



## **Code of Conduct applicable to the participants of the meetings of the Governing Board of the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking**

### **Article 1**

#### **Scope of the Code of Conduct**

This Code of Conduct shall apply to all participants in the meetings of the Governing Board of the SNS Joint Undertakings (hereinafter jointly referred to as ‘the participants’) including, but not limited to, the representatives of the members of the SNS Joint Undertaking and their alternates, the Executive Director of the SNS Joint Undertaking, persons invited as observers and members of the Programme Office of the SNS Joint Undertaking.

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to set out the rules applicable in matters of professional ethics and integrity expected of the conduct of the participants during the meetings and at all other time as may affect or imperil the reputation of the SNS Joint Undertaking.

This Code of Conduct shall be read and interpreted together with, and shall apply without prejudice to, all other applicable rules that are relevant to the conduct of the participants including, Governing Board Decision N° 2022.01 adopting comprehensive rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest.

When specific behaviour is not explicitly covered by this Code or by other relevant rules, adherence to the generally accepted principles of good conduct shall be deemed to apply.

### **Article 2**

#### **Expected standard of conduct**

In the discharge of their duties, participants shall observe the highest standards of ethical conduct and professionalism and efficiency. In addition, in discharging their duties, all participants shall be personally responsible to comply with the provisions of this Code of Conduct and shall, in particular, endeavour to:

- Exercise due diligence and act independently in the general interest of the SNS Joint Undertaking and mindful of the importance of their duties and responsibilities;
- Avoid situations that may give rise to a conflict of interest;
- Maintain fair, respectful and honest behaviour with other participants, members of staff and such other persons with whom they come in contact in the discharge of their duties to the SNS Joint Undertaking;
- Refrain from exploiting their position in order to gain any undue right or privilege or to exert any unjustified influence or use any information acquired through the discharge of their duties for this purpose;
- Comply with all relevant laws, rules and regulations;
- Ensure that any use of the SNS Joint Undertaking's name and resources is only in the interest of the SNS Joint Undertaking;
- Refrain from engaging in any practice deemed detrimental or as may otherwise affect the reputation and interests of the SNS Joint Undertaking, the Governing Board or of any other of its bodies.

### **Article 3**

#### **Conflict of Interest**

In the performance of his/her duties a participant must ensure at all times that no conflict of interest shall arise, or could reasonably be perceived to arise, between their duties performed in relation to the Governing Board and their other professional and private interests, whether financial or otherwise.

Participants shall ensure full compliance with Governing Board Decision N° 2022.01 adopting comprehensive rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest and such other rules adopted by SNS Joint Undertaking to give effect to Article 42 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe<sup>1</sup>.

It shall be the responsibility of each participant to ensure familiarity with these rules and that any declaration signed to give effect to these rules is signed in good faith.

### **Article 4**

#### **Gifts or other advantage**

Participants shall not accept any gifts or other advantages which may, or may reasonably appear to, influence or otherwise affect their personal judgement or integrity in the performance of their functions or as may otherwise be perceived as influencing their objectivity or place them under undue obligation towards the donor. In any case, any gift or other advantage having a value beyond EUR 50 shall be refused. Neither shall participants solicit such gifts or other advantage.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014 (OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p.17).

The Chairperson of the Governing Board shall be informed of any offer of gifts or other advantage and a record shall be kept of any such gift or advantage that may have been accepted.

## **Article 5**

### **Harassment and Improper Conduct**

Any sexual and other forms of harassment by any of the participants shall not be tolerated by the SNS Joint Undertaking.

Harassment shall be interpreted as being any improper or unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another person. Harassment in any form because of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, national origin, political affinity, age, religion or any other reason is prohibited.

## **Article 6**

### **Safe and Healthy Workplace**

Participants shall, within the discharge of their duties, commit to maintaining a safe and healthy working environment. To promote a healthy workforce and a safe work environment, participants are expected to follow any specific guidelines that have been issued and make management aware of potential safety hazards or threats of violence.

## **Article 7**

### **Avoiding improper use of the Joint Undertaking's Resources**

Participants shall not use property or other resources belonging to SNS Joint Undertaking for personal use. Such property or other resources should only be used for the legitimate purposes and in the interest of the Joint Undertaking.

## **Article 8**

### **Confidentiality**

Participants must maintain the confidentiality of any information acquired whether directly or indirectly through the discharge of their duties except when disclosure is duly authorised in terms of the relevant rules and procedures or legally mandated. Participants shall take all reasonable efforts to safeguard such confidential information that is in their possession against unintentional disclosure.

## **Article 9**

### **Reporting breaches of the Code**

Any report by any participant or any other person of an actual or potential breach to this Code of Conduct should be treated with urgency and where relevant.

## **Article 10**

### **Application and interpretation of the Code**

The Chairperson of the Governing Board shall ensure that the Code is observed and that it is applied in good faith. The Chairperson will decide on any potential breach of its provisions. In reaching his/her decision, the Chairperson may seek independent advice on any question concerning the interpretation of this Code.

## **Article 11**

### **Amendments to this Code of Conduct**

The Code of Conduct may be subject to updates. It is the participants' responsibility to familiarise themselves with the changes.

## **Article 12**

### **Acceptance of the Code of Conduct**

All participants shall sign this Code of Conduct. By signing this Code the participants shall commit to observe its provisions. Failure to comply with the obligations herein set out may give rise to such procedures as are available by law or as prescribed in relevant rules including in the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Board<sup>2</sup>. These signed copies shall be held by the Secretariat of the Governing Board. Upon signature, the participants shall receive a copy of the signed original for their own record.

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<sup>2</sup> DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SMART NETWORKS AND SERVICES JOINT UNDERTAKING  
No 01/2021