

Statute of CNIT - National Inter-University Consortium for Telecommunications

Art. 1 - Subject-matter and location

The National Inter-University Consortium for Telecommunications was set up on January 10, 1995 with a charter subscribed by the Chancellors or representatives of the Universities of Bologna, Florence, Genoa, Parma and Pisa and the Polytechnic of Turin.

According and pursuant to art. 91 of Decree n.382 by the President of the Republic (DPR n.382) dated 11 July 1980, as modified by art.12 of Act n.705 dated 9 December 1985 and the references contained in it, the Consortium has the following general purposes:

- a) promote and coordinate research regarding both the basics and applications in the field of Telecommunications and related areas of electromagnetism, as stated in arts. 3 and 19 of this statute and in accordance with the national and international research programs;
- b) carry out concerted action in order to supply interdisciplinary support to whoever is concerned with design, construction, use and management of telecommunications apparatus, systems and services, with the possibility of extending the activity on an international basis;
- c) foster cooperation between the associate Universities and Colleges, and between these and other Research Institutions and Industries, both national and international;
- d) cooperate, even by granting scholarships for studies and research, in developing Doctorates and in training qualified researchers in the field of Telecommunications;
- e) promote and carry out professional training aimed at the qualification, improvement, re-conversion, specialization and retrieval of professions in the field of Telecommunications Technology and Applications;
- f) encourage initiatives for scientific information.

It is a non-profit Consortium open to the participation of any University in which professors and researchers belonging to the field of Information Engineering and Technology work, within the scope discussed in art.19. This guarantees the interdisciplinary character of the Consortium.

The consortium may engage external activities.

The Consortium is based in the University of Parma.

Art.2 – Member Universities

Members of the Consortium are:

- a) the Universities which have promoted it,
- b) any other Italian or foreign University which applies to it; applications are subject to deliberation of the partner's meeting, which in their decision will take account of previously existing activities and of those provided for.

Each member University has the right to have its own representative in the partner's meeting.

Art.3 - Activities of the Consortium

The Consortium promotes and coordinates scientific research in the field of Telecommunications and related areas of electromagnetism, availing itself of the research units of the member Universities.

In order to achieve its statutory ends, the Consortium will arrange for suitable instruments aimed in particular at:

- a) setting up its own laboratories for advanced research in public and private Institutions;
- b) developing scientific cooperation between the Member Universities and other public and private Research Institutions, both national and international, dealing with fields which are closely related to the scope discussed in art.19;
- c) providing the Member Universities with equipment and laboratories as support for Doctorates and in training qualified researchers;
- d) purchasing expensive equipment;
- e) developing advanced telematic infrastructures for connections between Member Universities, and between the Universities and their laboratories;
- f) training qualified staff in the field of Telecommunications, even by granting scholarships;
- g) cooperating with industry in order to develop new Telecommunications technologies and services;
- h) carrying out studies and researches assigned by Public Administration Authorities and by public and private Institutions, providing these with means and expertise in the field of Telecommunications.

In order to carry out the above activities, the Consortium will have the right to draw up contracts and agreements with the National Council for Scientific Research, public and private Institutions, Research Foundations, national and international Societies and Organizations dealing with topics which are within this Consortium's competence.

Art.4 - Assets

The Universities mentioned in art.1 of this Statute contribute to the constitution of the Consortium by paying a subscription fee within sixty days from signing the deed of consortium.

Likewise any other University which enters the Consortium according to art.2, par. b) must pay their subscription fee.

The subscription fee has been fixed at 5,164.57 euros (five thousand one hundred and sixty-four euros, fifty-seven cents), but may be subject to variation upon resolution of the partner's meeting.

The fee is non-transferable and cannot be revalued.

Art.5 - Financing

In order to achieve its ends the Consortium avails itself of:

1. contributions disbursed for scientific research by the Ministry of University and Scientific and Technological Research (MIUR), by the National Council for Scientific Research, the EC Commission, other State Authorities, and both public and private Institutions or Organizations, either Italian or foreign;
2. any fund allocated by the Member Universities and funds belonging to the member Universities disbursed by the MIUR in compliance with the terms agreed upon with the Universities themselves, according to art.12, DPR 705 dated 9 December 1985;
3. contributions disbursed by the MIUR, other Authorities, and both public and private Institutions in relation to international agreements;
4. proceeds deriving from activities which are carried out on the basis of orders, research contracts or agreements with public Authorities, and public or private Institutions;
5. any donation, bequest, legacy or liberality duly subscribed.

