The Steering Committee ("SC") of the South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies ("SEEIIST") established, for a period of one year, a Working Group on the Legal Framework (WGLF).

Mandate

The Working Group shall:
- Collect and assess any relevant information concerning international research organizations;
- Study the existing legal frameworks for such organizations, be it on the international level as well as on the national level;
- Identify the characteristics of the SEEIIST project, in particular with regard to the clinical side of it. Specifically, the WGLF shall take into account the implication of treating patients originating from several countries and the social security issues it could raise;
- Recommend a legal model that meets the distinct requirements of SEEIIST and addresses the need for an efficient governance of the organization;
- Support the recommendation with a draft of an appropriate legal framework.

Terms of reference

- The WGLF reports to the SC;
- The decisions on the recommendations by the WGLF are taken by the SC;
- The WGLF interacts with other ad hoc groups which are relevant to the legal framework, such as the Committee for the Site Selection;
- The decisions of the WGLF are made by consensus whenever it is possible;
- The WGLF shall be led by a Chair [and shall be supported by a Secretariat provided by the SEEIIST association¹ (TBC)]. The Chair shall facilitate the decision process but shall not have a voice in it;
- The Working Group shall be open to all participants of SEEIIST², including observers. The latter have an advisory voice;
- The Chair of the SC shall be invited to the WGLF meetings, with an advisory voice;
- The WGLF may take into consideration submissions on the issue of the legal framework and the governance of a scientific and medical organization such as SEEIIST. For this purpose, it may invite any relevant stakeholder, including from academia and civil society, technical experts, institutional and private actors to share their views.

Methods of Work

- In general, the WGLF shall convene at least every two months;

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¹ « Association pour le soutien de l'Institut International de l'Europe du Sud-est pour les Technologies Durables (SEEIIST) ».
² Participants of SEEIIST are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia.
* In this document the designation to Kosovo is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSC 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration.
- The meetings are held in-person, in a virtual or hybrid format;
- Communication shall be made by electronic means;
- [The Secretariat shall draft the Minutes of the WGLF meetings.(TBC)] The Chair shall prepare the Agenda for each meeting;
- Minutes and Agenda of the meetings shall be circulated to the WGLF and copied to the SC members.

**Work Plan**

*This Work plan is an orientation and can be adjusted by the WGLF at any time, according to its needs.*

**June-July 2021**
- Feedback from delegates on the available models presented in May 2021;
- Adoption of the Mandate, terms of reference, methods of work and work plan of the WGLF.

**September-October 2021**
- First in-person meeting in Bern, Switzerland;
- Experience sharing by an expert (ERIC Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure, “BBMRI”, TBC);
- Discussion on the possible models:
  - International Organization (CERN-like)?
  - ERIC?
  - OSCE model?

**November-December 2021**
- Discussion on the institution
  - Legal form and status of the institution
  - Purposes
  - Conditions of membership and accession
  - Finances
  - Amendment rules
  - Dispute resolution
- Discussion on the governance
  - Organs
  - Voting rights

**January-February 2022**
- Drafting of the recommendations
- Drafting of an instrument

**March-April 2022**
- Drafting of an instrument

**May-June 2022**
- Report to the SC