

Statutes of

ERYICA

EUROPEAN YOUTH INFORMATION AND COUNSELLING AGENCY

Adopted by the 26th General Assembly

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I. NAME

Article 1

The **EUROPEAN YOUTH INFORMATION AND COUNSELLING AGENCY (ERYICA)** is an international non-profit-making association in the sense of the modified Luxembourg law of 21 April 1928.

The association is legally registered in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg where it has its headquarters. Its Secretariat is currently established in Luxembourg and can be moved elsewhere by decision of the Governing Board.

II. VISION, MISSION and AIMS

Article 2: Vision

Uphold the right of young people to full and reliable information, which helps them make the choices they face in their lives, and which promotes their autonomy and their active participation in a democratic society.

Article 3: Mission Statement

Foster co-operation in the field of youth information work and services and develop, support and promote quality general youth information policy and practice at all levels, in order to meet the information needs of young people and to apply the principles of the [European Youth Information Charter](#).

Article 4: Aims

With a view to guaranteeing the right of young people to reliable information on a wide range of subjects that will promote their autonomy and their active participation in a democratic society, the Agency has the following aims:

- a) to promote respect for the principles of the European Youth Information Charter, and to work for their implementation;
- b) to sustain and promote a network of youth information and counselling structures and professionals; and
- c) to ensure European and international co-ordination and representation in the field of youth information and counselling.

Article 5

In order to achieve the aims mentioned in Article 4, the Agency shall seek, in the field of youth information and counselling:

- a) to bring together at the European level co-ordinating bodies in this field;
- b) to monitor at the European level the current situation of this sector and its evolution;
- c) to facilitate co-operation among bodies working in this field;
- d) to promote research and innovation in this field and the development of services which meet the needs of young people;
- e) to co-operate with international Institutions, organisations and networks; and
- f) to undertake other initiatives in the sense of the Agency's aims which are deemed useful by its Members or its competent organs.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Article 6

The Members of the Agency, which must number at least eight, are co-ordinating bodies (governmental or non-governmental) in the field of generalist youth information or youth counselling, which operate in accordance with the principles of the European Youth Information Charter.

To become a Member, these co-ordinating bodies must be:

- a) formally established national co-ordination structures, or
- b) bodies which have a national or regional co-ordination function according to the form adopted in their country, especially with regard to the nature of the respective policy in the field of youth.

The criteria that define these kinds of co-ordinating bodies, and the conditions governing their admission, are specified in the Standing Orders.

The Governing Board is entrusted by the General Assembly in the matter of the admission of new members.

Article 7

Information to be Provided in Membership Applications

Only written applications for ERYICA membership shall be considered by the Governing Board. The information provided by the applicant organisation shall include:

- a) the organisation's Constitution;
- b) a list of its members and officers;
- c) a description of its current activities and services; and
- d) a description of its co-ordination role.

Application from a Country Where ERYICA is Represented

When an application is received from an organisation in a country where ERYICA already has a Member, the ERYICA Director shall seek the opinion of the latter concerning the application, so that it may be taken into account when the Governing Board considers the application.

Article 8

Membership of the Agency shall be terminated:

- a) by resignation communicated in writing to the Secretariat of the Agency;
- b) by failure to pay the membership fee; or
- c) by a decision to expel adopted by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.

Termination of membership following a failure to pay the membership fee shall be automatic if the payment of arrears due is not made before the opening of the General Assembly which follows the year of the latest unpaid fee.

The modalities of an eventual expulsion for the reasons indicated in paragraphs b) and c) are specified in the Standing Orders.

IV. AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Article 9

The status of Affiliated Organisation may be accorded, on the basis of criteria specified in the Standing Orders, to a body working in the field of youth information and counselling. The body in question must be either national or transnational in scope, or involved in a process of national or transnational co-ordination in this field.

The status of Affiliated Organisation may also be accorded to national or transnational bodies in the field of youth information and counselling coming from countries outside Europe.

An organisation which is part of a national co-ordination body that is a Member of the Agency, or which is affiliated to a Member under Article 6, may not be given the status of Affiliated Organisation.

Article 10

Affiliated Organisations shall have the right to attend the General Assembly as observers without voting rights or ability to influence the decision-making process and on the basis of modalities specified in the Standing Orders.

V. CO-OPERATING ORGANISATIONS

Article 11

The status of Co-operating Organisation may be accorded, on the basis of criteria specified in the Standing Orders, to organisations which are involved in youth information and/or counselling work on local, regional, or national level in any country, on the basis of a written request from the organisation concerned.

Article 12

Co-operating Organisations shall have the right to attend the General Assembly as observers on invitation, without voting rights or ability to influence the decision-making process and on the basis of modalities specified in the Standing Orders.

VI. MEMBERSHIP FEES

Article 13

Each Member and Affiliated Organisation shall pay an annual membership fee, for which the scale shall be determined by the General Assembly. The minimum amount of membership fee is 500 Euros.

VII. STRUCTURE

Article 14

The organs of the Agency are:

- a) the General Assembly; and
- b) the Governing Board.

VIII. DECISIONS

Article 15

In each organ of the Agency decisions shall be made by consensus, in the sense that no Member present at the meeting in question indicates opposition to the decision. Only representatives of Members can participate in the decision-making process.

In the absence of consensus, when a decision is put to the vote, it shall be adopted by a simple majority, except when it concerns the expulsion of a Member, amending the Statutes or the dissolution of the Agency.

An abstention is not a vote.

IX. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 16

The General Assembly is the sovereign organ of the Agency. It is composed of the Members of the Agency.