Art. 6 - Organs

Organs of the Consortium are:

- 1) the Partner's meeting,
- 2) the Board of directors,
- 3) the Scientific Board,
- 4) the Director,
- 5) the President,
- 6) the Auditors' Committee.

Art.7 - The Partner's meeting

The Committee is the organ of the Consortium which deliberates on all that concerns the scientific activities and the utilization of financial resources.

The partner's meeting is composed of representatives of each Member University; each representative is appointed by the Chancellor and chosen among the professors dealing with subjects in the scientific field of Information Engineering.

The partner's meeting:

- 1) elects one of its members as Director of the Consortium;
- 2) appoints the President of the Consortium, having consulted the Director;

- 3) elects the Vice-President out of its members, to chair meetings when the President is absent or unable to attend;
- 4) appoints the heads of the Research Units, Departments and Laboratories, in accordance with the regulations of the services in art.17;
- 5) adopts the budget, variations thereof and the final balance;
- 6) having consulted the Scientific Board, deliberates on the institution or abolition of the Units, Departments and Laboratories mentioned in par. a), art.3;
- 7) deliberates on research agreements and contracts with public and private Institutions;
- 8) superintends the implementation of the projects discussed in art.9;
- 9) adopts the execution regulations of this Statute and, by a majority of two thirds of the members, alterations of the Statute;
- 10) deliberates on the admission of new members and confirms withdrawals;
- 11) deliberates on the dissolution of the Consortium and on the allocation of its assets in compliance with the terms provided for in art.16;
- 12) deliberates on all matters relating to the administration of the Consortium;
- 13) may delegate some of its functions to the Director of the Consortium or to the Board of directors, indicating the terms and conditions;
- 14) deliberates on temporary contracts and scholarships, after consulting the Scientific Board.

The partner's meeting holds office for three years. Members of the board cannot be appointed more than once running. The partner's meeting elects the Director and appoints the President of the Consortium in the first session.

The partner's meeting meets twice a year to adopt the budget, the final balance and the scientific report on the activities which have been carried out.

The partner's meeting is also convened any time it is requested by at least one third of the members, or the President of the Consortium or on the Director's initiative.

The partner's meeting is duly constituted and may validly deliberate during an ordinary meeting when the presence of at least half of the members plus one has been ascertained. It deliberates by simple majority of the members present, unless otherwise specified.

Art.8 – The Board of directors

The Board of Directors is composed of the Director and four members elected by the partner's meeting out of its members.

The Board of Directors shall hold office for three years.

The Board of Directors acts with deliberating power of decision delegated by the Partner's meeting within the limits set by the partner's meeting itself. Prepares the budget and the final budget. The President of the Consortium, the Vice President of the partner's meeting and the Vice President of the Scientific Board with advisory capacity, may attend the meetings of the Board.

Art.9 - The Scientific Board

The Scientific Board is composed of the President of the Consortium, who convokes and presides over it, the Director and the heads of the Research Units of the Member Universities, and of the Research Departments and Laboratories of the Consortium.

The Scientific Board is the scientific consultative organ of the Consortium. Therefore it frames multiannual projects and submits proposals to the Partner's Meeting for the development of the Consortium's activities. It expresses opinions on all technical-scientific aspects related to the Consortium's aims; it may avail itself of the opinion of consultants, either national or foreign, who have expertise in specific fields related to the scientific issues of the Consortium.

Among its members the Scientific Board elects by majority of those present the Vice-President of the Board itself, who chairs the meetings when the President is absent or unable to attend.

The Scientific Board ordinarily meets at least once a year.

Art.10 - The Director of the Consortium

The Director of the Consortium holds office for three years, is elected by the Partner's meeting among its members and cannot be elected more than once running.

The Director is the legal representative of the Consortium, and directs and promotes the Consortium. To that end the Director carries out the partner's meeting's resolutions: i.e. signs contracts and, together with the President when it has been so decided by the partner's meeting, agreements in the name and on behalf of the Consortium, ensures compliance with the statute and the execution regulations, superintends the activities and administration of the Consortium itself.

