



**Foundation of the Valencian Region
Graduate School and Research Network
of Artificial Intelligence**

BYLAWS



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CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Denomination.

With the name, *Escola de Postgrau i Xarxa de Centres d'investigació en Intel·ligència Artificial, Fundació de la Comunitat Valenciana*, a private Foundation of a scientific-educational nature, permanent and non-profit, is constituted, under the tutelage of the Protectorate exercised by the Generalitat Valenciana.

The foundation may also use its name indistinctly in Spanish: Graduate School and Network of Research Centres in Artificial Intelligence, and in English: Graduate School and Research Network of Artificial Intelligence, or its acronym, ValgrAI.

Article 2. Legal personality and capacity to act.

The Foundation will enjoy full legal capacity and capacity to act, without any limitations other than those expressly imposed by the legal provisions that are applicable to this type of foundation, and those established in these statutes, by the fact of the granting of its founding charter in a public deed and its registration in the Registry of Foundations of the Generalitat Valenciana.

Article 3. Scope of action and domicile.

The Foundation will conduct its activity at regional, national and international level, with preference in the orientation of its activities and services to meet the specific needs of the industries of the Valencian Community and the public sector, where appropriate. The Foundation's domicile is in Valencia, on the campus of the Universitat Politècnica de València located at Calle Camino de Vera s/n, 46022; it may be transferred by agreement of the Board of Trustees, provided that the legal provisions in force are complied with.



Article 4. Purposes.

The purposes of the Foundation are:

- a) To contribute to increasing knowledge in artificial intelligence and in the disciplines related to it.
- b) To develop and support teaching at any level, but specifically postgraduate, research and studies in artificial intelligence and related disciplines.
- c) To cooperate for these purposes with universities and research centres, companies and any other natural person or public and private entity.
- d) Improve the management of Public Administrations through artificial intelligence and related disciplines.

Article 5. Activities.

The Foundation plays a coordinating role between Public Universities and other actors in training, research, dissemination, and technology transfer activities on artificial intelligence and in the disciplines related to it. The development of all these activities will preferably take place through the members of the Foundation, without prejudice to the fact that the Foundation may assume these activities with the prior agreement of the members or when they are unable to carry them out. It may conduct its activities through its own resources or by contracting external services or other modalities admitted by law. The Foundation may conduct the following activities for the fulfilment of its purposes:

- a) To develop postgraduate training studies and cooperate in the teaching of those already existing at the Universitat Politècnica de València, at the Universitat de València Estudi General, at the Universitat d'Alacant, at the Universitat Jaume I, at the Miguel Hernández University and at other Valencian universities and recognised research centres in artificial intelligence and related disciplines.



- b) To develop and support research of all kinds in artificial intelligence and related disciplines.
- c) Organise, teach, and hold courses, seminars, conferences and congresses.
- d) Promote and conduct studies directly or in collaboration with other people or entities.
- e) Promote the transfer of technology in artificial intelligence and advise Valencian industry.
- f) To facilitate the recruitment of talent to the Valencian industry.
- g) Conduct specific training activities for teachers at any educational level.
- h) To conduct training and research activities in matters related to the management of Public Administrations.
- i) To establish relationships and cooperate with any person and entity, public and private, to serve the best development of its founding purposes.
- a) Any other activity that effectively contributes to the development of the foundation's purposes.

Article 6. Beneficiaries.

It will be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to determine the basic rules for the application of the resources to the foundational purposes, as well as the objective criteria for determining the beneficiaries, rules that will always be based on objectivity, non-discrimination on the basis of sex, belief, race, social origin and/or disability and that are aimed at generic groups of people.

The specific choice of beneficiaries must be made by the Board of Trustees after assessing the scientific and educational interest, the professional and technical capacity, and the viability of the project, taking into account the following aspects:

1. The Foundation's action must benefit generic groups of people.
2. Whenever it is necessary to delimit the beneficiaries, in cases such as the granting of grants or the financing of projects, the Foundation will mainly



attend to those persons, entities or organisations most suitable for the achievement of the foundational objectives, always in accordance with the general criteria of impartiality and non-discrimination and those of particular scientific and educational interest. of professional and technical capacity and viability of the project. The Board of Trustees may agree on the specific requirements of each call and the composition, if applicable, of the selection body, its criteria for action, the requirements, and the merits to be assessed.

