

Statutes for the EDIC on Alliance for Language Technologies

PREAMBLE

CONSIDERING Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme¹ and notably the objective set out in its Article 8 to support the uptake by the public sector and the Union industry, in particular SMEs and start-ups, of advanced digital and related technologies,

CONSIDERING Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2023²,

CONSIDERING the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade of 23 January 2023³,

CONSIDERING the Common European Language Data Space (LDS) project launched on 19 January 2023 by the European Commission⁴ for establishing a platform and a marketplace for the collection, creation, sharing and re-use of multilingual and multimodal language data,

CONSIDERING the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European economic and social committee and the Committee of the Regions of 19 February 2020 presenting a European strategy for data⁵,

CONSIDERING the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, about the Single Market at 30 and its expected digital developments for the benefit of citizens, and the competitiveness of industry⁶,

CONSIDERING the European Parliament Resolution of 19 May 2021 on Artificial Intelligence in Education, Culture and the Audiovisual Sector (2020/2017(INI)),

CONSIDERING the Council Conclusions on research assessment and implementation of Open Science (10126/22) adopted on 10 June 2022,

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OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/694/oj>.

² OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2481/oj>.

³ 2023/C 23/01.

⁴ DIGITAL Work Programme 2021-2022 - Specific Objective 2, 'Data, Cloud and Artificial Intelligence'. Cf. 2.2.1.11 Language data space (deployment), pp. 68-70.

⁵ COM(2020) 66.

⁶ COM(2023) 162.

CONSIDERING Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union providing that the Union is to respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and to ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced,

CONSIDERING Article 167(4) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union providing that the Union is to take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of the Treaties, in particular in order to respect and to promote the diversity of its cultures,

CONSIDERING the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (2012/C 326/02) of 26 October 2021 which prohibits discrimination on grounds of language and places an obligation on the EU to respect linguistic diversity. Cultural and linguistic diversity is intrinsic to the European Union and its fundamental values. It contributes to the blossoming of creativity, creative freedom, cultural exchanges and to the variety and quality of the cultural offer for all Europeans. It promotes mutual understanding and respect for cultures and languages, and it is a shared heritage, a wealth, a strength, and a distinctive characteristic of relations within Europe and with the rest of the world,

CONSIDERING Council Resolution of 21 November 2008 on a European strategy for multilingualism⁷,

CONSIDERING the European Parliament resolution (2018/2028(INI)) of 11 September 2018 on language equality in the digital age,

CONSIDERING the Council conclusions (6756/22) of 4 April 2022 on Reinforcing intercultural exchanges through the mobility of artists and cultural and creative professionals, and through multilingualism in the digital era. Multilingualism fosters cultural diversity and creativity, including in the field of audiovisual, media and digital content, and allows broader access to different cultural approaches, works, knowledge and ideas. Language technologies can support multilingualism and cross-language communication,

RECOGNISING that an ambitious policy of cultural and linguistic diversity should fully integrate sustainability issues and draw on technological innovation, including in the digital field, associating all stakeholders from private and public sectors,

CONSIDERING the shared commitment of members and observers to fostering collaboration, mutual support, and the pursuit of common goals within this collective endeavour,

THEREFORE, the Members request the European Commission to set up 'ALT-EDIC' as a European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) under Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of 14 December 2022 of the European Parliament and of the Council,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

⁷ 2008/C 320/01.

Statutes of ALT-EDIC

CHAPTER 1 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of these Statutes, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) ‘Assembly of Members’ means the supreme governing body of ALT-EDIC;
- (2) ‘Commission’ means the European Commission;
- (3) ‘DDPP Decision’ means Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030³;
- (4) ‘European languages’ means all official and non-official languages of the Member States of the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA);
- (5) ‘Founding Members’ means the EU Member States who submitted the initial application to the Commission for the establishment of ALT-EDIC;
- (6) ‘High-performance computing (HPC)’ means the use of supercomputers and computer clusters to solve highly complex computation problems;
- (7) ‘Implementing Rules’ means a document adopted by decision of the Assembly of Members, according to procedure referred to in Article 20 of the Statutes, that provides legally binding rights and obligations for Members and, Observers and partnering countries regarding operations and financing of the EDIC, internal governance and management of the EDIC and Policies;
- (8) ‘Industrial Consortium’ means a group or body of leading companies, SMEs and business support organisations representing the interests of the industry brought together by a consortium agreement. Only organisations having their headquarters in the EEA Member States may join the consortium;
- (9) ‘Language Technologies’ (LT) means digital methods for analysing, producing or modifying human language in any of its modalities and related signals, including in conjunction with other forms of communication (video, images, music, etc.);

(10) ‘Member States or EU Member States’ means the Member States of the European Union;

(11) ‘Multilingualism’ means the existence or coexistence of several languages within a given society or territory, or in a given medium;

(12) ‘Observers’ means a non-members of ALT-EDIC who participate in some of the ALT-EDIC activities in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Statutes;

(13) ‘Region’ means administrative regions of the EEA Member States;

(14) ‘Users’ means public or private entities located in the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) that wish to use the results of ALT-EDIC to develop projects, applications, solutions or services.

Article 2

Name, seat, location and working language

1. ‘Alliance for Language Technologies - ALT-EDIC’ shall take the legal form of a European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) incorporated under the Article 13 of the Decision (EU) 2022/2481 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030⁸.
2. The name of the EDIC referred to in paragraph (1) shall be ‘Alliance for Language Technologies – ALT-EDIC’, hereinafter referred to as “ALT-EDIC”.
3. ALT-EDIC shall have its statutory seat in Villers-Cotterêts, France.
4. ALT-EDIC facilities shall be located in France, without prejudice to the right of ALT-EDIC to establish additional facilities and conduct operation in other countries.
5. The Members of ALT-EDIC and their representing entities are listed in Annex I. Annex I shall be kept up to date by the Director of ALT-EDIC.
6. ALT-EDIC favours a multilingual way of working that respects the cultural and linguistic diversity of its members. Exchanges can take place in all the official languages recognised by the European Union and can be supported by language technologies.

⁸ OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2481/oj>.

Article 3

Tasks and activities

1. The role of ALT-EDIC is to implement the Multi Country Project (MCP): *Alliance for language technologies in the European Union – ALTEU* in the area of activity listed in the DDP Annex: European common data infrastructure and services. In this context, language coverage will focus on the official languages of all EU and EEA Member States, and may extend to other socially and economically relevant languages in order to support the European Union's efforts towards equality, inclusion and accessibility efforts as well as its international market competitiveness and economic growth.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, ALT-EDIC shall carry out the following activities:

Action 1 - Data: ALT-EDIC will leverage on the Language Data Space and federate existing language and multimodal resources from the EU and Member States in all European, national and regional languages, including through the creation of strategic data such as for languages with few speakers (less than 10 million speakers) in which there are inherent limitations to training Large Language Models (LLMs).

Action 2 – Existing models: ALT-EDIC will create a repository of existing open-source language models for reuse by industrial actors and develop specific methods for fine-tuning especially for SMEs, and will provide evaluation, certification and normalisation methodologies with a particular focus on potential discrimination and bias introduced by Natural Language Processing (NLP) models.

Action 3 – Development of models: ALT-EDIC will act as a pool seed fund, bringing together public and private resources to launch and develop new Large Language Model projects and Foundation Models with multimodal capabilities, including through providing access to the necessary European High-Performance Computing.

Action 4 – Evaluation, certification and normalisation: ALT-EDIC will contribute to the development of evaluation methodologies with a particular focus on potential discrimination and bias introduced by NLP models as well for to provide dedicated support to institutions for investing in LTs.

