Cultural Expertise Digital Network (CEDN)

1. Purpose and Vision

The **Cultural Expertise Digital Network (CEDN)** is an international platform designed to connect researchers, practitioners, institutions, and stakeholders engaged in the field of cultural expertise. The network fosters collaboration across disciplines (law, anthropology, sociology, political science, AI/tech, etc.) to promote ethical, timely, and accessible integration of cultural knowledge into legal, policy, and social contexts.

The CEDN builds on the achievements of pioneering projects such as EURO-EXPERT, CULTEXP, and K-Peritia, providing a digital infrastructure for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and innovation.

2. Organisational Structure

A. Governing / Advisory Layer

- **Steering Committee**: Senior scholars, legal professionals, innovation partners (e.g., CNRS, ERC alumni, COST Action representatives). Responsible for strategic direction and oversight.
- **Advisory Board**: External stakeholders (judiciary, NGOs, tech industry, civil society, policy-makers). Ensures real-world impact, diversity, and inclusivity.

B. Operational / Working Layer

- **Coordination Hub**: Hosted by an institution (e.g., CULTEXP Foundation within CNRS Foundation). Manages day-to-day operations, communications, and membership processes.
- **Thematic Working Groups (WGs)**:
  - WG1: Theory and Concepts of Cultural Expertise
  - WG2: Technology & AI for Cultural Expertise
  - WG3: Training, Education & Capacity Building
  - WG4: Policy, Law, and Institutions
  - WG5: Regional Hubs (Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Europe, North America, MENA)

C. Community / Membership Layer

- **Individual Members**: Researchers, practitioners, students.

- **Institutional Members**: Universities, NGOs, courts, legal tech companies.
- **Affiliate Members**: Observers, journalists, policy makers, and other interested parties.

3. Organisation Chart

Steering Committee
└── Advisory Board
└── Coordination Hub
└── Thematic Working Groups (WG1–WG5)
└── Members (Individual, Institutional, Affiliate)

4. Membership Criteria

1. Individual Researchers and Practitioners

- Demonstrated background in law, anthropology, sociology, political science, AI/tech, or related field.
- Evidence of interest in cultural expertise (publications, teaching, litigation, professional practice, or advocacy).
- Commitment to ethical guidelines (respect for diversity, confidentiality, independence).

2. Institutional Members

- Active or potential engagement with cultural expertise (research, practice, training, litigation support).
- Commitment to open science principles and contribution to collective outputs.
- Formal agreement through memorandum of collaboration for active involvement.

3. Affiliate Members

- Open to policy-makers, journalists, students, or members of the general public interested in the field.
- Non-voting status but access to newsletters, events, and training opportunities.

5. Membership Process

- **Application**: Simple online form reviewed by the Coordination Hub.
- **Validation**: Steering Committee endorses new institutional members; individual and affiliate members are admitted on a rolling basis.

- **Benefits**: Access to CEDN knowledge base, training schools, collaborative projects, publication opportunities, visibility in the CEDN directory.
- **Obligations**: Active participation in at least one Working Group, compliance with code of conduct, annual renewal of membership.

6. Code of Conduct

All members of the CEDN commit to:

- Upholding ethical standards in cultural expertise.
- Ensuring inclusivity and diversity of perspectives.
- Promoting open and transparent knowledge sharing.
- Respecting confidentiality and professional independence.

Cultural Expertise Digital Network (CEDN) provides a global, collaborative infrastructure to consolidate knowledge, build professional capacity, and enhance the societal impact of cultural expertise.