3. No one may claim, either individually or collectively, before the Foundation or its Board of Trustees any right to the enjoyment of its benefits, before they were granted, or impose their attribution on specific persons.

Article 7. Duration.

The Foundation is constituted for an indefinite duration. However, if at any time the Foundation's own purposes may be considered fulfilled or impossible to fulfil, the Board of Trustees may agree to their termination in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes.

Article 8. Legal Regime.

The Foundation is governed by the will expressed in the founding deed, by these Statutes, by the provisions that, in interpretation and development thereof, the Board of Trustees establishes and, in any case, by the provisions of current legislation on foundations.



CHAPTER II. BODIES AND POSITIONS OF THE FOUNDATION

Article 9. Bodies and positions of the Foundation.

1. The bodies of the Foundation are:

- a) Board
- b) Academic Council
- c) Business Council
- d) Scientific Council
- e) Study Council

2. The positions of the Foundation appointed by the Board of Trustees are:

- a) Honorary President
- b) General Manager

Section I. Board of Trustees

Article 10. Composition of the Board of Trustees and regime of the position of patron.

1. The Board of Trustees is made up of a minimum of sixteen and a maximum of twenty-five members, apart from the founding Board of Trustees, which will be made up of the number of people designated in the deed of incorporation.

2. The position of employer has a duration of four years and can be renewed for identical periods of four years. However, when the status of patron is attributed by reason of a position in an institution, the patron exercises his or her mandate for the time that he or she holds the position for which he or she was appointed. Once the term of office has ended without the cessation or renewal of the positions of trustee, they will continue in office until their definitive replacement or renewal.



3. When the status of employer is attributed to the holder of a position, the person who replaces him or her by regulation or the person designated by the holder in writing may act on his or her behalf.

4. The appointment of the members of the first Board of Trustees will be made by the founders and will be stated in the deed of incorporation. It is the responsibility of the founding Board of Trustees to appoint the members of the first Academic Council and the first Business Council. At the constitutive session of these bodies, they must make the proposal of members of the Board of Trustees referred to in the following section.

5. Within a maximum period of one year from the registration of the deed of incorporation in the Register of Foundations, the Board of Trustees must proceed to appoint the persons who must make it up in accordance with the following composition:

- a) The Minister responsible for R&D in the Generalitat Valenciana.
- b) The Regional Secretary for Universities and Research.
- c) The Rector of the Universitat Politècnica de València
- d) The Rector of the Universitat de València Estudi General,
- e) The Rector of the University of Alacant.
- f) The Rector of the Universitat Jaume I de Castelló
- g) The Rector of the University Miguel Hernández
- h) Up to a maximum of two members of the Board of Trustees representing the Alumni and Friends of the ValgrAI, who will be appointed by the Board of Trustees by a two-thirds majority.



- i) A minimum of four and up to a maximum of six members of the Board of Trustees, proposed by the Academic Council of the Foundation in accordance with the provisions of Article 21 of these Statutes.
- j) A minimum of five and up to a maximum of ten members of the Board of Trustees of institutions or companies that support the Foundation, proposed by the Business Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of these Statutes.

6. The first renewal of all the members of the Board of Trustees, except for the representatives of institutions, will take place four years after the registration of the deed of incorporation in the Register of Foundations, regardless of the duration of their term of office, and they may be re-elected, where appropriate, for new periods of four years.

Article 11. Acceptance and dismissal of members of the Board of Trustees.

1. The Board of Trustees, as the governing and administrative body of the Foundation, represents and manages the Foundation, with all the powers necessary for the achievement of the foundation's aims.