Action 5 – Ecosystem: ALT-EDIC will act as an advisory point for public administrations as well as reaching the public through a cultural program based on artificial intelligence for languages and enabling LT end-users, who are also data producers, to take up the challenges of artificial intelligence and language technologies in a multilingual context and contribute to the enlightenment of the European citizen on the matter of artificial intelligence.

All actions will be coordinated with relevant existing European initiatives, including CLARIN-ERIC⁹ to ensure complementarity and synergies.

3. ALT-EDIC will carry out any other tasks or activities required or linked to the achievement of its objectives and milestones.

4. ALT-EDIC shall pursue its tasks on a non-economic basis.

ALT-EDIC, in addition to its tasks pursued on a non-economic basis, may carry out economic activities, provided that they are related to its principal task. ALT-EDIC may also conduct other activities necessary for its operation.

5. Tasks and activities of the EDIC are in compliance with Union competition law.

CHAPTER 2

MEMBERSHIP

Article 4

Membership and representing entity

1. The following entities may become Members of ALT-EDIC with voting rights or Observers of ALT-EDIC without voting rights:

(a) Member States of the European Economic Area may be Members or Observers. Each member shall designate a representative body of their choice.

(b) Regions may be Members or Observers subject to the following provisions. A Region may become a Member only if its EEA Member State or another Region of its EEA Member State is not a Member of ALT-EDIC. Only one Region per EEA Member State may join as a Member. When an EEA Member State submits a written application to become a Member or an Observer, that Region of that EEA Member State becomes an Observer at the beginning of the following calendar year and contributes to ALT-EDIC in the conditions described in Annex III. Several Regions from the same EEA Member State can be Observers.

(c) Third countries may be Members or Observers if they are associated to a directly managed European Union programme supporting the digital transformation of the European Union and if such participation is necessary to facilitate the achievement of the digital objectives of the European Union and of the EEA Member States. Paragraph (b) shall apply by analogy.

⁹ Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure ERIC '[CLARIN ERIC](#)'

(d) International organisations with a demonstrated interest in promoting the use of AI in European languages may participate as Observers.

2. The conditions for becoming a Member or an Observer are set out in Article 5 of the Statutes.
3. The Membership of ALT-EDIC must include at least three Member States.
4. Any EEA Member State which is a Member or Observer may be represented by one or more public bodies, including regions or private bodies with a public service mission, as regards the exercise of certain rights and the fulfilment of certain obligations as a Member of ALT-EDIC.
5. Each Member or Observer shall inform the Assembly of Members of the entity representing it, and of any change of that representing entity, of the specific rights and obligations that have been delegated to this entity, or of any other relevant change in its representation. This obligation shall also apply if the EEA Member State's being a Member of ALT-EDIC delegates the exercise of specified rights and the discharge of specified obligations as a Member of the EDIC to entities referred to in Article 13(2) of the DDPP Decision.
6. The Members and Observers of ALT-EDIC and their representing entities are listed in Annex I. Annex I shall be kept up to date by ALT-EDIC Director.

Article 5

Conditions for becoming a Member or an Observer

1. Entities referred to in Article 4.1(a) and (b) of these Statutes willing to become Members of ALT-EDIC shall submit a written application to the Chair of the Assembly of Members. Membership shall be subject to the applicant committing to make the contributions to ALT-EDIC described in Annex III and to accept these Statutes. The written application shall describe how the entity will contribute to ALT-EDIC tasks and activities described in Article 3 of these Statutes and how it will fulfil the obligations set out in Articles 7 and Annex III of these Statutes. Members joining during the calendar year shall pay the financial contributions for those years in full.
2. Following the receipt of the written application referred to in paragraph (1) above, the Chair shall instruct the Director to negotiate a Membership Agreement with the applicant entity. The Director shall then submit the draft Membership Agreement to the Assembly of Members.
3. The admission of the entities as new Members shall be subject to the approval of the Assembly of Members. EEA Member States do not need the approval of the Assembly to become Observers.

4. By exception from paragraph (3), EU Member States may become Observers for an indefinite period by notifying ALT-EDIC.

Article 6

Withdrawal of a Member or an Observer and termination of Member or Observer status

1. Within the first three years of the formation of ALT-EDIC no Member may withdraw unless the membership has been entered into for a specified shorter period.
2. After the first three years of the establishment of ALT-EDIC a Member may withdraw at the end of a financial year, following a request submitted six months prior to the withdrawal.
3. Observers may withdraw at any time, by notifying in writing the Chair of the Assembly of Members.
4. Members shall fulfil their financial obligations before their withdrawal becomes effective.
5. Members and Observers shall fulfil their non-financial obligations before their withdrawal, without prejudice to non-financial obligations which shall continue to apply following the withdrawal, including confidentiality obligations.
6. The Assembly of Members may terminate membership or Observer status if all of the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the Member or Observer is in serious breach of one or more of its obligations under these Statutes;
 - (b) the Chair of the Assembly of Members has sent the Member or Observer a notice of the breach in writing;
 - (c) the Member or Observer has failed to rectify the breach within a reasonable time after it has received notice referred to in point (b);
7. In the case of the participation of a region of an EEA Member State as Member, if its EEA Member State joins as Member, the participation of the region is changed according to article 4, effective from the beginning of the same calendar year when such EEA Member State joins as Member.
8. The Member or Observer referred to in paragraph 5 shall have the right to explain its position to the Assembly of Members before the Assembly of Members takes any decision.

9. If the conditions referred to in Article 6.6 are met, the Assembly of Members may alternatively decide not to terminate the membership of a Member but to suspend the voting rights of that Member for a certain period. The Assembly of Members may reinstate, by a vote, a Member's voting rights at any time if that Member has remedied the breach set out under Article 6.6 to the satisfaction of the Assembly of Members. The representative of such Member shall be excluded from such vote.
10. The voting rights of a Member shall be suspended by the Assembly of Members as long as the financial obligations arising from Annex III of these Statutes have not been fulfilled in due time and after notice has been given by the Director.
11. Members and Observers that withdraw or have their membership or observer status terminated shall neither have the right to restitution or reimbursement of any contribution made, nor the right to lay any claim to the assets of ALT-EDIC.

CHAPTER 3

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

Article 7

Rights and Obligations of the Members

1. Rights of Members shall include:
 - (a) the right to participate in and vote at the Assembly of Members;
 - (b) the right to appoint one or more representing entities in accordance with Article 4 of the Statutes;
 - (c) the right to benefit and, acting through ALT-EDIC to exploit the results obtained by ALT-EDIC, to the extent described in Articles 22, 23 and 25 of the Statutes; accordingly, concerning intellectual property rights decision to distribute to EEA Members States the financial results obtained by ALT-EDIC through exploitation of such rights shall be taken according to Article 10;
 - (d) the right to participate in ALT-EDIC events, such as workshops, conferences, training courses;
 - (e) the support from ALT-EDIC in developing relevant systems, processes and services including through national networks or nodes connected to the ALT-EDIC;
 - (f) the right to participate in project proposals and funding opportunities at European and national level where ALT-EDIC acts as a coordinator or a member of a consortium or a mono-beneficiary.

2. Each Member shall:
 - (a) provide the annual contribution in accordance with Article 9. of the Statutes;
 - (b) appoint a representing entity in accordance with Article 4. of the Statutes;
 - (c) support and promote the work of ALT-EDIC;
 - (d) protect confidential information of ALT-EDIC;
 - (e) promote the adoption of relevant standards;
 - (f) provide the necessary technical infrastructure;
 - (g) Promote the uptake of ALT-EDIC services, infrastructure and other resources among relevant users and gather their feedback;
 - (h) facilitate the integration of ALT-EDIC services, infrastructure and other resources;
 - (i) acting in good faith, protect other legitimate interests of ALT-EDIC, beyond the points listed above;
 - (j) contribute to the task of animating and nurturing national ecosystems for LT initiatives, promoting cooperation, and fostering the growth of sustainable practices within their respective regions and EEA Member States.

