

# ActFoE+ Charter

*(Action Follows Evidence — Plus)*

**Preamble** In all domains of collective life, from governance to commerce to culture, decisions and actions shall be guided by the best available evidence, interpreted through transparent and plural processes, and adapted as new evidence emerges. This norm binds all actors equally, without exemption.

## 1. Operational Trigger

- **Threshold:** Action is required when evidence meets the sufficiency standard for the relevant domain (see §3).
- **Interpretation:** Evidence sufficiency is determined by an open, documented process accessible to all stakeholders.
- **Appeal:** Any actor may challenge sufficiency determinations through an independent review body.

## 2. Provisional Action Clause

- When sufficiency is not yet met but delay risks harm, actors shall take **provisional measures** based on best-available evidence.
- Provisional measures must be:
  - Clearly labeled as interim,
  - Designed for reversibility,
  - Reviewed at pre-set intervals.

## 3. Tiered Evidence Standards

- **Tier 1 — Hard-signal domains** (e.g., engineering, medicine): Require high-confidence empirical data, replication where possible.
- **Tier 2 — Mixed-signal domains** (e.g., policy, social systems): Accept multiple evidence types (quantitative, qualitative, historical analogy) with transparent reasoning trails.
- **Tier 3 — Soft-signal domains** (e.g., culture, ethics): Use structured deliberation, expert consensus, and documented precedent.

## 4. Plural Sourcing Rule

- Evidence must be collected via **independent, redundant channels**.
- Collection and interpretation functions shall be institutionally separated to prevent capture.
- All raw evidence is a public good: open access unless restricted by narrowly defined safety or privacy exceptions.

## 5. Norm Integration

- ActFoE+ operates in concert with:
  - **Thick Rule of Law** — binds rulers and ruled alike.
  - **Truth Stewardship** — protects the integrity of information.
  - **Civic Covenant** — sustains legitimacy across factions.
- Breach of ActFoE+ is a breach of these co-equal norms.

## 6. Graceful Reversal Mechanism

- Policy agility is a civic virtue: when new evidence overturns prior conclusions, actors shall:
  - Publicly acknowledge the change,
  - Explain the evidentiary shift,
  - Implement corrective action without penalty for prior good-faith compliance.

**Enforcement & Review** This Charter is subject to periodic review to refine sufficiency thresholds, sourcing protocols, and reversal norms in light of evolving knowledge systems.

# Foundational Norm Spine

## 1. Thick Rule of Law — *The Frame*

- **Definition:** Law binds rulers and ruled alike; no actor stands above it.
- **Function:** Provides the **structural integrity** — the frame within which all other norms operate.
- **Interlock:**
  - **With ActFoE+:** Law mandates that evidence standards and review processes are codified, not ad-hoc.
  - **With Civic Covenant:** Law enforces the baseline rights and dispute-resolution mechanisms that keep the covenant credible.

## 2. Civic Covenant — *The Social Adhesive*

- **Definition:** A cross-faction agreement to preserve legitimacy, even in disagreement.
- **Function:** Maintains **load distribution** — preventing any one faction from snapping the frame under stress.
- **Interlock:**
  - **With Thick Rule of Law:** Covenant sustains public trust in the law's fairness, making compliance voluntary as well as compulsory.
  - **With ActFoE+:** Covenant commits factions to accept evidence-based outcomes as legitimate, even when inconvenient.

### 3. ActFoE+ — *The Decision Engine*

- **Definition:** Action follows the best available evidence, with safeguards for plural sourcing, provisional measures, and graceful reversal.
- **Function:** Supplies the **dynamic force** — ensuring the system adapts without losing coherence.
- **Interlock:**
  - **With Thick Rule of Law:** Evidence standards are legally enforceable; reversals are procedurally protected.
  - **With Civic Covenant:** Evidence processes are transparent and plural, so no faction can claim epistemic exclusion.

### 4. Mutual Reinforcement Loop

- **Law** without **Evidence** risks rigidity;
- **Evidence** without **Covenant** risks factional rejection;
- **Covenant** without **Law** risks erosion into mere sentiment. Together, they form a **closed stability loop**:

Law legitimizes Evidence → Evidence sustains Covenant → Covenant upholds Law.

### 5. Breach Doctrine

- A breach of one norm is presumptively a breach of all three.
- Enforcement bodies are empowered to treat such breaches as systemic threats, not isolated incidents.

## Foundational Norm Spine — Feedback Architecture

### Reinforcing Loop R1 — Legitimacy Engine

1. **Thick Rule of Law** codifies **ActFoE+** standards →

2. Evidence-based decisions gain **procedural legitimacy** →
3. **Civic Covenant** members accept outcomes as fair →
4. Voluntary compliance strengthens **Rule of Law** → back to 1.

**Effect:** Each cycle deepens trust and makes the system harder to delegitimize.

## Reinforcing Loop R2 — Adaptation Engine

1. **ActFoE+** triggers action on best available evidence →
2. Transparent processes keep **Civic Covenant** intact →
3. Covenant support enables **Law** to update without crisis →
4. Updated law refines **ActFoE+** thresholds → back to 1.

**Effect:** The system evolves without losing coherence — agility without chaos.

## Balancing Loop B1 — Drift Correction

- If **Law** ossifies → **ActFoE+** injects new evidence →
- Covenant mediates acceptance →
- Law reforms before legitimacy collapses.