2. The members of the Board of Trustees will take office after having expressly accepted the position in one of the ways established by current legislation. The members of the Board of Trustees may be dismissed by agreement of the Board of Trustees for any of the reasons established in the current legislation on foundations, as well as when there is an unjustified non-appearance at four consecutive calls to the plenary session of the Board of Trustees. The members of the Board of Trustees who, for any reason, cease as such before the end of the term for which they were appointed may be replaced by agreement of the Board of Trustees, with the exception of the members of the Board of Trustees proposed by the Academic Council or the Business Council, who will be replaced at the proposal of the bodies that appointed them. The member appointed as a substitute will be appointed for the time remaining to serve his or her term, apart from trustees appointed by



the Academic Council and the Business Council, who will be appointed for four years. The members of the Board of Trustees appointed as substitutes may be re-elected for the same terms established by the other members of the Board of Trustees.

3. The members of the Board of Trustees shall not be remunerated for the mere exercise of their position, without prejudice to their right to be compensated for the expenses incurred in the performance of the functions entrusted to them by the Board of Trustees, subject to their justification. The Board of Trustees may set an appropriate remuneration for those trustees who provide the Foundation with services other than those involved in the exercise of the functions that correspond to them as members of the Board of Trustees (management, management, administration or teaching tasks), with the prior authorisation of the Protectorate. In this case, they may be remunerated, for the exercise of these activities, within the framework of a contractual relationship, including those of an employment nature. In this case, the employment contract and its formalisation will be subject to the conditions and limitations established by current legislation.

Article 12. Functions of the Board of Trustees.

The powers of the Board of Trustees are, among others:

- a) To appoint the new members of the Board of Trustees if the number is increased, and to fill any vacancies that may arise for any reason, in accordance with the requirements established in these statutes and in accordance with the provisions of current legislation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the employers proposed by the Academic Council, or the Business Council will be replaced in accordance with the provisions of these statutes.
- b) Cessation or suspension of trustees, for the reasons established in the current legislation on foundations.



- c) To create management, management, and direction bodies, to appoint the people to occupy them and to grant the corresponding powers, with the limitations established in the current legislation on foundations.
- d) To agree on the legal acts and transactions concerning the representation and governance of the Foundation, as well as the free administration and disposal of all the assets that make up its assets, income and products and the exercise of all its rights and actions, within the statutory and legal provisions.
- e) To approve the budget settlements and the annual accounts, which include the balance sheet, the income statement, and the annual report of activities.
- f) To interpret these statutes and establish the complementary rules that are relevant, in accordance with current legislation, as well as to resolve all legal incidents that may occur.
- g) To approve the modification of the statutes, or the merger, extinction, or addition to another Foundation; these acts must be registered in the Registry of Foundations of the Valencian Community, under the supervision and control of the Protectorate of the Generalitat Valenciana.
- h) Grant general and/or special powers of attorney in favour of one or more of a person, with the powers that are considered most appropriate in each case, complying with the prescriptions established in Article 15 of Law 8/1998, of 9 December, of the Generalitat, on Foundations, of the Valencian Community.
- i) And, in general, to carry out all acts, intervene in legal business, and grant any contract that may be convenient for a better administration and disposal of the income and assets of the Foundation, and for the exercise of the rights, actions and powers that may be appropriate for



the most appropriate realization and performance of the foundational purposes, within the legal provisions in force.

Article 13. President.

1. The President of the Board of Trustees, apart from the first President of the Board of Trustees, who will be designated in the Founding Charter, will be appointed from among the members of the Board of Trustees by agreement of the Board of Trustees adopted by a two-thirds majority.
2. The position of President has a duration of four years and can be renewed for identical periods.
3. The President has a casting vote in the adoption of resolutions by the Board of Trustees.
4. The President acts as the ordinary representative of the Foundation and chairs the Academic Council.

Article 14. Vice-President.

1. The Board of Trustees may appoint, by a two-thirds majority, a Vice-President of the Board of Trustees.
2. The position of Vice-President lasts for four years and can be renewed for identical periods.
3. The Vice-President, or, in the absence of the latter, the oldest Member, replaces the President in all his or her functions in the event of absence or illness and exercises all those functions assigned to him or her by the President or the Board of Trustees, always within the limits established by current legislation.



Article 15. Secretary.

1. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees will be appointed by the Board of Trustees by a two-thirds majority. He may or may not have the status of member of the Board of Trustees. In the second case, he intervenes in the meetings with voice, but without vote, and has the duty to warn of the legality of the agreements that the body intends to adopt.
2. The position of Secretary has a duration of four years and can be renewed for identical periods.
3. The Secretary draws up the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees, issues the certifications of the agreements adopted by the bodies with the approval of the President, safeguards the Minutes Book and assumes any other functions entrusted by the President or by the Board of Trustees, always within the limits established by current legislation.
4. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees may attend, if necessary, the other bodies of the Foundation.

Article 16. Vocals.

The members of the Board of Trustees, apart from the President, Vice-President and Secretary, will be considered members.

Article 17. Convocation and meetings of the Board of Trustees.

1. The Board of Trustees meets in Ordinary Meeting at least once a year. It will meet in an Extraordinary Meeting as many times as the President deems appropriate, and necessarily when requested by a quarter of the trustees.
2. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees convenes the meetings and sets the agenda, which must include all the matters to be dealt with at the meeting,



outside of which no valid agreements may be made, apart from what is provided in section 5 of this article.

3. The call must be made at least seven days before the scheduled day of the meeting.

4. The Board of Trustees is validly constituted if more than half of the total number of trustees attend the session.

5. The Board of Trustees may hold meetings without prior notice, as well as adopt agreements on matters that do not count on the agenda, if all the trustees are present and unanimously accept the holding of the meeting and the agenda.

6. The Board of Trustees may agree that its members may participate in meetings by videoconference or by other means of remote communication, provided that the identification of those attending the meeting, continuity of communication, the possibility of participating in the deliberations and the casting of votes are guaranteed.

7. Likewise, the Board of Trustees may adopt resolutions without holding a meeting, at the proposal of the President or when requested by one third of the members of the body, if none of the trustees' objects.

The meetings of the Board of Trustees without a session will deal with specific proposals that will be sent by the President, or by those who request the call, in writing, to all the members of the Board of Trustees, who must also respond in writing within forty-eight hours of their receipt.

The Secretary shall record in the minutes the resolutions adopted, stating the names of the members of the body with an indication of the vote cast by each of them.

In this case, the resolutions will be considered to have been adopted at the place of the registered office and on the date of receipt of the last of the votes.

8. The Board of Trustees will be validly constituted when more than half of its members are present, present, or represented, and provided that at least three of them are present ¹, including the President or Vice-President who takes their place. Likewise, the Secretary or Deputy Secretary must be present who, in the event of not holding the status of trustee, will not be considered for the purposes of the previous calculation. In the event of absence or

¹ This number may vary depending on the number of employers.



impossibility, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary may be replaced by the trustee appointed by the Board of Trustees from among those attending the corresponding session.

Article 18. Deliberation and adoption of agreements.

1. The President of the Board of Trustees chair the meeting.
2. The Chairperson then read out the agenda and moderated the debate. The agenda may only be altered by unanimous agreement of the Board of Trustees meeting in a Universal Meeting.
3. Except in cases where these Articles of Association require a different majority, the adoption of resolutions in relation to the different items on the agenda is made by a simple majority of votes cast.
4. The Secretary draws up the minutes of the meeting, which may be approved at the same meeting, at the following session or, once the minutes have been reliably notified to all the members of the Board of Trustees, no one objects within fifteen days of notification.
5. Provided that the rights to information and voting are guaranteed and that the receipt of the vote is guaranteed as well as its authenticity, the president of the Board of Trustees may submit proposals for agreement to the members of the Board without the need to meet it.

Article 19. General Director.

1. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation will appoint by a two-thirds majority, at the proposal of the President, a Director General who will have to be an active academic with main affiliation to a Spanish institution that is a fellow of the European Association for Artificial Intelligence or the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence or has equivalent merits.



2. The General Director may attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees with the right to speak, but not to vote.

3. The Director General exercises the functions of ordinary management of the Foundation and of executing the agreements of the Board of Trustees for the realization of the foundational purposes. The Board of Trustees may grant powers of attorney to the Director General, subject to the limitations established by applicable legislation.

Article 20. Conflicts of interest

In the event of a conflict of interest or rights between the Foundation and any of the members of its governing bodies, as established in article 13.7 of the Law on Foundations of the Valencian Community, those affected will not participate in the decision to be adopted by the Board of Trustees, which is responsible for determining, by a two-thirds majority, whether or not such a conflict occurs.