The Director:

1. prepares the Partner's meeting's acts;
2. convenes and presides over the Partner's meeting and the Board of Directors;
3. in case of need and urgency, adopts measures within the competence of the Partner's meeting, barring sanction of the Partner's meeting itself in the first ensuing meeting;
4. adopts measures pertinent to the responsibilities that the Partner's meeting delegates to him.

Art.11 - The President of the Consortium

The President of the Consortium is appointed by the Partner's meeting and chosen among those with an acknowledged prestigious role in national and international research in the field of Telecommunications. The President cooperates with the Director in acting as representative and promoter of the Consortium.

The President convokes and chairs the Scientific Board, and takes part in the meetings of the Partner's meeting and the Board of Directors with advisory vote.

Together with the Director, the President signs agreements with other institutions in the name and on behalf of the Consortium, enforcing the resolutions of the Partner's meeting or the Board of directors, when it is delegated.

The President holds office for three years and can be elected for another triennium running.

Art.12 - The Auditors' Committee

The Auditors' Committee conducts the audit of the Consortium's management, administration and accounts; it is composed of three permanent and two temporary members, who are appointed by unquestionable decision of the Partner's meeting and chosen among expert functionaries affiliated to the member Universities or Public Administration authorities. The Committee holds office for three years and attends to the scrutiny of the management deeds, verifies that the books and accounts are kept correctly, draws up specific reports and carries out cash inspections. The Auditors' Committee may attend all the meetings of the Partner's meeting.

Art.13 - Financial Management

The financial year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December of each year. By 30 November of each year the Partner's meeting deliberates on the budget drawn up by the Council, which contains the programme of the scientific activities. By 30 April of the following year the Partner's meeting adopts the final balance, containing the report on the activities which were carried out in the previous year; it is the Director who submits the balance to the Partner's meeting itself.

The budget and the final balance are sent to the Member Universities and to the Ministry of the University and Scientific and Technological Research within the two weeks following the deadlines.

Any profit or surplus, fund or reserve cannot be distributed –either directly or indirectly – during the Consortium's existence, unless their destination or distribution is imposed by law.

Art.14 - Staff members

The status and salaries of staff are stated in specific regulations adopted by the Partner's meeting. In drawing up these regulations the economic and juridical norms of corresponding University personnel will be taken into account where possible.

The Consortium may even employ foreign personnel having scientific or technical expertise relative to specific research requirements on a temporary basis, in compliance with the regulations in the above paragraph.

Art.15 - Term of office and withdrawals

The Consortium's term lasts ten years and on expiration is automatically extended from year to year.

Member Universities may withdraw from the Consortium upon notice sent by registered return mail addressed to the Consortium's Director at least six months prior to the end of the financial year.

Withdrawing Universities are held responsible for any obligation undertaken towards the Consortium or third parties which is still pending on receipt of the letter containing the withdrawal and/or undertaken prior to the aforementioned receipt.

Art.16 - Dissolution of the Consortium

The Consortium may be dissolved with a resolution passed by at least two thirds of the members of the Partner's meeting. On dissolution of the Consortium, all assets left after the liquidation are assigned to the Universities which make up the Consortium in proportion to their actual financial contribution.

Art.17 - Execution regulations

The execution regulations of this Statute will be adopted within six months from the installation of the Partner's meeting. In particular:

- 1) the regulations for staff and services
- 2) the regulations for administration and accounting
- 3) the regulations for each organ's tasks.

The Partner's meeting also draws up the regulations for the Consortium 's Laboratories, Departments and Units.

Art.18

The rules contained in art.2602 and the following of the Civil Code are valid for anything which has not been provided for in this Statute.

Art. 19 - Research Issues

The main research issues on which the Consortium conducts its activity are connected with the following areas of Telecommunications:

- 1) Mobile Communications
- 2) Optical communications
- 3) Communications via satellite and radio-links
- 4) Digital signal processing
- 5) Telecommunications networks
- 6) Telematics
- 7) Remote sensing and radar
- 8) Television
- 9) Information Theory and the following related areas in Electromagnetism
- 10) Electromagnetic compatibility
- 11) Optical and microwave components and circuits
- 12) Electromagnetic diagnostics
- 13) Environmental impact of telecommunications systems
- 14) Propagation and antennae

The specific research issues are defined by the Scientific Board according to what is stated in art.9 of this Statute.