

## Ethical Charter

### **An ethical charter serving the general societal interest.**

The European Nuclear Society (ENS), as specified in its Statutes<sup>1</sup>, aims to promote and to contribute to the advancement of science and engineering in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by all suitable means and in particular by:

- a) Fostering and coordinating the activities of the Member Organisations;
- b) Encouraging exchanges between the Member Organisations;
- c) Encouraging the exchange of scientists and engineers between different countries;
- d) Disseminating information;
- e) Ensuring that the Association has adequate means of publication;
- f) Sponsoring meetings devoted to scientific and technical matters;
- g) Fostering engineering education and training;
- h) Encouraging scholarships;
- i) Co-operating with international governmental and non-governmental organisations and with other organisations having similar aims;
- j) Promoting international standardisation in the nuclear field;
- k) Encouraging the formation of organisations of nuclear scientists and engineers in places where no such organisations yet exist.

In accordance with its aims, the ENS recognises its responsibility towards the society in which it operates and is committed to applying the highest ethical standards in carrying out its mandate. In particular, as a learned society bringing together more than 10,000 professionals from industry, the academic world, research centres and authorities, the ENS subscribes to the following core ethical values:

- > Fostering a responsible organisational culture
- > Fostering and promoting integrity in science and engineering
- > Openness towards society through dialogue
- > Support for the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology
- > Fostering responsible leadership

These core ethical values are elaborated in more detail below.

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<sup>1</sup> The aims of the European Nuclear Society are specified in the ENS Statutes; See <http://euronuclear.org/1-about/statutes.htm>

## **Core ethical values of the European Nuclear Society**

### **> Fostering a responsible organisational culture**

The ENS recognises that its activities should be founded upon a responsible organisational culture characterised by professionalism, honesty and collegiality. In particular, the ENS recognises that a responsible organisational culture includes the following specifications:

#### *Personal Values*

The ENS is committed to maintaining an environment of mutual respect and trust. Individuals associated with the ENS should be considerate of each other and treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves. In addition, individuals should be respectful of equality, diversity and inclusiveness in the approach to gender, creed and culture.

#### *Conflicts of Interest*

Individuals associated with the ENS should avoid conflicts of interest. They should not allow personal interest or economic or political pressure to compromise the aims of the society as formulated above. They should declare potential conflicts of interest if and when they arise to the Compliance Officer when carrying out duties on behalf of ENS.

#### *Compliance Officer Role*

The ENS Compliance Officer will advise on possible conflicts of interest on a case-by-case basis. Where there is the potential for a conflict of interest to be contentious in relation to the ENS Ethics Policy, the Compliance Officer will consult the President and the elected Vice Presidents for guidance.

### **> Fostering and promoting integrity in science and engineering**

As a learned society, the ENS fosters and promotes integrity in science and engineering and invites its members to do so accordingly. In particular,

- the ENS recognises that scientific integrity includes, but is not limited to, impartiality, fairness, honesty and truthfulness in all matters affecting scientific research. Taking into account that nuclear technology assessment has to deal with knowledge-related uncertainties and value judgements, the ENS recognises that scientific integrity also includes awareness of uncertainties and values and of their impact on policy advice, and of the contexts in which science itself operates. The ENS also commits itself to communicating and promoting this vision on scientific integrity in the context of its activities when relevant.
- the ENS recognises that integrity in engineering refers to caring for health, safety and environmental protection in nuclear engineering projects, both now and in the future. In addition, the ENS recognises that integrity in engineering also includes taking responsibility with respect to nuclear security measures in

accordance with existing international nuclear security instruments and recommendations.

> **Openness towards society through dialogue**

The ENS recognises and respects the diversity of views about the role peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology can play in our society today and in the future, either in the context of energy production and medical or industrial applications. In addition, the ENS recognises that lessons learned from historical experience should be a key part of public dialogue about matters relating to nuclear science and engineering.

Taking this into account, the ENS commits itself

- to supporting and facilitating communication and dialogue about matters relating to nuclear science and engineering among its members;
- to maintaining an open spirit and attitude in dialogue with society and to continuously encouraging its members to do so accordingly;
- to actively encouraging and promoting public debate about nuclear science and technology topics relevant to the broader society and of interest to the general public;
- to enabling and encouraging participation of public stakeholders in its public outreach activities, including conferences, media and social media initiatives and preparation of publications;
- to communicating openly on invitation of public stakeholders (decision makers, civil society representatives and citizens) about matters relating to nuclear science and engineering and to providing expertise and information upon request in a conscientious way.

> **Support for the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology**

The ENS commits to supporting the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, and is prepared to express this position openly in any relevant context. This commitment includes refraining from providing expertise or disseminating information when there is a clear or presumptive external interest in the illicit use of this expertise or information.

> **Fostering responsible leadership**

The ENS and its members should aspire to the delivery of high standards of leadership in the use and management of nuclear science and engineering. Leaders have a privileged position in their organisations and in society and hence are expected to demonstrate service to the wider society and be sensitive to public concerns. Leaders should promote the impact, benefits and achievements of the applications of nuclear science and engineering within Europe. Leaders should also promote respect for life through the support and application of health, safety and environmental laws.

The ENS commits to the promotion of responsible leadership described above, especially in relation to listening to the concerns of politicians and society in general about the application of nuclear science and engineering and responding to such concerns in an open and honest way with authoritative information and dialogue.

## **The ENS ethical charter and its context of application**

### *The ENS ethical charter in relation to the ENS members' own ethical charters and codes*

The core ethical values presented in this charter apply to the ENS, as organisation, as well as to its members<sup>2</sup> while fulfilling specific ENS mandates<sup>3</sup> or while working on behalf of the ENS in the context of ENS activities (meetings, conferences, scientific or policy advice, education and training activities). The charter is not meant to replace ethical charters or codes formulated by the ENS members themselves, but rather aims to be complementary to them.

### *The ENS ethical charter in relation to other regulations*

This ethical charter aims to formulate specifications about individual and joint attitudes that would support and comply with the core ethical values as specified above. The charter aims to be complementary to (and does not replace or re-interpret) the ENS statutes and the labour regulations relevant to its own internal working as a professional organisation.

### *The ENS ethical charter as a guidance for cooperation and association.*

The ENS ethical charter aims to serve as an ethical guidance for cooperation and association with other organisations. Any national or international organisation that wants to cooperate with or wants to be associated with the ENS has to be prepared to sign up to the core ethical values of the ENS as presented in this charter.

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<sup>2</sup> ENS members can either be individuals or organisations. The nature of membership of the European Nuclear Society is specified in the ENS statutes; See <http://euronuclear.org/1-about/statutes.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> The European Nuclear Society mandates (General Assembly, Board of Directors, Treasurer, Secretary-General) are specified in the ENS Statutes; See <http://euronuclear.org/1-about/statutes.htm>.