Article 8

Rights and Obligations of the Observers

1. Rights of Observers shall include:
 - (a) the right to attend the Assembly of Members without a vote;
 - (b) the right to participate in ALT-EDIC events, such as workshops and conferences.
2. Each Observer shall:
 - (a) appoint a representing entity in accordance with Article 4;
 - (b) support and promote the work of ALT-EDIC;
 - (c) protect confidential information of ALT-EDIC;
 - (d) promote the adoption of relevant standards;
 - (e) promote the uptake of ALT-EDIC services, infrastructure and other resources among relevant users and gather their feedback;
 - (f) facilitate the integration of ALT-EDIC services, infrastructure and other resources;

- (g) acting in good faith, protect other legitimate interests of ALT-EDIC, beyond the points listed above;
 - (h) contribute to the task of animating and nurturing national ecosystems for Language Technologies initiatives, promoting cooperation, and fostering the growth of sustainable practices within their respective regions and EEA Member States.
3. The status of Observer of the ALT-EDIC does not include a right to exploit the infrastructure resources and associated services.

Article 9

Contributions

- 1. Contributions to ALT-EDIC shall be provided by Members in accordance with Annex III.
- 2. Any changes affecting the Members' contributions shall be adopted by the General Assembly according to Article 10(9) of the Statutes.

CHAPTER 4

GOVERNANCE

Article 10

Assembly of Members

- 1. The Assembly of Members shall be the governing body of ALT-EDIC and shall be composed of representatives of the Members and Observers of ALT-EDIC.
- 2. Each Member shall nominate one official representative. Additionally, each Member may bring experts to the meeting. Each delegation may consist of up to five persons but shall carry the number of votes according to the paragraph 3.
- 3. Each Member shall have voting rights calculated in proportion to its contribution which weight shall be calculated in accordance with Annex II.
- 4. The Assembly of Members shall meet at least once a year and shall be responsible for the overall direction and supervision of ALT-EDIC. The Assembly of Members shall:
 - (a) Appoint, suspend, or dismiss the Director;

- (b) adopt and update the Implementing Rules;
 - (c) adopt the annual budget and Work Programme;
 - (d) adopt the multi-annual financial plan;
 - (e) approve the admission of new Members, subject to provisions of Article 5;
 - (f) terminate membership or observer status;
 - (g) approve the annual financial statement;
 - (h) adopt decisions on contributions;
 - (i) create advisory bodies if deemed necessary;
 - (j) appoint the members of advisory bodies;
 - (k) adopt an implementation strategy in order with Article 20;
 - (l) adopt the Rules of Procedure of the Strategic Orientation Committee;
 - (m) amend the Statutes;
 - (n) decide to wind up the ALT-EDIC
 - (o) decide on any other matters that are necessary to fulfil the tasks of ALT-EDIC.
5. The meetings of the Assembly of Members shall be convened by the Chair. A meeting of the Assembly of Members may be requested by at least 50% of the total number of Members, by Members with at least 50% of the voting rights, or by the Director.
 6. The Assembly of Members shall elect a Chair and Vice-chair. The Chair and Vice-chair shall be elected for a 2- year term according to specific procedures installing a rolling presidency system by decision of the Assembly of Members. The Vice-chair shall substitute the Chair in his/her absence and in case of conflict of interest. The Chair and Vice-chair shall be a member's official representative. The first Chair shall be the representative of the hosting country.
 7. A quorum of 50% of votes shall be required for having a valid Assembly of Members meeting. If the quorum is not met, a second meeting shall be convened within 30 calendar days following a new invitation, with the same agenda. In the second meeting, the quorum shall be considered met if 50% of Members or 50% of votes are present.
 8. The decisions shall require simple majority of votes cast, except of decisions referred to in point (9) below.
 9. The following decisions shall require two thirds of the votes:
 - (a) amending the statutes of ALT-EDIC, pursuant to Article 31 (2);
 - (b) termination of ALT-EDIC;
 - (c) termination of membership or observer status;
 - (d) suspension or dismissal of the Director;
 - (e) decisions related to the amount or calculation of contributions.

10. The Director shall make publicly available decisions of the Assembly of Members on ALT-EDIC website within 15 days of their adoption.

Article 11

Director

1. The Assembly of Members shall appoint the Director of ALT-EDIC in accordance with a procedure adopted by the Assembly of Members. The term for the Director shall be three years, renewable.
2. The Director shall be the legal representative of ALT-EDIC.
3. The Director shall carry out the day-to-day management of ALT-EDIC. The Director shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions by the Assembly of Members. The tasks of the Director will be further defined in the Implementation Rules.

Article 12

Strategic Orientation Committee

1. The Strategic Orientation Committee shall support the Assembly of Members and Director in the implementation of their tasks.
2. The Strategic Orientation Committee shall consist of the representatives of at least 50% of the Members, as defined in Article 4 appointed by the Assembly of Members and of representatives of the industry gathered in the Industrial Consortium linked to ALT-EDIC by a cooperation agreement.
3. The Chair of the Strategic Orientation Committee shall be appointed by the Assembly of Members upon proposition of the Committee Members. The Rules of Procedure of the Strategic Orientation Committee shall be adopted by the Assembly of Members. The Chair shall be a Member of ALT-EDIC.
4. The Chair of the Committee may invite experts to the meetings of the Committee, or otherwise seek expert advice as needed to support the works of the Committee.
5. The Strategic Orientation Committee shall adopt annual or multi-annual strategic orientations for the implementation of ALT-EDIC. The Strategic Orientation Committee may also adopt resolutions providing strategic or political advice for the implementation of ALT-EDIC.

6. The Chair of the Strategic Orientation Committee shall submit the strategic orientations and resolutions referred to in paragraph 5 to the Assembly of Members. They shall not be binding unless approved by the Assembly of Members acting in accordance with Article 10.

Article 13

Advisory Boards

1. Scientific and Technical Advisory Board

- (a) The Scientific and Technical Advisory Board shall provide expert advice at the request of the Assembly of Members or the Director.
- (b) The members of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Board are appointed by the Assembly of Members for a renewable term of three years.
- (c) The Scientific-and Technical Advisory Board shall be composed of experts in the fields relevant to ALT-EDIC, including, as appropriate, technical and scientific, as well as representatives of the user communities and other relevant stakeholder groups.
- (d) The Chair of the Scientific-and Technical Advisory Board shall be elected from among their members. The rules of procedure of the Advisory Board shall be adopted by the Assembly of Members.

2. Legal and Ethical Advisory Board

- (a) The Legal and Ethical Advisory Board shall provide expert advice at the request of the Assembly of Members or the Director.
- (b) The members of the Legal and Ethical Advisory Board are appointed by the Assembly of Members for a renewable term of three years.
- (c) The Legal and Ethical Advisory Board shall be composed of experts in the fields relevant to ALT-EDIC, including, as appropriate, legal and ethical experts, as well as representatives of the user communities and other relevant stakeholder groups.
- (d) The Chair of the Legal and Ethical Committee shall be elected from among their members. The rules of procedure of the Advisory Board shall be adopted by the Assembly of Members.

Article 14

The European Commission

1. The Commission may attend the meetings of the Assembly of Members at its discretion without voting rights;
2. The Commission shall have a veto right on the decisions of the Assembly of Members related to actions financed under centrally managed European Union programmes;
3. The Commission may provide recommendations and non-binding opinions regarding the matters covered in the annual activity report of the EDIC;
4. The Commission exercise the rights regarding the amendments of the Statutes in accordance with Article 17 of the DDPP Decision.