Section II. Academic Council

Article 21. Composition of the Academic Council. Functions and system for adopting agreements.

1. The Board of Trustees will appoint an Academic Council made up of a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 35 members, who will have to be active academics with main affiliation to a Spanish institution who are fellows of the European Association for Artificial Intelligence or the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence or former presidents of the Spanish Association for Artificial Intelligence or have equivalent merits and who agree to be part of it. The members of the Academic Council will have a duration in office of four years, re-elected for equal periods.



2. The President of the Academic Council will be the President of the Board of Trustees, and the Secretary who holds the same position on the Board of Trustees.
3. The Academic Council will propose a minimum of four and a maximum of six members of the Board of Trustees from among prominent people from the academic world.
4. The functions of the Academic Council will be to advise the Board of Trustees on issues of postgraduate training and organization of studies, events, seminars, congresses, etc.
5. The Academic Council will adopt its decisions by a simple majority of votes cast. Voting by mail or by any means of telematic communication that leaves a reliable record will be admitted.
6. The Academic Council will meet at least every two years and whenever the President of the Board of Trustees convene it.

Section III. Business Council

Article 22. Composition of the Business Council. Functions and system for adopting agreements.

1. The Board of Trustees may appoint a Business Council, which will be made up of a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 50 representatives of companies and other private institutions that contribute to the development of the Foundation's purposes and its economic support.
2. The members of the Business Council will have a duration of four years, re-elected for equal periods.
3. The President of the Board of Trustees will chair the meetings of the Business Council.



4. The Business Council will propose a minimum of five and a maximum of ten members of the Board of Trustees from among prominent people from the business world.

5. The Business Council shall adopt its decisions by a simple majority of votes cast. Voting by mail or by any means of telematic communication that leaves a reliable record will be admitted.

6. The Business Council will receive information from the Foundation on its development and will have the function of advising the Foundation when the Board of Trustees or the President so require.

7. The Business Council shall meet at least every two years and whenever it is convened by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees to fulfil its purpose, established in point 1 of this article.



Section IV. Scientific Council

Article 23. Composition of the Scientific Council. Functions and system for adopting agreements.

1. The Board of Trustees will appoint a Scientific Council, which will be made up of a minimum number of ten and a maximum of 40 members, who are researchers of international reputation. The members of the Scientific Council may in no case be trustees. The members of the Scientific Council will have a term of office of six years, re-elected for periods of three years.
2. The President of the Scientific Council will be the one among its members appointed by the Board of Trustees.
3. The President of the Scientific Council may invite the President of the Board of Trustees and/or the Director of the Foundation, as well as other members of the ValgrAI community, to the meetings of the Scientific Council whenever he/she deems it appropriate.
4. The Scientific Council advises the Foundation on matters of scientific relevance raised by the President, the Board of Trustees, or the Director General.
5. The Scientific Council will adopt its decisions by a simple majority of votes cast. Voting by mail or by any means of telematic communication that leaves a reliable record will be admitted.
6. The Scientific Council may delegate to a subcommittee the preparation of its meetings, as well as the monitoring of agreements and advice to the Foundation during the period between plenary meetings.
7. The President of the Scientific Council will convene the Scientific Council at least once every three years.





Section V. Board of Studies

Article 24. Composition of the Board of Studies. Functions and system for adopting agreements.

1. The Board of Studies will be made up of a minimum of five and a maximum of twenty researchers of recognised reputation appointed by the Board of Trustees at the proposal of the President of the Board of Trustees.
2. The Director General, at the proposal of the President, may provisionally appoint members of the Board of Studies, who must be ratified at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees after their appointment.
3. The term of office as a member of the Board of Studies will be 4 years.
4. The General Director of the Foundation will chair the Board of Studies. One of its members chosen for this purpose will function as Secretary. The Board of Studies will adopt its decisions by a majority of votes cast.
5. The Study Council will meet at least every year and whenever the General Director convene it to fulfil its purpose.
6. The Study Council advises the President, the Board of Trustees, or the General Director in its activities (teaching, strategy, etc.).
7. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation may appoint five members of the Board of Studies to constitute an Executive Committee of the Board of Studies, which will be chaired by the Director General of the Foundation and will be responsible for making all decisions on the advice to be provided to the Foundation. The secretary will function as the person who holds the position on the Board of Studies. The Executive Committee shall take its decisions by a simple majority, and shall be considered validly constituted when more than half of its members are present



CHAPTER III. ECONOMIC REGIME OF THE FOUNDATION

Article 25. Heritage.

