

# EUNIC Cluster Membership Types

There are different options for organisations to get involved in a cluster. These categories and their definitions have been agreed by the EUNIC General Assembly in alignment with EUNIC statutes. The different membership types are dependant on member organisations' status at global level.

1. Full Members at cluster level
2. Associate Members at cluster level
3. Partners at cluster level

## **1. Full Members at cluster level**

**Full Members of clusters are the local branches of full EUNIC members at global level.** They fully participate in the cluster's projects and have the right to hold both the presidency and vice-presidency as well as to vote on membership. Full Members sign the Cluster Charter. Embassies and consulates can only become Full Members of a cluster automatically if the Foreign Ministry of that EU Member State is a full member of EUNIC at global level. This is the case of: Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. All other embassies and consulates need a mandate.

EUNIC members that do not have a local office in the city or country where a cluster operates but have a strategic interest in it can mandate a representative to act on their behalf as a full or associate member. The mandate is given in written form, usually by the Focal Point of the respective full EUNIC member. Unless otherwise noted, a mandate is given without time limit and can be withdrawn without prior notice in written form. A record of the mandate needs to be kept in the cluster's archive as well as in EUNIC's database.

### **Mandating a different organisation on a Full Members' behalf**

Headquarters of full EUNIC members can also mandate a different organisation to act on its behalf. The following organisations can be mandated:

- Embassies/consulates: Full Members can mandate their respective embassy/consulate to represent them in a cluster as a full or associate member.
- Local branches in a different country: EUNIC members can mandate one of their local offices based in a different, ideally neighbouring, country to represent them in a cluster.
- Different organisations: EUNIC members can mandate another organisation to represent them in a cluster, for instance a binational local cultural centre (such as the French-Mozambican Cultural Centre or Danish-Egyptian Centre).

### **Participation of a Full Members' headquarters in clusters**



Headquarters can be Full Members of a cluster of their home city/country and can hold the vice-presidency, but they **cannot hold the presidency**. They can support the work of the cluster(s) operating in their country through different ways ranging from providing spaces for meetings, legal advice, assuming the vice-presidency and supporting the cluster president.

### **Joining an existing cluster**

Full Members, or the representative they nominated, have the right to join the cluster automatically and no voting is required. If a new full member has joined the cluster, the representative of the new full member signs and adds a date to the existing Cluster Charter. The cluster president sends a scanned copy of the Cluster Charter to the EUNIC office and informs about the new cluster member joining. Some Associate Members at cluster level can transition into Full Members if they receive a mandate from the full EUNIC member. The EUNIC office can be contacted to clarify any doubts.

## **2. Associate Members at cluster level**

There are two types of Associate Members at cluster level:

### **Associate Members that are members of EUNIC at global level**

Local branches of associate EUNIC members at the global level (include reference to EUNIC page 'About?' or the FQ map?) are eligible to be Associate Member at cluster level without a vote by the existing members. They sign the Cluster Charter under a specific section. This currently applies to the British Council and Ukrainian Institute. Associate Members – both at global and local level – cannot hold the Presidency but can hold the Vice-Presidency of the cluster.

Only Associate Members at global level that contribute to the Cluster Fund at global level can submit and administer a Cluster Fund application on behalf of a cluster.

### **Associate Members at cluster level**

Associate Members at cluster level are organisations which subscribe to the purposes of EUNIC but are not eligible for Full or Associate Membership at global level. They are accepted by the Full Members of the cluster with simple majority. Associate Members fully participate in the cluster's projects, while not having the right to hold the presidency or to vote on membership. They do not sign the Cluster Charter at local level but can hold the vice-presidency. Associate Members in clusters can still participate in projects without being in the lead of the project, even if there is no contribution made at a global level. Associate Members at cluster level can be the following:

- Embassies/consulates or cultural institutes of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland);
- Embassies/consulates or cultural institutes of official candidate countries for accession to the EU (Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, Turkey);
- Regional cultural institutes from EU Member States, provided that they have a physical presence where the cluster operates and are introduced for Associate Membership by the Full Members of their respective country (such as Etxepare Basque Institute, an associate member in the Brussels cluster);



- Embassies/consulates of other EU Member States, whose Ministries of Foreign Affairs are not Full Members of EUNIC at global level, can also join a cluster as associate member. They need to receive a mandate by the full EUNIC member of their respective Member State.

The cluster should keep a record of all Associate Members, sharing it regularly with the EUNIC office.  
Joining an existing cluster.

Associate Members at global level are eligible to be Associate Members at cluster level without a vote by the existing members. They sign the Cluster Charter under a specific category “associate member at global level”.

Associate Members at cluster level need to be accepted by the Full Members of the cluster with simple majority. They do not sign the Cluster Charter. If a new associate member at a cluster level joins the cluster, the EUNIC office should be informed.

### **3. Partners at cluster level**

#### **Strategic partners**

EUNIC currently works with two main strategic partners, EU Delegations (outside of the EU) and European Commission Representations (within the EU). They can be permanent partners of a cluster. In 2019,

EUNIC, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and the European Commission published Joint Guidelines on their partnership. These guidelines provide a practical framework on how to design effective working relationships. A second edition of the Joint Guidelines was published in March 2021 (INCLUDE LINK TO DOC?). Strategic partners participate in the cluster's projects while not having the right to participate in the leadership of the cluster (e.g. running for president, election of president, vice-president or new Associate Members). They do not sign the Cluster Charter.

#### **Other partners**

Other partners include international and local cultural organisations, schools and universities, local/national public authorities, galleries, cinemas, civil society organisations and others. Partners participate in the cluster's projects while not having the right to participate in the leadership of the cluster (e.g. running for president, election of president, vice-president or new Associate Members). They do not sign the Cluster Charter.