The above shall not be construed as creating any obligations on the side of the European Commission.

CHAPTER 5

REPORTING TO THE COMMISSION

Article 15

Reporting to the Commission

1. ALT-EDIC shall produce an annual activity report, containing in particular the technical, operational and financial aspects of its activities, and all elements of the implementation strategy referred to in the Implementation Rules. The report shall be approved by the Assembly of Members and transmitted to the Commission within six months from the end of the corresponding financial year. This report shall be made publicly available.
2. ALT-EDIC shall also contribute to the report on the "State of the Digital Decade". The contribution shall be approved by the Assembly of Members and transmitted to the Commission. ALT-EDIC shall respect instructions that may be provided by the Commission regarding this contribution, including on its scope, template and timeline for the submission.
3. ALT-EDIC shall inform the Commission of any circumstances which threaten to seriously jeopardise the achievement of ALT-EDIC tasks or hinder ALT-EDIC from fulfilling requirements laid down in the DDPP Decision.

CHAPTER 6

FINANCE, LIABILITY

Article 16

Resources

The resources of ALT-EDIC shall consist of the following:

- (a) financial and non-financial contributions of Members as further described in Article 9, and Annex III;
- (b) host contributions: the host Member State shall pay 50% more of its global minimum contribution than other Members;
- (c) possible funding from European Union programmes;
- (d) grants and any other contributions from any third party, including donations from individuals and legal entities, subject to approval by the Assembly of Members;
- (e) income deriving from services or intellectual property rights are owned by ALT-EDIC;
- (f) any other form of resources.

Resources provided by Member States are in compliance with EU competition rules.

Article 17

Budgetary principles, accounts and audit

1. The financial year of ALT-EDIC shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of each year.
2. The accounts of ALT-EDIC shall be accompanied by a report on budgetary and financial management of the financial year.
3. ALT-EDIC shall be subject to the requirements of the law of the country where it has its statutory seat as regards preparation, filing, auditing and publication of accounts.

Article 18

Tax and excise duty exemptions

1. VAT exemptions based on Articles 143(1)(g) and 151(1)(b) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC, shall be limited to purchases by ALT-EDIC and by members of ALT-EDIC which are for the official and exclusive use by ALT-EDIC provided that such

purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of ALT-EDIC in line with its activities.

2. VAT exemptions shall be limited to purchases exceeding the value of EUR 300.
3. Excise Duty exemptions based on Article 11(1), point (b), of Council Directive (EU) 2020/262, shall be limited to purchases by ALT-EDIC which are for the official and exclusive use by ALT-EDIC provided that such purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of ALT-EDIC in line with its activities and that the purchase exceeds the value of EUR 300.
4. The procedure at national level necessary to register ALT EDIC as an international organisation will be launched on the day ALT-EDIC is set up.

Article 19

Liability and insurance

1. ALT-EDIC shall be liable for its debts.
2. The financial liability of the members for the debts of ALT-EDIC shall be limited to their respective contributions provided to the EDIC, as specified in the Annex III.
3. The European Union shall not be liable for ALT-EDIC's debts.
4. ALT-EDIC shall take appropriate insurance to cover the risks related to its activities.

Article 20

Implementation strategy

1. Within six months from the entry into force of the Commission decision establishing ALT-EDIC, the Director shall submit to the Assembly of Members the draft implementation strategy.
2. The implementation strategy shall be consistent with Implementation Rules to the Statutes, which shall serve as the outline of the implementation strategy, and shall contain:
 - a) a detailed description of actions and a timeline for their implementation;
 - b) tasks, roles and responsibilities of Members and Observers;
 - c) tasks of the Director;
 - d) implementation modalities;
 - e) milestones targets and deliverables;

- f) key performance indicators;
 - g) the assessment of risks related to the implementation of ALT-EDIC;
 - h) any other elements necessary for appropriate implementation of the activities of ALT-EDIC.
3. The implementation strategy shall be adopted by the Assembly of Members acting in accordance with the procedure described in Article 10(9).
 4. Each year the Director submit a report on the status of the implementation of the strategy to the Assembly of Members accompanied, if necessary, proposed amendments to the implementation strategy.
 5. The report shall be approved by the Assembly of Members in accordance with the procedure described in Article 10(9) and submitted to the Commission.

CHAPTER 7

POLICIES

Article 21

Access Policy for users

1. ALT-EDIC shall provide access to its infrastructure, in particular:
 - a) Platform for gathering text and voice databases;
 - b) Inclusive and representative data collection for language modelling;
 - c) Framework for artificial data generation for low-resource languages;
 - d) Compilation and provision of open-source language models for industrial reuse;
 - e) Fine-tuned, reduced and optimised models fitting the needs of SMEs and European companies;
 - f) Practical training and dissemination activities;
 - g) Joint Seed Fund (calls for proposals published);
 - h) Joint meetings and actions on the sovereign calculating capacity;
 - i) Establishment of a coordination and empowerment framework and team for external experts in model and foundation model development (coordination of resources);
 - j) Documentation, good practice in evaluation, standardisation and certification;
 - k) Organisation and results of evaluation campaigns;
 - l) Incubation infrastructure for European start-ups specialising in NLP;
 - m) European NLP Technology Transfer Unit;
 - n) Support and advisory unit for institutions to facilitate their transition towards the use of Language Technologies (LTs);
 - o) Organising events, collaborative initiatives and community building;

- p) Cultural programme, including exhibitions, lecture series, artistic engagements, workshops, hackathons, and summer schools.
2. Access to the facilities proposed by ALT-EDIC shall be granted through a transparent procedure based on information provided through open electronic information taking into account the priorities, rules and conditions decided by ALT-EDIC. (Annex IV).
3. The Access Policy and any related policies shall comply with the provisions of Union law and national law on the protection of personal data and other regulatory areas.

Article 22

Dissemination Policy

The ALT-EDIC shall promote its results by providing targeted information to relevant audiences, in a strategic, coherent and effective manner. (Annex IV).

Article 23

Intellectual Property Rights Policy

1. ALT-EDIC shall own intellectual property rights.
2. In accordance with Articles 7 and 16, ALT-EDIC shall use and exploit the intellectual property rights obtained through its activities and the income derived from intellectual property rights are owned by ALT-EDIC. Such intellectual property rights are governed by the principles set forth in Annex IV.
3. Subject to the term of any contract between the ALT-EDIC and the third parties, intellectual property rights created, obtained or developed by third parties shall remain the property of such third parties.

Article 24

Employment Policy

1. The ALT-EDIC employment policy shall be governed by European Union law and the laws of the country in which staff is employed.
2. The selection procedures for the ALT-EDIC staff positions shall be transparent, non-discriminatory and respect equal opportunities. Recruitment and employment shall not be discriminatory.

Article 25

Procurement policy

1. ALT-EDIC shall apply the procurement rules of the State where it has its statutory seat or the State in which the procedure is launched, until the moment when specific ALT-EDIC procurement rules are adopted.
2. ALT-EDIC shall treat procurement candidates and tenderers equally and without discrimination, whether they are based within the European Union, country of other ALT-EDIC Members, GPA country or country with which EU concluded bilateral agreements on opening public procurement markets.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph (2), where actions subject to procurement is used to implement actions funded from EU programmes, procurement procedures shall be restricted in accordance with the rules of a that programme. For example, if a procurement procedure is launched to implement an action co-funded from the Digital Europe Programme, where Article 12.6 of DEP Regulation is applied, that procurement procedure will have to be restricted accordingly.
4. When conducting procurement for ALT-EDIC activities, Members and Observers must prioritize the needs and the standards of the ALT-EDIC.