The Foundation's assets will be linked to the fulfilment of the foundation's purposes. The aforementioned assets will be made up of:

1. From the founding capital, constituted by the initial endowment, as stated in the founding charter.
2. Of all other assets and rights that the Foundation accepts and receives, in order to increase the foundational capital.
3. Of all the fruits, income and products, other assets incorporated into the assets of the Foundation, by any title or concept.

The fruitful assets that make up the foundational patrimony may only be alienated to reinvest the proceeds obtained in the acquisition of other fruitful assets, or in those that serve for the better fulfilment of the foundational purpose. The Board of Trustees may, whenever necessary, and in accordance with the advice of the economic situation and current legislation, make the modifications it deems necessary or convenient in the investments of the foundational patrimony.

The Foundation's annual resources will be made up of:

- a) the income produced by the activity.
- b) the favourable balances that may result from the foundational activities.
- c) the subsidies and other gifts received for this purpose, which, therefore, do not have to be incorporated into the founding capital.

At least 70% of the income and other annual net income obtained by the Foundation will be allocated to the realization of the foundation's purposes, and the rest will have to be allocated either to the deferred fulfilment of the purposes or to increase the endowment. The Board of Trustees will have to



approve the application of the income.

For the preparation of acts of disposition of the assets that constitute the foundational patrimony and for the acceptance of inheritances and legacies, the favourable vote of two thirds of the Board of Trustees will be required, and the performance of the applicable legal requirements.

The Foundation's accounts will be in accordance with the accounting rules that are directly applicable to it and the requirements of the applicable tax legislation. The daily book, the inventory book and the annual accounts book and the minute book will be kept. The accounts will be kept by the person designated by the Board of Trustees.

Article 26. Fiscal year.

The fiscal year is annual and begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of the following year.

Article 27. Inventory and annual accounts.

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation will annually draw up the balance sheet inventory closed on 31 December, and the annual accounts, consisting of the balance sheet, the income statement and a report on the activities carried out during the year and the economic management of the assets; It will also settle the income and expenditure budget for the previous year and formulate the budget for the current year. The annual accounts will have to be approved by the Board of Trustees within 6 months of the year-end date and will have to be submitted to the Protectorate of the Generalitat Valenciana within 10 working days of their approval. In any case, the accounts will be drawn up in the terms and with the contents established by current legislation.

The annual accounts must be submitted to external audit in the cases and under the conditions established by current legislation.



Article 28. Extinction. Destination of the remainder in the event of extinction.

The Board of Trustees may agree to the extinction of the Foundation when it considers that the foundational purpose has been fulfilled or it is impossible to carry it out. In any case, the Foundation will be terminated for any other cause established by law. The agreement of the Board of Trustees will require the favourable vote of at least three quarters of the members of the Board of Trustees and will have to be ratified by the Protectorate.

The extinction of the Foundation will determine the global transfer of all assets and liabilities, which must be conducted by the Board of Trustees and by the liquidators appointed by it, or, if applicable, by the Protectorate. This global transfer, once the assets and liabilities have been determined, and with the prior authorisation of the Protectorate, will be allocated in equal parts to the Universitat Politècnica de València, the Universitat de València Estudi General, the University of Alacant, the Universitat Jaume I de Castelló, and the Miguel Hernández University.

If a global transfer cannot be made, the assets and liabilities must be liquidated, and if the result is made, the application established in the previous paragraph will be applied.

Article 29. Modification of the statutes.

Whenever it is convenient in the interest of the Foundation, the Board of Trustees may agree to the modification of these statutes with the favourable vote of at least three quarters of the members of the Board of Trustees, and following the procedure established by law.