



## **AER Youth Regional Network**

### **Statutes**

#### **Appellation and terms**

Between all the authorities adhering to the present statutes is formed an association named “AER Youth Regional Network” (YRN). The association is formed for an unlimited term.

#### **Art. 1: Aims and objectives**

The AER Youth Regional Network is a platform of regional youth representatives from wider Europe. The platform works as a forum where young people can influence regional and European policy while exchanging experiences and good practices. It also promotes institutional youth participation at the regional and local levels. One of the aims of the Network is to support the legal framework for regional youth participation.

#### **Art. 2: Legal base and head offices**

YRN is an international non-profit organisation under Belgian law, whose head offices are located in 210, avenue Louise, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

#### **Chapter I: Generalities**

#### **Art. 3: Assembly of European Regions**

The AER Youth Regional Network enjoys structural relations with the Assembly of European Regions with whom it collaborates to promote the rights and the role of young people in Europe.

An agreement formalises the relations between the Youth Regional Network and the Assembly of European Regions. Such agreement has to be approved by two-third majority by the General Assembly, as well as by the AER Presidium.

#### **Art. 4: Networking**

The AER Youth Regional Network fosters and advocates cooperation with other institutions and organizations on wider European level. An agreement may formalize the relations between the Youth Regional Network and such institutions and organizations. Such agreements have to be approved by two-third majority by the General Assembly.

#### **Art. 5: Languages**

The working language of the Network is English.

The statutes are written in both English and French. In case of doubt in interpreting the statutes, the English version should prevail.

#### **Art. 6: Composition**

The AER Youth Regional Network is composed of organized youth at a regional level such as regional youth parliaments, regional youth councils and regional youth organisations.

#### **Art. 7: Membership**

The regional member is to represent young people of a European region, from the Assembly of European Regions member regions or from non-Assembly of European Regions member regions as long as they are regions from the Council of Europe members states. The notion « representative » is defined in the rules of procedure.

### **Chapter 2: Membership**

#### **Art. 8: Delegates**

The delegates, with a maximum of two per member, are nominated, bearing in mind gender balance, by the member to attend the events of the AER Youth Regional Network. They should be between 15 and 30 years old.

Each member is responsible for his or her delegate.

#### **Art. 9: Admission to the AER Youth Regional Network**

New members must be approved by a two-third majority of the members of the General Assembly with the right to vote, provided that the quorum of article 15 is reached, following the procedures prescribed in the rules of procedure.

### **Art. 10: Vote**

Each region has one vote within the General Assembly. The General Assembly rules by absolute majority but the vote only takes place if no consensus is apparent.

### **Art. 11: Auditors**

The General Assembly selects two auditors. They have to examine the accuracy of the financial records and can't be part of the Presidium.

### **Art. 12: Member's rights and responsibilities**

Each delegate has the right to participate in the General Assembly, in a committee, to ask questions during the General Assembly, each region has the right to vote on issues submitted to the vote, to apply for one of the executive functions following the rules of procedure, and to get informed of YRN activities.

Members have the following responsibilities:

1. Be actively involved in the work of YRN:
  - a) Regularly attend YRN meetings
  - b) Actively contribute to Youth Committees' work; YRN position papers, questionnaires, etc.
2. Be actively involved in the development of YRN:
  - a) Promote YRN within the region and to the outside world
  - b) Actively support the effective functioning of YRN
3. Inform the Presidium about changes in their youth structures (presidential elections, re-appointments)
4. Respect the statutes, rules of procedure and the decisions made by the General Assembly.
5. Not to act in any way inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the organisation.

## **Chapter 3: General Assembly**

### **Art. 13: Observer members**

The General Assembly is public and composed of the effective members. Any youth association involved in the promotion of youth rights and role on a regional scale that is not a member of the Youth Regional Network can attend the General Assembly, without having the right to vote.

The Presidium may accept or refuse such demands to participate.

Observer members can participate in the Youth Committees without having the right to vote.

