

Regulations Concerning the Organization of EPFL Core Facilities

LEX 1.2.10

30 April 2018, status as at 1 January 2025

The Direction of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

based on Article 3, para 1, letter a of the *Ordonnance du Conseil des EPF sur les écoles polytechniques fédérales de Zurich et de Lausanne*,
based on Art. 4, para. 1 letter a of the Ordinance on the Organisation of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne,

hereby adopts the following:

Section 1 – General provisions

Article 1 – Subject

¹ The present regulations serve to define the structure and the organization of the EPFL technological platforms linked in an administrative context to the Associate Vice Presidency for Centers and Platforms (hereinafter ‘platforms’) and to govern the areas of expertise and the tasks of their bodies.

² The platforms are treated as support services pursuant to Article 25 of the Ordinance on the organization of EPFL.

³ The authority of the bodies of a platform shall be exercised with full respect for the law and general EPFL policy.

Article 2 – Platform missions

¹ Within the context of its domain of expertise, the primary mission of a platform is to provide EPFL researchers and internal and external partners with access to high-performance and client-oriented scientific equipment and service appraisals.

² Their secondary mission is to contribute to furthering the techniques and methods of the platform for the benefit of users and the promotion of EPFL, and thus to represent prominent and well-established poles of expertise for both the scientific community and EPFL.

Section 2 – Organization

Article 3 – Platform bodies

¹ The bodies of a platform are as follows (subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 below):

- Steering Committee
- General Assembly of Users
- Operational Direction

² Interinstitutional platforms are organized and run in keeping with the provisions set out in an ad hoc interinstitutional agreement.

³ If a platform does not include the bodies listed in paragraph 1 above, the following rules apply:

- a. If there is no Steering Committee, the missions and powers assigned to that body in Article 4 of these regulations are placed under the responsibility of the center’s Academic Director or, failing that, of the Associate Vice President for Centers and Platforms.

- b. If there is no Operational Director, the missions assigned to that person in Article 6 of these regulations are placed under the responsibility of the Steering Committee or, failing that, of the center's Academic Director or of the Associate Vice President for Centers and Platforms.

Article 4 – Steering Committee

¹ Under the responsibility of its President/Academic Director, the main role of the Steering Committee is to guide the strategic development of the platform, integrating the requirements of user entities, technological developments and all of the resources available. Within this context:

- It defines the platform strategy and establishes its mandate for validation by the Associate Vice President for Centers and Platforms;
- It drafts and annually updates the five-year investment plan for primary requirements in terms of technology and services. This plan will be integrated into the general EPFL investment plan submitted to the EPFL Direction for validation as part of the EPFL budgetary process;
- It reports on the requirements of user entities and on the strengths and weaknesses of the workings of the platform, and identifies opportunities and threats in terms of its development;
- It supports and supervises research and development projects led by the platform;
- With the help of the Operational Director, it drafts the platform's annual report.

² The Steering Committee is composed of 6–10 individuals, all EPFL members, including:

- A President/Academic Director – a professor appointed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who shall notably ensure functional guidance alongside the Operational Director of the platform;
- 5–9 members representing the user entities in an equitable manner, appointed by the Associate Vice President for Centers and Platforms after consultation with the school deans concerned, the President of the Steering Committee and the heads of user project communities.

³ Where necessary, the Steering Committee may also include 2 representatives from partner organizations or institutes (other research institutes, national or international programs, external companies, etc.).

⁴ The President of the Steering Committee/Academic Director serves for a renewable term of 4 years.

⁵ Members of the Steering Committee serve for a term of 4 years, in principle renewable once.

⁶ In his/her role, the President of the Steering Committee/Academic Director reports to the Associate Vice President for Centers and Platforms and works in close collaboration with the Operational Director of the platform.

⁷ The Steering Committee meets regularly (minimum 3 times per year) when convened by the President or at the request of three (3) of its members.

⁸ The Associate Vice President for Centers and Platforms and the Operational Director are permanent guests at the meetings of the Steering Committee.

⁹ The President of the Steering Committee may invite other individuals depending on the subject of the meeting.

Article 5 – General assembly of users¹

¹ The General assembly of users is a body for providing information, for reflection and for discussion.

² It speaks out on the subject of user requirements with regards to objectives and measures to implement within the platform.

³ It also speaks out on points that the Steering Committee submits to it for consultation, notably including the annual report.

⁴ The General Assembly of Users is composed of all EPFL users of the platform registered as such during the previous year, as well as its Steering Committee, its Operational Director and its staff members.

⁵ It is chaired by the President of the Steering Committee.

⁶ The General Assembly of Users meets once per year when convened by its President or at the request of 10% of its members.

Article 6 – Operational Direction

¹ Hierarchically speaking, the platform is directed by an Operational Director, who reports to the Associate Vice President for Centers and Platforms.

² Functionally speaking, the Operational Director reports to the President of the Steering Committee/Academic Director. In collaboration with the services of the Associate Vice Presidency for Centers and Platforms, the Operational Director implements the strategy and measures for improvement periodically prepared with the President of the Steering Committee of the platform and validated by the Associate Vice President for Centers and Platforms.

³ The Operational Director organizes and directs the services provided by the platform within the context of its primary and secondary missions.

⁴ The Operational Director organises and leads the day-to-day running of the platform, notably with regards to personnel, finance (including invoicing of internal and external partners), organization, procedure, investments, research and development.

⁵ The Operational Director is supported by his/her attached administrative, technical and scientific staff.

⁶ Via its services, the Associate Vice Presidency for Centers and Platforms provides support for the Operational Director with regards to financial planning, reporting and controlling, administration, regulations and governance, and with workflows and information systems.

Section 3 – Final Provisions

Article 7 – Abrogation

The following regulations are hereby abrogated:

- *Le règlement sur le centre interdisciplinaire de microscopie électronique – CIME*, of 1 January 2002;
- *Le règlement du Centre de Micronanotechnologie de l'EPFL (CMI)* of 3 September 1997 and its updated version of 16 October 2003;
- All other regulations regarding the organization of EPFL's CIME, CMI, SCITAS and PTMH platforms.

¹ Within the context of the present regulation, the term 'user' refers to those individuals belonging to user entities and who have been granted access to the platform infrastructures and services.

Article 8 – Entry into force

The present regulation entered into force on 30 April 2018 (version 1.0) and was amended on 25 January 2021 (version 1.1) and 4 July 2022 (version 1.2) and 1 January 2025 (version 1.3).

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