



## CompNet Governance structure

*To be valid from February 2016 on*

*Since mid-2015 CompNet is a self-governed research network. This document includes membership rights, leadership of the network, as well as procedures for data use and its dissemination. The document has been commented upon and approved by active members and is endorsed by the CompNet Steering Committee*

### 1. Membership

At an early stage, the majority of the members of CompNet were representatives of NCBs and NSIs, selected by their respective institutions. Following the evolution of the network into a more permanent structure, membership will be more open to external researchers who wish to actively participate in the activities of the network and the production of the data.

Against this background, we have updated the membership definition as follows. Members of CompNet are representatives of national central banks (NCBs), national statistical institutes (NSIs), academic institutions and international organisations, who are **actively** involved in common research in areas relevant for the Network and/or are providers of (micro-) data.

Affiliation will be granted upon request by the Steering Committee. An updated list of members will be made available on the website of the network.

Those who are interested in the activities of the network, but do not necessarily actively contribute to its research, may join a group of “interested parties”, in order to receive the network’s periodical newsletter (including updates on research outputs, policy contribution and events).

### 2. Steering Committee

The governing body of the network is the Steering Committee, which is composed of ten members. At present the members of the Steering Committee are 1) the leaders of the (three) workstreams – now discontinued – which have handled the initial work of the network, and 2) the two academic consultants associated with the network.

In the annual Network conference in Prague, the composition of the Steering Committee from April 2016 onwards will be discussed. At that time a rotation mechanism will be introduced in order to guarantee the representativeness of all participating country teams.

The Chairman of the network is elected by the Steering Committee.

### 3. Data Governance rules

#### 3.1. Macro-indicators of competitiveness

All the macro-indicators – traditional and novel – created and maintained by the network are presented in the Occasional paper of the ECB no. 163 – “Compendium on the diagnostic toolkit for competitiveness”.

The database is **publicly available** at:

[http://www.ecb.europa.eu/home/pdf/research/compnet/compendium\\_diagnostic\\_toolkit.zip](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/home/pdf/research/compnet/compendium_diagnostic_toolkit.zip)

The selection of most relevant and robust micro-aggregated indicators included in the Compendium will be part of this file.

#### 3.2. Micro-aggregated database

One of the novel results of CompNet has been the creation of a firm-level-based dataset (see ECB WP 1764 for details). Use and dissemination of this data set will be regulated in the following way:

**All researchers, also external to the network** can apply for access to firm-level-based CompNet data (**in the aggregated format available at the ECB**) by filling out a request form that is available on the CompNet webpage and sending it to the CompNet e-mail account [compnet@ecb.int](mailto:compnet@ecb.int). The form has been prepared in collaboration with the ECB Legal Services, in accordance with standard practices. Applications will be reviewed every second month by the CompNet Steering Committee having due regard to the quality of the research proposal. The institutions contributing to the CompNet database delegate the decision to grant access to the aggregated data to the Steering Committee, which will inform them on ongoing research on a regular basis.

Institutions that contribute to the firm-level-based dataset are exempted from this application process. They have a permanent and full access to the dataset, whether for research or analysis work. In order for the Steering Committee to maintain a complete picture of ongoing research projects, these contributing institutions will inform the Steering Committee on their research projects via filling out a shortened version of the application file.

Once access has been granted, download of the database will occur via a Cloud Storage solution with personalized access. For information please send a query to [compnet@ecb.int](mailto:compnet@ecb.int).

After the research project is finalized by the researcher, the submission of the work to the CompNet ECB Working Paper Series is strongly encouraged, but not necessary.

Nevertheless, in all cases, researchers are required to send a copy of the research work to CompNet before publication and, as stated in the application form, to include explicitly the following:

- 1) a reference to the CompNet main paper documentation (ECB WP 1764) and
- 2) a footnote indicating – as stated in the data request form – the caveats related to the interpretation of the results (referring to section 2.6.1 of ECB WP 1764).