

ERN Board of Member States

Rules for Termination of Affiliated Partners

FINAL

June 2018

1. An Affiliated Partner¹ may lose its partnership in one Network for one of the following reasons:
 - 1.1. **voluntary withdrawal**, according to the rules and procedures agreed by the Board of the Network and outlined in the bilateral cooperation agreement. The Affiliated Partner shall inform its Member State of establishment, the European Commission and the ERN Board of Member States of its withdrawal;
 - 1.2. if **the Member State of establishment withdraws the official national designation letter**. The withdrawal shall be communicated to the Affiliated Partner, to the European Commission and to the Network Coordinator as well as to the ERN Board of Member States;
 - 1.3. if the Board of the Network decides, based on periodic monitoring, evaluation and assessment, that **the Affiliated Partner is unable to fulfil essential parts of its bilateral cooperation agreement with the Network**. The Board of the Network shall inform the Affiliated Partner, the Member State of establishment of the Affiliated Partner, the European Commission and the ERN Board of Member States of the reasons for this decision;
 - 1.4. if **a full member from the same Member State joins the Network**. Upon approval of the full member by the ERN Board of Member States, the Commission shall inform the Affiliated Partner and the Network Coordinator of such approval which triggers the termination of the affiliated partnership. The termination should enter into force as soon as any ongoing task performed by the Affiliated Partner according to the bilateral cooperation agreement is finished or can be transferred to the full member, and in any event no later than within four months. In case the terminated Affiliated Partner brings to the Network specific knowledge and expertise that the full member does not have (and notably if the terminated Affiliated Partner is a laboratory or a facility for instrument-based diagnostics which cannot become a full member), the Member State shall promote the cooperation between the full member and the terminated Affiliated Partner, to ensure that knowledge and expertise are maintained in the Network and that a smooth transition between the terminated Affiliated Partner and the full member takes place.
 - 1.5. if **the Network where the Affiliated Partner participates is terminated** according to the rules provided for in Article 11 of the Commission Implementing Decision of 10 March 2014².
2. The loss of affiliated partnership shall lead to the automatic loss of any of the rights and responsibilities associated with participation in the Network.

¹ The present Rules for Termination of Affiliated Partners have been developed for Associated National Centres and National Coordination Hubs.

² Commission Implementing Decision 2014/287/EU of 10 March 2014 setting out criteria for establishing and evaluating European Reference Networks and their Members and for facilitating the exchange of information and expertise on establishing and evaluating such Networks (OJ L 147, 17.5.2014, p. 79)

3. As far as National Coordination Hubs are concerned, the reason for termination of the partnership, as listed in paragraph 1 of this document, may be relevant only for one or some of the Networks in which the National Coordination Hub participates. In these cases, the partnership of the National Coordination Hub ceases only for those Networks for which the reason of termination is relevant.