Article 26

Data Policy

1. Generally open and non-discriminatory access to the results of the projects and their reuse shall be favoured, except where, for duly substantiated reasons, it is not feasible to do so.
2. ALT-EDIC shall provide guidance (including via website) to users to ensure that research and development undertaken using material made accessible through the ALT-EDIC shall be undertaken within a framework that recognizes the rights of data owners and privacy of individuals.
3. ALT-EDIC shall ensure that users agree to the terms and conditions governing access and that suitable security arrangement are in place regarding internal storage and handling.
4. ALT-EDIC shall define arrangements for investigating allegations of security breaches and confidentiality disclosures regarding data.

CHAPTER 8

PROVISIONS ON DURATION, WINDING UP, DISPUTES AND SETTING-UP

Article 27

Duration

ALT-EDIC shall exist for an indefinite period of time.

Article 28

Winding up

1. The winding up of ALT-EDIC shall be decided by the Assembly of Members in accordance with Article 10.
2. Without undue delay and in any event within ten days after adoption of the decision to wind up ALT-EDIC, ALT-EDIC shall notify the European Commission about the decision.
3. Assets remaining after payment of ALT-EDIC debts shall be apportioned among the members in proportion to their accumulated annual contribution to the ALT-EDIC as specified in Article 9 or transferred to another legal entity to the extent that this entity continues EDIC's activities.
4. Without undue delay and in any event within ten days of the closure of the winding up procedure, ALT-EDIC shall notify the Commission thereof.
5. ALT-EDIC shall cease to exist on the day on which the European Commission publishes the appropriate notice in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Article 29

Applicable law

The setting up and the internal functioning of ALT-EDIC shall be governed:

- (a) by Union law, in particular the DDPP Decision and Commission Decision establishing the ALT-EDIC;
- (b) by the law of France where ALT-EDIC has its statutory seat in the case of matters not, or only partly, regulated by acts referred to in point (a);
- (c) by these statutes and their implementing rules.

Article 30

Disputes

Without prejudice to the cases in which the Court of Justice of the European Union has jurisdiction under the Treaties, the law of France where ALT-EDIC has its statutory seat shall determine the competent jurisdiction for the resolution of disputes among the Members in relation to ALT-EDIC and between the Members and the ALT-EDIC.

Article 31

Amendments to the Statutes

1. Non-essential elements of the Statutes, that is all elements of the Statutes except of those referred to in Article 17(1), points (c), (d), (e) and (i) of the DDPP Decision shall be amended by decision of the Assembly of Members, subject to Article 10(9) of the Statutes. The Chair shall submit the amendments referred to in paragraph (1) to the Commission within 10 days after their adoption. The amendments shall only take effect in circumstances described in Article 17(4) of the DDPP Decision.
2. Proposals for amendments of essential elements of the Statutes shall be adopted by decision of the Assembly of Members, subject to Article 10(9) of the Statutes. The proposed amendments shall be sent to the Commission within ten days after their adoption pursuant to the procedure referred to in Article 14 of the DDPP Decision.
3. The Statutes shall be kept up to date and publicly available on ALT-EDIC website.

Article 32

Set-up provisions

1. A first meeting of the General Assembly shall be called by France as soon as possible after the Commission decision setting up ALT-EDIC takes effect.
2. Before the first meeting is held and no later than 45 calendar days after the Commission decision setting up ALT-EDIC takes effect, the relevant State shall notify the Founding Members and Observers of any specific urgent legal action that needs to be taken on behalf of ALT-EDIC. Unless a founding member objects within 5 working days after being notified, the legal action shall be carried out by a person duly authorised by the relevant State.

Article 33

Transitional measures

1. The Director shall be mandated by the Assembly of Members to determine the course of action during the ALT-EDIC transitional phase (2023-2026) in liaison with the LDS consortium and the Commission representatives so as to ensure a smooth transfer of LDS generated assets to the ALT-EDIC during the last year of LDS activities.
2. The transitional measures will take into account the priorities already decided by the Founding Members in cooperation with the Commission.

ANNEX I

List of Members, Observers and their representing entities

Members (17)

Country or territory	Representing entity
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBL)
Croatia	Central State Office for the Development of Digital Society
Czech Republic	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
Denmark	Agency for Digital Government
Finland	Ministry of Transport and Communication
France	Ministry of Culture; Ministère de l'Economie, des finances et de la souveraineté industrielle et numérique – Direction générale des entreprises; Secrétariat général pour l'investissement
Greece	Ministry for Digital Governance
Hungary	Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics (HUN-REN- NYTK)
Ireland	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Italy	Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale “Antonio Zampolli”, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR-ILC); Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK); CINECA
Latvia	Culture information systems centre
Lithuania	Ministry of Culture
Luxembourg	Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology; University of Luxembourg; Zenter fir d'Lëtzebuenger Sprooch.
the Netherlands	AiNed Foundation
Poland	Ministry of Digital Affairs
Slovenia	Ministry of Digital Transformation
Spain	Ministry for Digital Transformation and of Civil Service

Observers (9)

Country or Region	Representing entity
Austria	Ministry of Finance
Belgium	Belgian Federal Public Service for Policy and Support
Cyprus	Computer based Science and Technology Research Center (CastorC); University of Cyprus (UCY), Department of French and European Studies
Estonia	Institute for the Estonian Language under the Ministry of Education and Research
Flanders	Department of Economy, Science & Innovation Department
Malta	State Advocate
Portugal	Administrative Modernization Agency
Romania	Authority for the Digitisation of Romania
Slovakia	Ministry of Education

ANNEX II

Voting rights

The voting rights of the ALT-EDIC members are indexed on the contribution (both financial and in-kind) of participating Members, and weighted as follows:

- Annual contribution from 50 000 € to 249 999 €: 1 vote
- Annual contribution from 250 000 € to 499 999 €: 2 votes
- **Annual contribution from 500 000 € and beyond: 3 votes**

Thresholds will be indexed to match cost of life increases as defined in the internal regulations (by-laws) of the ALT-EDIC.

ANNEX III

Contributions

General Conditions:

As a Member of the ALT-EDIC the EEA Member State or Region has financial obligations and shall make payment to the EDIC budget. The payment of the contribution can be made either by the EEA Member State or by the Region, its representing entity or any entity designated by the EEA Member State or by the Region. The part of the EDIC budget shall be covered by the contributions of its Members. Two forms of contributions are possible: financial and in-kind. Third parties can also contribute to the ALT-EDIC budget. The Observers and other parties which are not members of the ALT-EDIC are encouraged to provide voluntary donations to the ALT-EDIC, and that such donations would not be considered as contributions.

The primary method of determining the ALT-EDIC Members' contributions to the ALT-EDIC budget is based on their Gross National Income (GNI)¹⁰. Each Member and Region contribute to the ALT-EDIC budget according to their level of GNI. The GNI figures for EU Member States used to calculate the minimum global contribution per year were provided by EU Member States and verified by Eurostat (source: eurostat.org GNI 2021). The GNI figures for the three EEA Member States outside the EU were based on data from the World Bank (source: data.worldbank.org GNI 2021).

In-kind contributions must be based on a fair, verifiable calculation basis, and assessed by experts when necessary.

GNI calculation and contribution rate:

The GNI calculation for the ALT-EDIC budget purposes involves various adjustments and harmonisation measures to ensure consistency and equity across the ALT-EDIC Members. These adjustments aim to eliminate differences in national accounting practices and ensure a fair and comparable basis for contributions.