#### **Art. 14: Suspension of the vote**

The right to vote can be suspended in case of non-compliance with the statutes, or if member isn't acting according to principles and program of the AER Youth Regional Network.

#### **Art. 15: Quorum**

The General Assembly can only validly make decisions if a majority of the regions are represented. If several members come from the same region, they will still be considered as one for the purpose of the quorum of presence and the votes. If the quorum is not reached during a General Assembly, the next General Assembly will rule validly with the number of regions represented.

#### **Art. 16: Competences and missions**

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the AER Youth Regional Network. It enjoys all competences not devoted to another body: among else, the competence to adopt policy positions, to elect the members of the Presidium, to adopt the budget, to rule on membership issues. Exceptions to these competences can be provided in the rules of procedure but must be adopted with a two-third majority.

All decisions made by the General Assembly are communicated, along with the minutes, within two weeks to the members of the network by electronic means.

#### **Art. 17: Convocation of the General Assembly**

The date of the General Assembly must be set and informed at least two months prior to the meeting by the Presidium, and all documents must be sent at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the meeting.

#### **Art. 18: Plenary meeting and General Assembly**

The AER Youth Regional Network holds at least one General Assembly per year. The rules and procedures described in these statutes – except explicit exceptions - applies to both the General Assembly and plenary meetings.

## **Chapter 4: Presidium**

### **Art. 19: Composition**

The Presidium is composed by the Heads of Committees and by the president, vice-presidents and the treasurer. It must consist of at least three members.

### **Art. 20: Competences and missions**

The Presidium is the organ responsible for the management of the AER Youth Regional Network. Its competences consist in the responsibility of the human resources, in preparing the General Assembly, cooperating with the organisations and institutions on wider European level, adopting necessary positions and preparing the representations of the AER Youth Regional Network to any outside event. Exceptions to these competences can be provided in the rules of procedure but must be adopted with a two-third majority of the General Assembly.

The Presidium has the general power to act on ordinary issues covered by the statutes without the explicit mandate of the General Assembly.

### **Art. 21: Vote**

The decisions in the Presidium are made by consensus. If the consensus is obviously not feasible, there will be a vote, based on a simple majority rule.

### **Art. 22: Convocation of the Presidium**

The date of the Presidium meeting is set by the President of the AER Youth Regional Network. The President informs the Presidium members by electronic means at least three days prior to the meeting.

### **Art. 23: Necessary procedure**

A necessary procedure to adopt positions may be used if the situation, by its urgency or its importance, justifies it, by at least two thirds of the votes. This procedure can also be made by electronic means, by the initiative of the President or one of the Vice-president. Such position must be confirmed by the following General Assembly. Further details can be provided for in the rules of procedure.

In case of extraordinary event, which is not covered by the statutes, the Presidium can act according to the necessary procedure specified in the rules of procedure.

Such an act must be confirmed by the following General Assembly.

#### **Art. 23bis: Representative of the AER Youth Regional Network**

The Presidium can designate individuals to represent or engage YRN, under its control and its responsibility. In absence of such a designation, the President will be the only one to be able to legally engage the association.

### **Chapter 5: Committees**

#### **Art. 24: Committee Heads**

Each Committee nominates one candidate to be the Head of the Committee. If the committee decides to, it nominates a vice-Head, to be confirmed by the following General Assembly. The Heads of Committees are by right members of the Presidium. In the absence of a Head of the Committee the vice-Head of the committee is eligible to be the representative of the Committee in the Presidium and has a right to vote. There can be up to 8 committees at the same time. They are formed following a vote of the General Assembly and can be closed by another decision. This last decision can be tacitly made by the General Assembly. Members of the General Assembly are free to join any committee they wish, but may not be present in more than one at a time.

In case of a Head of Committee stepping down, the vice-Head steps in. If no vice-Head exists, the Committee nominates a new candidate.

#### **Art. 25: Vote**

The decisions in Committees are taken by consensus. Only when the consensus is not feasible will the committee rule by a two-third majority.

