



## Membership Acceptance Procedures

### Purpose of the Acceptance Procedures

GDNet is the umbrella title for the series of ambitious online information initiatives being developed by the Global Development Network (GDN). It serves as the electronic voice of GDN and as a key tool in its capacity-building and communication efforts.

GDNet has been set up to provide a new way of communicating research knowledge, to help link researchers together, and to support their work. It complements and supports the activities of the GDN programme as a whole, which operates in a decentralised way through a series of regional networks.

GDNet provides the means to building an integrated GDN community, and managing and promoting online services to GDN members. Through individuals and organisations databases, hosting members' profiles, managed by and made available through GDNet, the initiative offers a showcase to research organisations that are working to raise their reputation and profile or are newly-established (especially those in low and middle-income countries). It is therefore important to define a set of acceptance procedures to direct the implementation process inline with the overall GDN membership strategy.

The purpose of the membership acceptance procedures is to:

- Clarify the types of individuals and organizations that GDN is aiming to support
- Establish eligibility criteria for making use of the various online services that will be made available to GDN members through GDNet
- Explain the expectations and requirements associated with qualifying for subsidized services, such as access to online publications, funding opportunities, etc. several of which will require a clear specification of which individuals are entitled to have access<sup>1</sup>
- Provide the GDNet editorial team with guidance on how to deal with borderline cases.

These acceptance procedures build on the experience gained during the GDNet Pilot Phase, where a wide range of views were canvassed and various practical approaches tried out. They will be reviewed from time-to-time by the GDNet Steering Group to ensure that it is adequate to fulfil its intended role and to keep up with the experience and ambitions of GDN as it evolves. They should be read in conjunction with the GDNet Editorial Policy, which provides guidance on the kinds of research documents that GDNet is aiming to include on the GDNet knowledge base.

---

<sup>1</sup> Subsidized services are only available to eligible individuals as listed in this document.

## Guiding principles

The guiding principles for the membership acceptance procedure are:

- Be inclusive as possible, while maintaining the focus of GDN and fostering a sense of community among the researchers it is designed to serve
- Incorporate specific capacity-building function so organizations that are newly-established or working to raise their reputation and profile (especially those in low and middle-income countries) are encouraged to join GDN and take advantage of GDN services
- Support the work of the GDN regional networks and their member organizations, but to also be open to individuals and organizations who are not currently members of these networks
- Making subsidized services available to researchers in developing countries subject to resources availability.

## GDN Scope and Membership Strategy

An overall policy has been agreed by the GDN Governing Body, as follows:

**Scope:** GDN will support high-quality, policy-oriented research in the social sciences.

**Membership:** GDN is open to all those interested in supporting high-quality, policy-oriented research in the social sciences:

- (a) All those registering (e-mail address, name, and country) will automatically receive information about GDN activities by e-mail.
- (b) Those submitting a profile (c.v., institutional affiliation, research interests, etc) and subject to acceptance procedures set in place by GDN will receive the GDN newsletter and have access to other services that are expected to include on-line data, on-line journals, information about funding opportunities, and related benefits.

Within the GDN scope and membership strategy, this document outlines the *eligibility criteria* and *registration procedure* for those individuals and organizations submitting a profile and pursuing active involvement in GDN-related activities.

## Registration for Individuals

Individuals eligible for registration will be one or more of the following:

- an employee or associate of an organization that meets the GDN membership criteria - regardless of whether that organization is a member of GDN or not
- or**
- a former employee or associate of a GDN organization
- or**
- an individual studying at a doctorate level - students of undergraduate or post-graduate courses will not be eligible for GDN membership unless they meet one of the other criteria
- or**
- the author of published work in a recognized journal

To register, individuals will have to undertake the following activities:

- Complete a full individual profile
  - Submit a current c.v. and photo where available
  - Where available, submit URLs of documents that they have authored or co-authored
- Or
- If online documents are not available, submit one recent publication to be hosted by GDNNet, subject to copyright. Please note: in order to digitise and host a document the author must be sure that s/he holds copyright for all documents and is able to give GDN written permission to make the documents available on the internet.

## Registration for Organizations

The types of organization and their staff eligible for registration are:

- **Research institutes**
- **Dedicated research units within universities and other institutions**
- **Think tanks**

which undertake policy-related social and economic research.

To register eligible organizations will have to undertake the following activities:

- Submit an organizational profile.
- Demonstrate active involvement in research (provide sample publications).
- Publicise GDN to researchers within their own organization
- Nominate a staff member to act as point of contact for GDN communications and supply their contact details to the GDNNet implementation team.

## Access to subsidized services

GDN offers open access to all information on the GDNNet Knowledge Base including access to Individuals and Organizations Profiles, access to the research included in the GDNNet Document Database and receiving the GDN newsletter on a regular basis.

Subject to funding, GDN also subsidizes access to a number of specialized services such as Funding Opportunities Newsletter, Document Delivery Services and Access to Datasets.

These subsidized services are made available through GDNNet only to researchers from developing countries, residing in developing countries, excluding staff members of international donor agencies.

To access these services, **eligible individuals** must:

- Submit their profile and complete registration as detailed above,

**and**

- Submit a recent publication to the GDNNet Document Database.