEN must represent a forum to facilitate the dialogue among the fellows without any burdens of formality: fellows are equal and free to talk/ discuss issues with each other at any time. The establishment of the EFEN should be without prejudice to the independence of the national chapters and their autonomy to engage in their own national activities.

Initially, EFEN's role will be to :1) facilitate networking among the fellows at European level; 2) discuss issues of common interest; 3) foster synergy and common projects; 4) organize the EFEN's annual event.

EFEN's members should meet regularly, through an annual event. The EFEN's annual event will be led by the hosting country, supported by one/two national chapters. All the other members of the network should provide their support.

The structure

EFEN's structure should: 1) ensure that all members of the network can be represented; 2) facilitate the discussion through a series of cooperation mechanisms.

To attain these objectives a **European coordination committee (ECC)** will be set up. The ECC will be composed by a Chairperson, selected, by consensus, by the Chairs of all National Chapters and the Chairs of National Chapters themselves. The Chairs can nominate an alternate or delegate to a fellow national committee member.

The role of the chair will be to stimulate the debate at European level on strategic issues and coordinate the work of the network as well promoting the organization of the annual meeting.

The chairs (or alternate nominees) will work in sub-groups of two - maximum three- fellows, on the basis of thematic area, according to the needs required by the network.

Possible thematic areas to discuss:

- 1) **management of the data base:** the sub-group will ensure that European fellows contact details are updated, discuss issues concerning the malfunctioning/deficiencies of the global database and propose solutions;
- 2) **funds-raising:** the sub-group will collect and share issues faced at national level on funds-raising; suggest/propose solutions; promote EF brand also through partnership agreements;

- 3) **coordination of events:** the sub-group will promote the coordination of EEFN's annual event;
- 4) **strategy and projects:** the sub-group will identify areas of common interests with the aim to focus on synergy and propose common projects on the basis of the Fellows expertise;
- 5) **recruitment of new fellows:** the sub-group will discuss and coordinate the recruitment procedures for candidates;
- 6) **new fellows support:** the sub-group will discuss issues faced by new fellows, develop more consistent approaches and put forward solutions to strengthen their integration in the network.

Each sub-group will be in charge of discussing and stimulating the debate among the fellows on any specific issue related to their respective thematic area. They will report to ECC with the aim to find common solutions/adopt reports.

Any decisions of the committee will be taken by consensus. In case of disagreement, the decision will be taken by simple majority.

EEFN Structure