Each ALT-EDIC Member contribution rate is determined based on its GNI. The ALT-EDIC Member with a higher GNI shall contribute more to the ALT-EDIC budget, while those with a lower GNI contribute less. The country with the lowest gross national income of 30 shall pay €50,000 annually. The country with the highest gross national income shall pay a minimum of €500,000.

When a Region is a Member, its contribution is calculated as if it were a State.

GNI 2021 data for all EEA countries are presented in Table 1, column: GNI 2021 in M€. The formula (Table 1, Column: Contribution for EDIC/1 year) calculates a linear interpolation to assign a minimal amount between €50,000 and €500,000 based on each country's GNI (the lowest GNI paying €50,000 and the country with the highest GNI paying €500,000) that shall be paid annually per Member. Other countries will have intermediate amounts depending on their relative GNI compared to the minimum and maximum. The coordinating country (France) shall contribute 50% more of the calculated amount. Additional financial and in-kind contribution are possible per Member.

Expected ALT-EDIC Members contributions:

For the preparatory phase and the first year of the ALT-EDIC activity, it is expected to gather 17 representatives of EEA Members States then 22 in year 2 and 27 in year 3. As the ALT-EDIC is expected to be formally created at Q2 2024 at the latest, the first contribution of the ALT-EDIC

¹⁰ Gross national income (GNI). The sum of incomes of the residents of a national economy , including investment income

Member will cover years 2024 and 2025. The first contribution shall be paid by September 30, 2024 and from 2026 each annual contribution shall be paid by March 31.

After consulting numerous EEA Member States and Regions, most of them will have in-kind resources to offer. For countries wishing to contribute in-kind, they will be allowed to pay 50% of the minimal annual global contribution in financial contribution (Table 2, column (B): Minimal financial contribution (50% of minimal global contribution)), with the remainder being contributed in-kind.

According to the information gathered from the EEA Member States and Regions, its in-kind contributions are expected to significantly exceed the 50% required. Therefore, in the budget calculation - Table 2, column (C): In-kind* (75% of minimal global contribution), it is estimated that the in-kind contributions will reach 75% of the overall minimum required contribution.

Table 2. Expected ALT-EDIC Member States contributions

Expected ALT-EDIC Member States contributions in €										
EEA Member State	2024 – 2025			2026			2027			TOTAL 3 YEARS+ PREPARATORY PHASE CONTRIBUTIONS (B+C)
	(A) Minimal annual global contribution	(B) Minimal financial contribution (50% of minimal global contribution) or declared financial contribution	(C) In-kind* (75% of minimal global contribution) or declared estimated in-kind	(A) Minimal annual global contribution	(B) Minimal financial contribution (50% of minimal global contribution) or declared financial contribution	(C) In-kind* (75% of minimal global contribution) or declared estimated in-kind	(A) Minimal annual global contribution	(B) Minimal financial contribution (50% of minimal global contribution) or declared financial contribution	(C) In-kind* (75% of minimal global contribution) or declared estimated in-kind	
Belgium	109 732,70	54 866,35	82 299,53	109 732,70	54 866,35	82 299,53	109 732,70	54 866,35	82 299,53	411 497,64
Bulgaria	56 720,45	28 360,23	83 333,33	56 720,45	28 360,23	83 333,33	56 720,45	28 360,23	83 333,33	335 080,67
Czechia	78 177,33	39 088,66	58 633,00	78 177,33	39 088,66	58 633,00	78 177,33	39 088,66	58 633,00	293 164,98
Denmark	90 616,01	45 308,00	67 962,01	90 616,01	45 308,00	67 962,01	90 616,01	45 308,00	67 962,01	339 810,03
Germany	500 000,00	250 000,00	375 000,00	500 000,00	250 000,00	375 000,00	500 000,00	250 000,00	375 000,00	1 875 000,00
Estonia	52 079,21	26 039,61	39 059,41	52 079,21	26 039,61	39 059,41	52 079,21	26 039,61	39 059,41	195 297,05
Ireland	87 512,41	45 000,00	249 098,00	87 512,41	43 756,20	65 634,30	87 512,41	43 756,20	65 634,30	512 879,01
Greece	70 242,74	35 121,37	80 000,00	70 242,74	35 121,37	80 000,00	70 242,74	35 121,37	80 000,00	345 364,11
Spain	195 259,29	97 629,65	350 333,33	195 259,29	97 629,65	350 333,33	195 259,29	97 629,65	350 333,33	1 343 888,93
France	542 063,69	600 000,00	863 333,33	542 063,69	600 000,00	863 333,33	542 063,69	600 000,00	863 333,33	4 389 999,99
Croatia	55 412,09	27 706,04	102 095,20	55 412,09	27 706,04	102 095,20	55 412,09	27 706,04	102 095,20	389 403,73
Italy	268 020,12	134 010,06	648 202,28	268 020,12	134 010,06	648 202,28	268 020,12	134 010,06	648 202,28	2 346 637,02
Cyprus	51 000,12	25 500,06	38 250,09	51 000,12	25 500,06	38 250,09	51 000,12	25 500,06	38 250,09	191 250,46
Latvia	52 342,64	26 171,32	55 400,00	52 342,64	26 171,32	39 256,98	52 342,64	26 171,32	39 256,98	212 427,92
Lithuania	54 878,70	54 878,70	0,00	54 878,70	54 878,70	0,00	54 878,70	54 878,70	0,00	164 636,10
Luxembourg	54 449,23	27 224,62	40 836,92	54 449,23	27 224,62	40 836,92	54 449,23	27 224,62	40 836,92	204 184,62
Hungary	65 513,58	32 756,79	149 920,00	65 513,58	32 756,79	149 920,00	65 513,58	32 756,79	149 920,00	548 030,36
Malta	50 000,00	25 000,00	37 500,00	50 000,00	25 000,00	37 500,00	50 000,00	25 000,00	37 500,00	187 500,00
Netherlands	149 827,03	74 913,51	112 370,27	149 827,03	74 913,51	112 370,27	149 827,03	74 913,51	112 370,27	561 851,34
Austria	97 745,00	48 872,50	73 308,75	97 745,00	48 872,50	73 308,75	97 745,00	48 872,50	73 308,75	366 543,77
Poland	115 574,39	2 500 000,00	950 594,56	115 574,39	2 500 000,00	950 594,56	115 574,39	2 500 000,00	950 594,56	10 351 783,68
Portugal	73 996,25	36 998,13	55 497,19	73 996,25	36 998,13	55 497,19	73 996,25	36 998,13	55 497,19	277 485,95
Romania	76 594,89	38 297,45	57 446,17	76 594,89	38 297,45	57 446,17	76 594,89	38 297,45	57 446,17	287 230,86

Slovenia	54 547,10	27 273,55	416 909,96	54 547,10	27 273,55	416 909,96	54 547,10	27 273,55	416 909,96	1 332 550,53
Slovakia	60 120,34	30 060,17	45 090,25	60 120,34	30 060,17	45 090,25	60 120,34	30 060,17	45 090,25	225 451,27
Finland	79 268,26	39 634,13	59 451,20	79 268,26	39 634,13	59 451,20	79 268,26	39 634,13	59 451,20	297 255,98
Sweden	107 654,96	53 827,48	80 741,22	107 654,96	53 827,48	80 741,22	107 654,96	53 827,48	80 741,22	403 706,09
Island	51 249,45	25 624,73	38 437,09	107 654,96	53 827,48	80 741,22	107 654,96	53 827,48	80 741,22	333 199,21
Liechtenstein	49 206,80	24 603,40	36 905,10	107 654,96	53 827,48	80 741,22	107 654,96	53 827,48	80 741,22	330 645,90
Norway	104 882,98	52 441,49	78 662,23	107 654,96	53 827,48	80 741,22	107 654,96	53 827,48	80 741,22	400 241,11
TOTAL	3 454 687,77	4 527 207,99	5 326 670,42	3 572 313,41	4 584 777,01	5 215 282,93	3 572 313,41	4 584 777,01	5 215 282,93	29 453 998,30
TOTAL 14 FOUNDING MEMBERS**	1 841 910,48	3 720 819,34	4 117 087,45							26 553 973,91
TOTAL 14 Members+ AVERAGE 3 Members		3 881 548,26	4 365 829,51							
TOTAL 14 Members+ AVERAGE 8 Members					4 124 013,67	4 738 732,95				
TOTAL 14 Members+ AVERAGE 13 Members								4 376 010,12	5 067 839,40	

* In-kind contribution described in Implementation rules

** 14 founding MEMBERS confirmed on 05-12-2023

ANNEX IV

Policies

Access policy for users

The users are defined as public or private entities located in the EU Member States and in EEA countries requesting to use the ALT-EDIC outputs to develop projects, applications, solutions or services.

