

## Network internal rules and the governance models

The Portuguese network is currently composed of 61 members and one representative that is elected as Head of Network. The elections are normally held during one of the annual meetings by the members that are present and online by the ones that were not available that day.

At this meeting we get in touch with each member's everyday problems and reflect on how the Head of Network can help them. We also plan the activities for the upcoming year, and define the strategy to follow within the Anna Lindh Foundation.

The elections at the Network Economic Support were negotiated with the Anna Lindh Foundation and used to happen every two years. However, since the Network Economic Support's elections are now annual, we've decided to adopt the triennial elections, so it matches both with the confirmation of the network members and *ALF's triennial programs*.

Since in past years there were elections where no other members wanted to be Head of Network, we have decided to make an alteration to the rule. In order to avoid having periods of time with no Head of Network, we believe it's better that, in case there are no candidates for the elections, the current Head of Network is automatically renewed for 3 more years.

During the last two years we have noticed that the Network Economical Support's Secretariat was looking for more results from the Head of Network. Therefore, we've decided to make some small changes to the network members' duties, attributing them a few tasks such as:

- They must send the Head of Network a minimum of two news per year regarding the activities or events that will be implemented during the current year;
- They are obliged to join at least one of the meetings organized by the Head of Network, be it in person or online;

The goal behind these changes was to build a more dynamic participation within the network. However, if there aren't any consequences, the members tend to not fulfill their duties. That's why we've also decided to

change the exclusion rule. This means that, if the members don't realize at least one of the duties each year, we hold the right to exclude them from the Anna Lindh Foundation network due to inactivity.

One of the Head of Network's duties was to organize online meetings with the network members. Upon reflection, we've come to the conclusion that we prefer to organize consultations with the members, since spontaneous contact can be quite challenging and not productive. The purpose of the planned meetings is to understand if the strategy we agreed upon previously needs any alterations.

These changes originated thanks to some feedback from our network's members and during the last annual meeting that we had in Porto, when *MEDesTU* was Head of Network. The new measures will be presented and discussed with all the members during both the online meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 and the open house encounter on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023.