

swissuniversities

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NICT – Network ICT Services for Swiss Higher Education – Mandate

Swissuniversities confers a mandate to the new 'Network ICT Services for Swiss Higher Education – NICT' as follows:

1. Purpose

NICT constitutes the network of the Swiss higher education institutions' ICT representatives serving swissuniversities (SWU) in treating ICT-related topics. Expert statements on ICT strategy and service topics are provided, as well as hands-on information from persons in charge, challenged against the universities "ICT realities", and supporting SWU to achieve defined strategic goals. Thus, NICT operates primarily as a "sounding board" to SWU and does not take any decisions on behalf of SWU or its members.

2. Activities

To fulfil that purpose, NICT will ...

- contribute - as a "sounding board" - to the strategy development within SWU, to initializations of national programs, to SWU-projects, or similar
- provide expert opinions, analysis, and position papers reflecting common as well as individual positions
- share information and experience in the area of ICT infrastructure and service provisioning
- share local ICT strategies
- improve services by searching systematically for areas with potential to align or collaborate
- align with SWITCH, CSCS, other national service providers, and with common 3rd party ICT providers
- initiate and control working groups on topics of interest

If relevant and desired by SWU, NICT sends delegates to selected bodies or program committees. NICT can submit corresponding proposals.

3. Organisation

Principles

- NICT will start by building on established and proven structures as well as on running procedures, working groups and delegates to selected bodies on national level.
- Thereby NICT has to take in account the different "speed" and maturity as well as status for ICT topics in the three existing interest groups related to the different types of universities.
- It is intended to keep procedures simple. Overhead shall remain low. NICT operates without a dedicated budget.
- Important: As a sounding board, consensus and single voice within NICT is not required, dissension is allowed. Dissenting opinions have to be communicated by indication of majority and minorities.

Structure "Step 1"

- NICT contains the 3 subnets
 - NICT-UNI
 - NICT-UAS
 - NICT-PH
- corresponding to today's interest groups
 - ASIUS – the interest group of the IT services' executive representatives of all Swiss universities;
 - FID – the interest group of the IT services' executive representatives of all Swiss universities of applied science; and
 - PH-ID – the interest group of the IT services' executive representatives of all Swiss universities of teacher education.
- Members of NICT are the executive representatives of the central IT services of all Swiss universities, all Swiss universities of applied sciences, and all Swiss universities of teacher education. Selected national organisations such as SWITCH and CSCS participate to NICT events as permanent guests. See annex.
- The NICT committee consists of 3 elected subnet leads with rotating presidency. According to arising tasks the committee can be expanded, if necessary.
- The nominated contact person on the level of SWU acts as counterpart to the president of NICT. There is no formal hierarchical relation between SWU's contact person and NICT's president.
- Each subnet has a contact person on the level of its corresponding chamber (chamber of universities etc.).
- NICT is responsible for its internal organisation (allocation of tasks and responsibilities, number of meetings, working groups and so on).

Structure "Step 2"

- A periodical review and adjustment of the NICT Organization will take place at least every 2 years.

4. Outlook

- NICT "Step 1" should be implemented and operational latest by mid of 2016.

Annex

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