The ALT-EDIC outputs are:

- Platform for gathering text and voice databases;
- Inclusive and representative data collection for language modelling;
- Artificial data generation framework for low-resource languages;
- Compilation and provision of open-source fine-tuned, reduced and optimised language models;
- Support services: training, information, community-building, incubation, technology transfer and advisory unit;
- Call for projects.

Requests for access to an ALT-EDIC output will be made through a dedicated space in the ALT-EDIC website, and processed by the ALT-EDIC teams. Then, under conditions set out by the Director for each output, access will be granted or not to the user.

Access to data is defined in the data policy of the ALT-EDIC and will comply with the European data Act and the GDP Regulation.

Access to the platform will be defined by ALT-EDIC Members on proposition of the Director.

Training, information and advisory services will be provided on request from users.

Incubation and technology transfer services will target the European industrial community, with a specific focus on SMEs.

For each call for projects launched by the ALT-EDIC, specifications and target users will be defined by the Director in compliance with the leading principles of the ALT-EDIC and rules of fair and open participation.

Detailed rules and conditions for access to the ALT-EDIC outputs will be compiled in a document proposed by the Director and validated by the Assembly of Members.

1. The ALT-EDIC's dissemination efforts shall focus on engaging the following target groups:

a) Member organisations and institutions within the ALT-EDIC: The dissemination activities will prioritise providing targeted information to Members and Observers within the ALT-EDIC. This ensures that they are well-informed about the ALT-EDIC's activities and can actively contribute to achieving the ALT-EDIC's goals.

b) Policy-Makers, Government Bodies, and Regulatory Authorities: the ALT-EDIC recognises the significance of involving policy-makers, government bodies, and regulatory authorities in shaping the digital infrastructure landscape. Disseminating information to this group will promote collaboration, exchange of expertise, and facilitate the adoption of policies aligned with the ALT-EDIC's vision.

c) Industry Stakeholders: the ALT-EDIC acknowledges the importance of engaging industry stakeholders, including technology companies, service providers, and vendors. Disseminating relevant information to this group will foster collaboration, innovation, and drive the development of a robust digital infrastructure ecosystem.

d) Researchers, Scientists, and Academics: The dissemination policy will cater to the needs of researchers, scientists, and academics by providing them with targeted information regarding the ALT-EDIC's activities. This group plays a pivotal role in advancing digital infrastructure research and development, and their engagement is essential for the ALT-EDIC success.

e) International Organisations, Association and Consortia: Collaboration with national and international organisations, association and consortia in Language Technologies is essential for the ALT-EDIC's objectives. Dissemination activities will target this group to ensure the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and promote international cooperation in the field of digital infrastructure.

f) General Public and Media Representatives: the ALT-EDIC believes in the importance of raising awareness among the general public and media representatives. Disseminating information to this group will foster understanding, generate public discourse, and ensure the relevance and impact of digital infrastructure in society.

2. Dissemination Channels:

To achieve effective dissemination to the target audiences, the ALT-EDIC shall utilise the following channels:

a) Web Portal: the ALT-EDIC shall establish and maintain an official web portal as a central platform for disseminating information. The web portal will provide easy access to relevant materials, including activities, initiatives, and the official statutes of the ALT-EDIC.

b) Newsletter: Regular newsletters shall be disseminated to the target groups, providing updates on the ALT-EDIC's activities and highlighting key achievements. The newsletter will serve as an effective means of communication to keep stakeholders informed and engaged.

c) Workshops: the ALT-EDIC shall organise workshops and training sessions to facilitate interactive discussions and knowledge exchange among Members and Observers, researchers, and stakeholders. These workshops will provide a platform to present and discuss the ALT-EDIC's activities and its impact.

d) Presence in Conferences: the ALT-EDIC representatives shall actively participate in relevant conferences and events. This presence will enable the dissemination of information about the ALT-EDIC's activities, sharing of expertise, and fostering collaboration within the wider language technologies community.

e) Scientific Publications: the ALT-EDIC shall encourage and support the publication of scientific papers and articles in reputable journals and conferences. These publications will emphasize the achievements, research findings, and advancements resulting from the ALT-EDIC's activities.

f) Articles in Magazines and Daily Newspapers: Collaboration with media outlets will be sought to publish articles and opinion pieces that highlight the importance of digital infrastructure and the ALT-EDIC's contributions. This approach will ensure that the general public and media representatives are informed about the ALT-EDIC's activities.

Intellectual property rights policy

Intellectual property rights are governed by the following principles.

1.1 PROPRIETARY KNOWLEDGE (background)

Subject to any rights of third parties, each Member retains full and complete ownership of its PROPRIETARY KNOWLEDGE. PROPRIETARY KNOWLEDGE communicated will be treated by ALT-EDIC as confidential information, the treatment of which will be specified in ALT-EDIC's internal regulations (by-laws).

1.2 NEW KNOWLEDGE (foreground)

a) PROPRIETARY NEW KNOWLEDGE

Each Member is the owner of its own new knowledge which has obtained alone in carrying out the actions referred to in article 3 and shall be deemed PROPRIETARY NEW KNOWLEDGE. It shall decide alone on the appropriateness and nature of the protective

measures to be taken (patent application, sealed deposit, etc.) and shall initiate the necessary procedures on its own initiative, in its own name and at its own expense.

b) COMMON NEW KNOWLEDGE

NEW KNOWLEDGE developed jointly by the Members in carrying out the actions referred to in Article 3 shall be deemed to be COMMON NEW KNOWLEDGE; the Members shall be equal co-owners thereof, unless they agree on a case-by-case basis to a different distribution of the co-ownership shares.

The co-owning Members may appoint one of them to represent the co-ownership and act on its behalf under conditions to be defined between them.

The co-owning Members of the COMMON NEW KNOWLEDGE (and any resulting property titles) will negotiate in good faith a set of co-ownership and exploitation rules, as well as the nature of any protective measures to be taken (patent application, sealed deposit, etc.).

It is hereby agreed that the co-ownership agreement will not allow co-owning Members to exploit alone, directly or indirectly, the COMMON NEW KNOWLEDGE without the prior consent of the other co-owning Members and without having to pay financial compensation to ALT-EDIC. The determination of such financial compensation will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

For the purposes of this article:

“PROPRIETARY KNOWLEDGE” refers to all technical and/or scientific information and knowledge developed by a Member before it signed the ATL-EDIC Statutes, which belongs to it or over which it holds rights of use and exploitation, necessary for carrying out the actions referred to in Article 3. The Members' PROPRIETARY KNOWLEDGE required to carry out these actions is exhaustively specified in the Internal Regulations or in any other document they deem appropriate.

