

European Forestry and Environmental Skills Council (EFESC)

ltd. .., e.V .., EEIG .. ???

Considerations
for a legal entity form

EEIG – EWIV – GEIE - ...

European Economic Interest Groupings

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LIBERTAS

EWIV = EEIG = GEIE ...

- Europäische wirtschaftliche Interessenvereinigung (EWIV)
= DE
- European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG)
= EN
- Groupement européen d'intérêt économique (GEIE)
= FR

- Gruppo europeo di interesse economico (GEIE)
= IT
- Europees economisch samenwerkingsverband (EESV)
= NE
- Agrupación Europea de interés económico (AEIE)
= ES
- Ευρωπαϊκού Ομίλου Οικονομικού Σκοπού (ΕΟΟΣ)
= GR

- Examples for G.i.e.: Airbus, Credit Card Organisation Carte Bleue, Arianespace etc.; around 13.000 G.i.e. in France
- First and only transnational company form within the EU
- Set up after the example of the French G.i.e. = *Groupement d'intérêt économique*
- Exists also in Africa (G.i.e. in the framework of OHADA in francophone countries)

Legal basis

- EU Regulation 2137/85:
can be downloaded in all EU languages and in Bosnian from European EEIG Information Centre www.libertas-institut.com (EWIV/EEIG/GEIE)

Legal Basis

- Two members from two different EU Member States, at least
- Members can be of different structure, i.e. liberal professions, legal personalities, personalities of public law, associations etc. They all can form an EEIG.
- Can be founded with or without asset capital
- Can at any time change its seat across EU internal borders
- Object must be cooperation

Further properties

- Joint and several liability – but this can be limited by the form of the members (limited liability companies).
- Advantage: credit worthiness
- EEIG must not be discriminated in public tenders or public finance programmes

- Only mandatory institutions: Members Assembly, Managing Director
- Other institutions are possible, e.g. Steering Committee, Scientific Committee, Supervisory Board etc.

Taxation

- EEIG does not pay company profit taxes
- EEIG has to finish its yearly accounts *zero/zero*
- EEIG pays normally profits to its members who have to tax it at home
- BUT: EEIG can create reserves.

- EEIG are not very much regulated
- Members can cooperate as they want
- No company publicity in most of the Member States
- No mandatory balance sheet
- Very simple accountancy
- Business costs can be deducted like in all other companies

Participation from third countries is possible via:

- Managing Director
- Associated membership – the usual way
 - no voting right, but informal vote
 - no external liability
 - consensus management
- EU branch office

Members from EFTA countries

EEIG members (not only associated ones) are possible from European Economic Area (EEA) Member States from the EFTA zone:

- Norway
- Iceland
- Liechtenstein

- ◆ as members of an EEIG with seat in the EU
- ◆ as seat of an EEIG

„Mega Trends“ with EEIG:

- EEIG between SMEs
- Research EEIGs (6th EU Framework Programme)
- Transborder Cooperation EEIGs
- IT EEIG (e.g. To set up virtual networks, virtual companies etc.)
- EEIGs between big project partners (for planning, implementation, exploitation, e.g. big railway or street infrastructures), often in PPP (public-private partnership)
- Marketing or purchasing EEIGs

Some examples

ARTE TV (French-German TV Channel),
movie and cartoon EEIGs,
European Federation of Harley-Davidson Clubs,
Transborder cooperation EEIGs: bus EEIGs,
railway tunnel EEIGs, train telephone EEIGs,
Tourism EEIGs: Allgäu/Tirol Viales Land
EWIV (Interregional tourism marketing), Soft
Tourism EEIG, Agrotourism EEIG,
Horsebreeding EEIG,
Research EEIGs: Anticancer drug research,
clinical tests of vaccines against poverty-
related diseases, Anti-Parkinson reserach
centre,
European weather services satellite
exploitation,
Regional airports EEIG, etc. ...

Further information

- You can download (free) all legal texts in all languages on EEIG under www.libertas-institut.com
- Here you can also order an electronic newsletter free: the irregularly appearing English-German „EWIV/EEIG/GEIE eJournal“