#### **Art. 26: Committee Work**

The work of the Committee, if it is not defined by the Statutes, may be regulated by the rules of procedures.

## **Chapter 6: Executive functions**

### ***I – President***

#### **Art. 27: Elections**

The president is chosen among the regional delegates by the General Assembly, for a term of one year.

The president must be coming from one of the Assembly of European Regions' member regions.

The president cannot be re-elected more than three times in total.

#### **Art. 28: Nomination committee**

A nomination committee will be selected to prepare and inform for upcoming elections.

#### **Art. 29: Incompatibilities**

The president of the AER Youth Regional Network cannot be Head of Committee. The president and the vice-presidents cannot come from the same region.

#### **Art. 30: Competences**

The president chairs the Presidium, represents the AER Youth Regional Network abroad and is responsible for the daily management of the organization.

### ***II – Other executive functions***

#### **Art. 31: Vice-presidents**

The two vice-presidents are elected by the General Assembly for a term of one year. The first of them to be elected will be senior vice-president. The vice-presidents can be Heads of Committee.

In case of a President's permanent absence, the senior vice-president becomes acting President until the next General Assembly. Except for the eventual replacement of the President, there shall be no difference in status between the two vice-presidents.

#### **Art. 32: Treasurer**

A treasurer is elected by the General Assembly for a term of one year. The Treasurer can be Head of Committee.

### **Art 32bis: Resignation, Revocation and replacement of members of the Presidium**

If a member of the Presidium resigns, the next General Assembly or Plenary Meeting will elect a new member for the six following months.

Any member of the Presidium, including the President, can be revoked by a simple majority vote of a General Assembly or a Plenary Meeting.

## **Chapter 7: Final provisions**

### **Art. 33: Finance**

The financial year of the AER Youth Regional Network corresponds to the calendar year. A forecast statement and a closing balance sheet are drawn up for each financial year.

The financial resources of the AER Youth Regional Network breakdown as follows:

- symbolic membership dues, set each year in the budget.
- grants from public and private institutions, donations and legacies
- income from its own activities,
- income generated by its own assets,
- all resources authorised by law.

The AER Youth Regional Network meets its financial commitments by means of its assets.

### **Art. 34: Rules of procedure**

At the proposal of the Presidium, the General Assembly adopts rules of procedure, which, within the framework of the statutes, specifies the rules and procedures for voting as well as the general rules of administrative, financial and technical procedure.

The text of the rules of procedure, proposed by the Presidium, shall be submitted for ratification to the General Assembly next following. The rules of procedure can be modified using the same procedures.

### **Art. 35: Withdrawal or exclusion of a member**

Members can be excluded from the AER Youth Regional Network by a two-third majority vote of the General Assembly, provided that their inactivity has been certified by the Presidium or that they may cause harm to the AER Youth Regional Network.

Presidium members can be excluded from the Presidium for the same reasons as mentioned above with a two-third majority vote of the General Assembly.

**Art. 36: Amendments of statutes**

These statutes can only be amended by an Extraordinary General Assembly. In this event, the agenda for the General Assembly must refer expressly to such amendment.

Decisions amending the statutes can only be taken by a two-third majority of the General Assembly.

**Art. 37: Dissolution and liquidation**

The dissolution of the Network may only be decided by an Extraordinary General Assembly, with a majority of four fifth of the votes. This Assembly shall appoint a Liquidator. The Liquidator can, with the General Assembly's authorisation, transfer all possessions, rights and obligations, assets and liabilities alike, of the dissolved Association to another body with the same objectives.

The dissolution of the Association or the withdrawal of a member shall not entail restitution of the contributions made by the members.

**Art. 38: Provisional procedures**

A Presidium is elected by the General Assembly for the period between May of the 9th, 2013 and December the 31st, 2013. It shall implement the statutes and propose the rules of procedure to the next General Assembly.

*Sfantu Gheorghe, 15.11.2013*