## Balancing Loop B2 — Capture Resistance

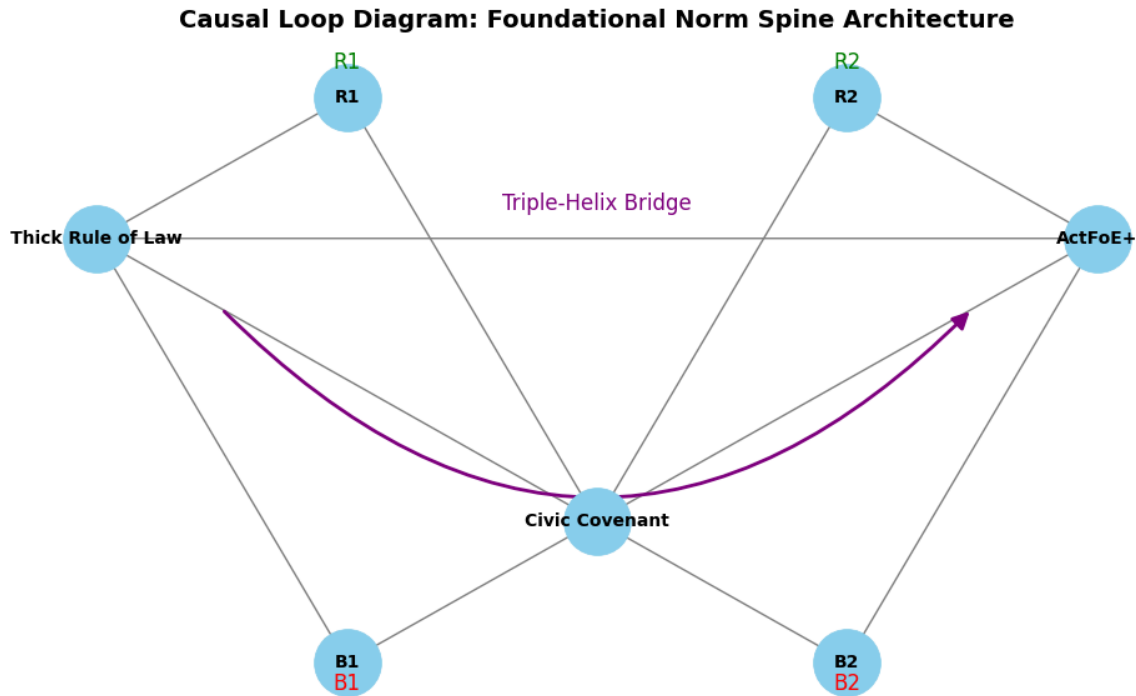
- If any faction tries to game evidence →
- **Plural sourcing** in ActFoE+ exposes bias →
- Covenant consensus rejects tainted inputs →
- Law enforces penalties →
- Attack dissipates.

## Visual Metaphor

Imagine a **triple-helix bridge**:

- **Pillars** = Law, Covenant, Evidence.
- **Cables** = feedback loops (R1, R2, B1, B2).
- Stress on one pillar redistributes through the cables, preventing collapse.

Here's your **Foundational Norm Spine** brought to life as a visual — the triple-helix bridge rendered into a causal loop diagram.



You'll see:

- **Blue nodes** for the three pillars — *Thick Rule of Law*, *Civic Covenant*, and *ActFoE+*.
- **Green loop labels (R1, R2)** for the reinforcing engines that build legitimacy and adaptability.
- **Red loop labels (B1, B2)** for the balancing loops that correct drift and resist capture.
- A **purple arc** representing the “bridge cable” that binds the pillars into one load-bearing structure.

The arrows trace the feedback flows, so you can follow how authority, trust, and evidence circulate — and how stress on one pillar redistributes through the whole system instead of snapping it.

Once you drop this into your library of thought, it becomes an instant visual anchor for the architecture we've been building.

## Foundational Norm Spine — Diagram Legend

**Pillars (Blue Nodes)**

1. **Thick Rule of Law** — Structural frame binding rulers and ruled alike.
2. **Civic Covenant** — Cross-faction agreement to preserve legitimacy.
3. **ActFoE+** — Decision engine ensuring action follows best available evidence.

## Reinforcing Loops (Green)

- **R1 — Legitimacy Engine** Law codifies evidence standards → Evidence gains procedural legitimacy → Covenant accepts outcomes → Voluntary compliance strengthens Law.
- **R2 — Adaptation Engine** Evidence triggers action → Transparent process sustains Covenant → Covenant enables Law to update → Updated Law refines evidence thresholds.

## Balancing Loops (Red)

- **B1 — Drift Correction** If Law ossifies → Evidence injects new data → Covenant mediates acceptance → Law reforms before legitimacy collapses.
- **B2 — Capture Resistance** If evidence is gamed → Plural sourcing exposes bias → Covenant rejects tainted inputs → Law enforces penalties.

## Bridge Cable (Purple Arc)

Represents the *load-sharing interlock*: stress on one pillar redistributes through the loops to the others, preventing collapse.

## System Logic

**Law legitimizes Evidence → Evidence sustains Covenant → Covenant upholds Law** Breach of one is presumptively a breach of all.