“NEW KNOWLEDGE” refers to all technical and/or scientific information and knowledge developed by one or more Members in the course of carrying out the actions referred to in Article 3.

“PROPRIETARY NEW KNOWLEDGE” refers to all NEW KNOWLEDGE developed by a single Member in the course of carrying out the actions referred to in Article 3.

“COMMON NEW KNOWLEDGE” refers to any NEW KNOWLEDGE developed by two or more Members, the characteristics of which are such that it is not possible to separate the contribution of each of the Members concerned for the purposes of applying or obtaining a property right or taking any protective measures.

Employment policy (including equal opportunities)

We will comply with following Council Directives and Decision and related principles in the ALT-EDIC employment policy:

- Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, pp. 22-26);
- Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, pp. 16-22);
- Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 13 December 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services (OJ L 373, 21.12.2004, pp. 37-43);
- Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law (OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, pp. 55-58).

Employment Policy (including Equal Opportunities)

1. Introduction

The ALT-EDIC is committed to fostering a work environment that promotes equal opportunities for all employees. This policy outlines our dedication to ensuring fairness, non-discrimination, and equal access to employment opportunities.

2. Equal Opportunities

We firmly believe in treating all individuals with respect and dignity, regardless of their race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or any other protected characteristic. We are committed to providing equal opportunities in all aspects of employment, including recruitment, selection, promotion, training, and professional development.

3. Recruitment and Selection

a. Job Advertisements: We will ensure that our job advertisements are inclusive and free from discriminatory language. They will clearly state our commitment to equal opportunities and encourage a diverse range of candidates to apply.

b. Selection Process: All candidates will be evaluated based on their qualifications, skills, and experience relevant to the position. Decisions regarding recruitment and selection will be made solely on merit, without any form of discrimination or bias.

4. Training and Professional Development

a. Skill Enhancement: We will provide training and development opportunities to enhance employees' skills, knowledge, and abilities. These opportunities will be made

available to all employees, irrespective of their background, and will be based on individual interests, performance, and potential.

b. Mentoring and Coaching: We will encourage mentoring and coaching programmes to support the career growth of all employees. These programmes will be accessible to all and will provide guidance and support for professional development.

5. Workplace Environment

a. Harassment and Discrimination: We have a zero-tolerance policy for any form of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation. We are committed to maintaining a work environment free from such behavior and will promptly and thoroughly investigate any reported incidents.

b. Accommodation: We will make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities to ensure equal access to employment opportunities and a supportive work environment.

c. Work-Life Balance: We recognize the importance of work-life balance and will strive to provide flexible work arrangements, when feasible, to accommodate employees' personal and professional needs.

6. Communication and Monitoring

We will communicate this employment policy to all employees, ensuring they are aware of our commitment to equal opportunities. We will monitor and review our policies and practices regularly to identify any barriers to equal opportunities and take appropriate actions to address them.

7. Compliance

We are committed to complying with all applicable laws and regulations related to equal opportunities and non-discrimination. We will actively promote this policy throughout the organisation and expect all employees to support and adhere to its principles.

Data policy

A Data Management Plan (DMP) will be defined in early stage of the project and proposed by Director to the Assembly of Members. It will be systematically updated. It will be implemented in order to ensure a high level of data quality and accessibility for users and Members.

The plan will outline what data the project will generate, whether and how they will be exploited or made accessible for verification and re-use, and how they will be curated and

preserved. The DMP will be monitored to include different data-related issues appearing during the project lifetime. It will address:

- (a) data set reference and name (unique identifier for the data produced),
- (b) data set description (description, origin, nature, scale, reuse, integration, publish ability, etc.),
- (c) confidentiality (by data set, to enable successful exploitation),
- (d) standards and metadata (reference to standards, how metadata will be created, etc.),
- (e) data dissemination and policies for data sharing and public access (policies and provisions for re-use, redistribution and production of derivatives, access procedures, data sharing practices etc.),
- (f) plans for archiving and preservation (including storage/backup),
- (g) a comprehensive data-protection policy; and
- (h) an Intellectual property (IP) protection roadmap, including the selection of data streams for external publication, to avoid conflicts with IP protection.

All data generated by the project will follow FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data principles, adopt data quality standards and data integration operating procedures. A number of best practices and guidelines for working with Open Data are available and will be taken into account.

Existing and new publicly available databases (Open Access) and restricted access databases provided by Members will be the main source of data. From these databases, only data relevant to the ALT-EDIC projects will be processed. Standardised formats and vocabularies for data and metadata will be used in order to improve interoperability.

All activities will comply with Directive (EU) 2002/58/EC concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector (Directive on privacy and electronic communications), and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation) or equivalent recognised standards applicable outside the European Union, such as ISO/IEC 27701.

The Members are committed to make data and research outputs widely available. Open access to scientific publications relating to projects results will be ensured.

Annex V

The list of essential provisions

1) Corresponding to Article 17(1)(c) of Decision (EU) 2022/2481:

Article 2

Name, seat, location and working language

[...]

- 1) The name of the EDIC referred to in paragraph (1) shall be ‘Alliance for Language Technologies – ALT-EDIC’, hereinafter referred to as ‘ALT-EDIC’.
- 2) ALT-EDIC shall have its statutory seat in Villers-Cotterêts, France.

2) Corresponding to Article 17(1)(d) of Decision (EU) 2022/2481:

Article 27

Duration

ALT-EDIC shall exist for an indefinite period of time.

Article 28

Winding up

- 1) The winding up of ALT-EDIC shall be decided by the Assembly of Members in accordance with Article 10.
- 2) Without undue delay and in any event within ten days after adoption of the decision to wind up ALT-EDIC, ALT-EDIC shall notify the European Commission about the decision.
- 3) Assets remaining after payment of ALT-EDIC debts shall be apportioned among the members in proportion to their accumulated annual contribution to the ALT-EDIC, as specified in Article 9, or transferred to another legal entity, if this entity continues EDIC's activities.
- 4) Without undue delay and in any event within ten days of the closure of the winding up procedure, ALT-EDIC shall notify the Commission about this.
- 5) ALT-EDIC shall cease to exist on the day on which the European Commission publishes the appropriate notice in the Official Journal of the European Union.

3) Corresponding to Article 17(1)(e) of Decision (EU) 2022/2481:

Article 19

Liability and insurance

- 1) ALT-EDIC shall be liable for its debts.
- 2) The financial liability of the members for the debts of ALT-EDIC shall be limited to their respective contributions provided to EDIC, as specified in Annex III.
- 3) The European Union shall not be liable for ALT-EDIC's debts.
- 4) ALT-EDIC shall take appropriate insurance to cover the risks related to its activities.

4) Corresponding to Article 17(1)(i) of Decision (EU) 2022/2481:

Article 18

Tax and excise duty exemptions

- 1) VAT exemptions based on Articles 143(1)(g) and 151(1)(b) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC and in accordance with Articles 50 and 51 of Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011, shall be limited to purchases by ALT-EDIC and by members of ALT-EDIC which are for the official and exclusive use by ALT-EDIC, provided that such purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of ALT-EDIC, in line with its activities.
- 2) VAT exemptions shall be limited to purchases exceeding the value of EUR 300.
- 3) Excise duty exemptions based on Article 12 of Council Directive 2008/118/EC shall be limited to purchases by ALT-EDIC which are for the official and exclusive use by ALT-EDIC, provided that (i) such purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of ALT-EDIC in line with its activities and (ii) the purchase exceeds the value of EUR 300.
- 4) The procedure at national level necessary to register ALT EDIC as an international organisation will be launched on the day ALT-EDIC is set up.