

Articles of Association -The European Neutron Science Association

Article 1: Status

The European Neutron Science Association (hereafter known as ENSA) is an affiliation of national neutron science societies and committees which directly represent users. The overriding purposes of ENSA are to provide a platform for discussion and a focus for action in neutron science and related topics in Europe.

Article 2: Aims

The formal aims of ENSA, defined using its 'EUROPE' acronym, are to:

- (i) Engage in dialogue both with neutron users & providers;
- (ii) Unite all neutron user communities with common purpose;
- (iii) Represent views of individual users from the member states;
- (iv) Organize conferences to promote impact of neutron science;
- (v) Promote neutron science to early-stage career & new users;
- (vi) Enhance visibility of neutron science to its funding bodies.

Further, ENSA commits to:

- (vii) Championing, as appropriate, national communities in pursuit of their goals;
- (viii) Supporting current usage and future planning of European neutron sources;
- (ix) Assisting with development/construction of neutron scattering instruments;
- (x) Promoting channels of communication with industry and the wider public.

Article 3: Affiliation

Affiliation to ENSA is open to bodies representing neutron science users in European countries. The present affiliation is listed in Annex 1. Further affiliations shall be approved by the ENSA committee.

Article 4: The ENSA Committee

4.1 Delegates

Each national group of affiliated bodies will nominate one delegate per country to the ENSA committee. A substitute delegate will be allowed to attend the ENSA committee meetings. The individual delegation is recommended to be at least 3 years and must not exceed 9 years to balance the renewal and continuity of the ENSA work.

4.2 Observers

The LENS chair is invited to the ENSA committee meetings as a permanent observer to represent the user facilities for continuous exchange and cooperation, balancing that the ENSA Chair is an observer in LENS meetings. The ENSA committee can invite individuals and representatives of, e.g., European neutron science facilities, projects for new European neutron sources, and/or the European Science Foundation as observers according to the needs of ENSA. Observers have no voting rights.

Article 5: Organisation of the committee

5.1 Executive Board

The ENSA committee will nominate an Executive Board which will represent the association between formal meetings. It will comprise the Chair, the Vice-chair and the Secretary to be elected after an open call. While the Vice-chair and the Secretary will be elected by the ENSA committee from amongst the current ENSA delegates, and they retain voting rights for their respective countries, the Chair need not already be an ENSA delegate and can therefore be elected from outside the ENSA committee. In case of election from the ENSA delegates, the corresponding national community should nominate another delegate for its representation. The Chair maintains impartiality from national interests by participating in voting yet having a casting vote in the case of a tie. The normal term of office will be 3 years and can be renewed once by election.

5.2 Auditors

The ENSA committee will also nominate two auditors from amongst the current registered delegates who supervise all financial matters. The normal term of office will be 3 years.

5.3 Executives and auditors act in an exclusively honorary capacity.

5.4 The ENSA committee will meet at least once per year in person for a General Assembly where elections should be held (if applicable) and financial activities are reported. The date of the General Assembly shall be announced with a 60-day notice.

5.5 Regular ENSA meetings can be a combination of in-person and virtual meetings according to ENSA needs and will be called by the Executive Board.

5.6 On the demand of at least one quarter of the ENSA delegates, the Chair will arrange a meeting within two months of that request.

5.7 Decisions other than modifications to the articles (Article 7) and new memberships shall be adopted on the basis of a simple majority of delegate votes casted. The decision is valid if at least half of the delegates are present or represented by proxy for that vote. The designation as a proxy has to be received by another delegate as well as the Executive Board in a written form, prior to the vote in question. The number of delegate votes per national society is given in Annex 1.

Article 6: Financial Matters

6.1 ENSA is pursuing no commercial purposes and not aiming for financial earnings.

6.2 ENSA committee might provide funds for any action appropriate to fulfill its aims according to Article 2 (sponsoring of research prizes, travel support according 6.3, membership in other scientific institutions, support of studies and surveys). Payments of salaries for executives or auditors are excluded.

6.3 The costs associated with a delegate participating in a meeting of the ENSA committee shall ordinarily be found by the delegate or his nominating body. In extraordinary circumstances, when a delegate or observer could not otherwise participate at an important ENSA-Meeting, travel expenses might be covered by ENSA.

6.4 The use of assets donated to ENSA for scientific prizes has to be defined in specific regulations.

6.5 For obligations of ENSA the liability spans ENSA's assets only. There exists no private liability of its delegates or affiliates for a financing of any financial debt of ENSA.

6.6 In case ENSA is dissolved, all remaining assets will become the property of the Swiss National Science Foundation, Bern, Switzerland to be used for neutron-related scholarships or awards. A distribution of assets amongst the delegates or affiliates is strictly excluded.

Article 7: Modifications to the Articles

Any modification to the Articles of ENSA according to 5.6 shall require the approval of more than one half of all registered delegates at formal meetings of the committee. One month notification in advance of any proposed modification is required. Modifications to the Articles have to be reported to the authorities at Schöntalstrasse 5, 8022 Zürich.

This is the unofficial translation of "Statuten des Vereins The European Neutron Scattering Association" approved at the 25th ENSA meeting in Taormina, Italy, on 10 October 2006. The German version is legally binding.

Revision of Art. 5.1: Approved during the 28th ENSA-Meeting in Bilbao, Spain, Oct. 8-9, 2007.

Revision of Art. 3 and 5.6: Approved during the 29th ENSA-Meeting in Delft, The Netherlands, April 22, 2008.

Revision of Art. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7: Discussed during an on-line ENSA meeting on March 11th, 2026 and voted on using an on-line voting system in the following days.

Annex 1: ENSA member countries and voting weights (status in January 2026)

Country	Weight
Austria	1
Germany	3
France	3
Hungary	1
Spain	2
Switzerland	2
Norway	1
Netherlands	2
<i>Russia*</i>	2
Czech	1
Denmark	1
Greece	1
Italy	2
Romania	1
Poland	1
Sweden	2
UK	3
Belgium	1
Ireland	1
Estonia	1
Portugal	1
Finland	1

** From December 2022, a temporary suspension of Russia from the membership of ENSA is in place. The prolongation of this suspension is voted on every 6 months.*