The representation of the Members at the General Assembly shall be arranged on an equal basis for each Member.

Each Member that has paid its membership fee shall have the right to vote at the General Assembly and to participate in the decision-making process.

Article 17

The General Assembly shall meet each year in ordinary session. It shall be convened by the Governing Board, which shall send an agenda to all Members.

An extraordinary session may be convened for a specified purpose, either by the Governing Board or at the request of one-fifth of the Members of the Agency.

Article 18

The notice convening an ordinary session of the General Assembly shall be sent to each Member and Affiliated Organisation at least three months in advance of the session.

The notice convening an extraordinary session of the General Assembly shall be sent to each Member and Affiliated Organisation at least one month in advance of the session.

Article 19

A provisional agenda shall be included with each notice convening a General Assembly. Each Member has the right to propose additional items or modifications to this agenda. Each such proposal shall be communicated in writing to the Secretariat of the Agency at least seven days before the opening of the session in question. The Governing Board shall consider each proposal and recommend a final agenda to the General Assembly.

Article 20

The General Assembly shall determine the orientations of the Agency. It shall consider for approval the report of activities and the financial accounts as well as the programme and provisional budget of the Agency; the proposed budget shall be put to the vote. The General Assembly shall elect the members of the Governing Board, and shall appoint the Auditors as well as a Chartered Accountant. It is authorised to determine the scale of membership fees, to amend the Constitution, and to dissolve the Agency.

Article 21

The decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly shall be communicated to the Members, to Affiliated Organisations and to third parties. They shall be sent to the Members and Affiliated Organisations no later than one month after the session. They shall also be placed in a special file, kept at the Secretariat of the Agency, which can be consulted by the Members, Affiliated Organisations or by third parties.

X. GOVERNING BOARD

Article 22

The Governing Board is composed of eight members (a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and four members), elected for three years, and who are eligible for re-election in accordance with modalities specified in the Standing Orders.

The Governing Board shall meet at least twice a year. Specific functions of the members of the Governing Board are specified in the Standing Orders.

Article 23

To be elected to the Governing Board, a candidate must obtain an absolute majority of the votes cast at the General Assembly in accordance with the procedure specified in the Standing Orders.

In electing the members of the Governing Board, the General Assembly shall seek to ensure a balance between continuity and rotation of membership, as well as to reflect the diversity of the members of the Agency.

Article 24

Each member of the Governing Board shall have the right to vote.

The Governing Board may invite any person whose presence it deems necessary to participate in its meetings as an observer. The modalities of such participation are specified in the Standing Orders.

Article 25

The Governing Board is the organ responsible for the implementation of the objectives of the Agency. In particular, the Governing Board has the following functions, the modalities of which are specified in the Standing Orders:

- 1) preparing the sessions of the General Assembly, and implementing its decisions;
- 2) implementing and supervising the programmes of the Agency;
- 3) organising the services provided by the Agency;
- 4) establishing Working Groups and special commissions, defining their objectives, appointing their Co-ordinator(s) and supervising their activities;
- 5) developing and co-ordinating the network of youth information and counselling structures;

- 6) managing the financial and administrative affairs of the Agency;
- 7) admitting new Members, Affiliated and Co-operating Organisations; and
- 8) delegating authority concerning the representation of the Agency and the signature of legal contracts.

The Governing Board is entrusted with any matter that, under the law, this Constitution and the Standing Orders, is not assigned to another organ.

Article 26

The Governing board can appoint a Director to act on its behalf. The mandate of the Director will be described in a Director's Charter, whose content shall be approved by decision of the Governing Board.

XI. STANDING ORDERS

Article 27

A set of Standing Orders shall specify, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, the modalities of its application. These Standing Orders shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

XII. FINANCES

Article 28

The finances of the Agency shall be primarily derived from the following resources:

- a) membership fees;
- b) grants;
- c) the sale of products and services; and
- d) other resources which are in accordance with its aims.

Article 29

The Governing Board shall submit each year the financial accounts for the past year and the provisional budget for the next year, for the approval of the General Assembly.

XIII. NETWORK

Article 30

The Network of youth information and counselling structures, on a basis specified in the Standing Orders, shall be open:

- a) to Members and Affiliated Organisations;
- b) to structures or services which are part of the national or regional networks co-ordinated by the Members of the Agency, or which are linked in some way to the Members of the Agency; and
- c) to other structures or services nominated by the Governing Board or by a Member of the Agency in the country concerned. Such structures will be defined as Co-ordinating Organisations, whose participation in the Agency shall be defined by the Standing Orders.

XIV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Article 31

A proposal to amend the Constitution must be included in the letter convening the General Assembly, where at least two-thirds of Members must be present or represented. In order for a decision to be valid it must receive support from at least two-thirds of votes cast. If, at the first session, less than two-thirds of Members are present or represented, an immediately subsequent session can be called upon, for whose validity no minimum number of Members is requested. In the latter case, the decision on dissolution is adopted only if at least two-thirds of those present are in favour. Specific further provisions are foreseen by the law and shall be respected.

XV. DISSOLUTION

Article 32

A proposal to dissolve the Agency must be included in the letter convening the General Assembly, where at least two-thirds of Members must be present. If this condition is not met at the first session, an immediately subsequent session can be called upon, for whose validity no minimum number of Members is requested. In the latter case, the decision on dissolution is to be adopted only if at least two-thirds of those presents are in favour. In the event that the dissolution of the Agency is decided, the General Assembly shall determine who shall receive the assets of the Agency which remain after all its liabilities have been met.