

Statutes

of the

<p style="text-align: center;">EUROPEAN* NETWORK FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION (RERIES)</p>
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Article 1: NAME

Under the present article, a scientific international association called European* Network for Research and Innovation in Higher Education (RERIES) is created. This association is ruled under the Belgian law of 25 October 1919 amended by the law of 6 December 1954.

Article 2: PURPOSE

The mission of RERIES is to contribute to the enhancement of the relevance and quality of Higher Education on the basis of its research and development activities, its reflection and expertise, and international cooperation based on true partnership. Along this line, RERIES will contribute to the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI) and to the International Monitoring Committee of the World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE) established at UNESCO.

The objectives of RERIES are the following:

1. To enhance co-operation and exchanges among university learning and teaching centres and research institutions on Higher Education including the different UNESCO Chairs, without excluding other partnership.

2. To promote leading research and innovation in Higher Education in the following areas, with a view to contributing to the improvement of the relevance and quality of teaching and learning:

- student learning including adult learning and motivation to learn ;
- teaching methods and practices (with special attention to the use of new technologies) and their impact on learning;
- university teaching development and assessment;
- assessment of learning outcomes;
- university lifelong and adult learning;
- faculty and staff development policies and practices;
- development of academic leadership;

* European and Europe in the present statutes refer to Western and Eastern Europe, Canada, Israël and the USA. It follows the division proposed by Unesco.

- governance and management of Higher Education institutions and their impact on teaching and student learning;
- institutional quality development and assessment;
- impact of European policies on HE;
- efficiency of educational innovation.

3. To create synergies with partners* in the search for resources to develop collaborative research studies.
4. To support the creation and supply of databases open to the network members for research and decision-making purposes.
5. To foster exchange of HE research and university teaching and learning centres.
6. To develop exchange of information and collaboration with other regional networks through GUNI.
7. To co-operate with the International Monitoring Committee of the WCHE established by UNESCO.

Article 3: SEAT

The social seat of the RERIES is established at the Université catholique de Louvain, place du Cardinal Mercier, 10, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

Article 4: MEMBERS

Institutions from the participating countries* developing research and innovations in Higher Education may apply when they can contribute to one or more of the objectives of the RERIES. Institutions, being universities as well as centres, faculties or departments may apply for membership, under the endorsement of the university.

The regular members of the RERIES are the UNESCO Chairs of Higher Education when their activities can contribute to the realisation of the objectives of the networks referring to the principles listed in Article 2.

The UNESCO and the UNU are members ex officio of the RERIES. They can be represented at meetings and activities of the network.

Article 5 : MEMBER's ADMISSION

In order to become members of the RERIES, applications must include evidence that the candidate contributes to the purpose of RERIES mentioned in art.2. It must be submitted to an ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Steering Committee with the endorsement of two members of the Network.

The list of the members admitted must be forwarded to the Secretariat of the RERIES.

New members are admitted by the General Assembly of the RERIES following notification from its Steering Committee.

Article 6: LOSS OF THE STATUS OF MEMBER

The loss of the status of member may arise in the following cases:

- Resignation;
- Serious reason due to behaviour contrary to the mission and the goal of the Network as described in articles 2 and 3;
- Non-participation without justification in two consecutive meetings of the General Assembly of the RERIES;
- Non-payment of fees.

Exclusion is proposed by the Steering Committee and pronounced by the General Assembly of the RERIES by the simple majority of the attending members.

Article 7: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The main decision-making body of the RERIES is the General Assembly, which includes one representative per member institutions, each member having one voting right. Member institutions may be represented with a maximum of one proxy for each represented member. The Rector of the university accommodating the secretariat of the RERIES is an ex-officio member of the General Assembly, as are the representatives of UNESCO and the UNU.

The General Assembly has the fullness of power to realize RERIES objectives.

In particular, the General Assembly is responsible for:

- determination of the broad lines of action of the RERIES,
- approval of RERIES work programme,
- approval of RERIES budget and accounts
- approval of amount of fees
- admission of new member institutions
- election and revocation of the members of the Steering Committee,
- amendments to the statutes,
- dissolution of the Association.

The General Assembly may call on key-persons whose expertise is acknowledged to deal with some points on the agenda. These persons do not have voting right.

The General Assembly meets every two years. The President convenes it. The agenda is forwarded at least one month before the date of the meeting. He/she can call to an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly upon request of the majority of the members.

The decisions are taken by majority of the attending members. In the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote. The General Assembly is allowed to vote only when 50 % of

the member institutions are present or represented. If the percentage is not reached, a second assembly will vote at the majority.

The decisions of the General Assembly are signed by the President and registered at the Executive Director's office at member's disposal.

Article 8: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is composed of an elected President, two elected Vice-Presidents, an elected general rapporteur), the Executive Director, one person representing UNESCO and one person representing UNU.

The four first members are elected by the General Assembly, for a period of 2 years, renewable twice. The Executive Director is designated by the President. The UNESCO and UNU representatives are designated by their respective institutions.

The President is the most responsible figure of the RERIES and its official representative. He/she chairs the General Assembly.

The general rapporteur ensures the preparation of the reports on the occasion of the General Assemblies and of the meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee may create working commissions on specific matters, and may call on key-persons whose expertise is acknowledged to deal with some points on the agenda. They have a consultative voice.

Simple majority takes the decisions. In the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

The Executive Committee meets at least once a year. The Executive Director, at the request of the President, calls the members.

Article 9: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The President of the RERIES appoints the Executive Director. He/she develops the activities of the RERIES in the framework of the lines of action approved by the General Assembly. He/she oversees the Administration and the Finances of the Network in accordance with the Executive Committee. He/she is the head of the Secretariat. He/she participates in the meetings of the Executive Committee.

Article 10: BYLAWS

A set of internal regulations of the RERIES will be drawn up by the Executive Committee and submitted to the approval of the General Assembly.

Article 11: FINANCING

The financing of the RERIES is provided by various sources from universities, foundations, international organisations, private and public companies, governmental and non-governmental institutions, and also from the products and service activities.

The membership fee is fixed by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly.

The financial statements and a report of activities are submitted to the Executive Committee and to the General Assembly in the course of their ordinary meetings.

Article 12: DISSOLUTION

The Network may be dissolved by decision of the General Assembly with the absolute majority of its members.

The General Assembly shall then commission the Steering Committee to oversee the liquidation of the assets and liabilities of the RERIES. A final special General Assembly shall ratify the dissolution of the RERIES following approval of the consolidated financial statements by this same Assembly with the simple majority of the members present.

Article 13: AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF THE STATUTES

The General Assembly may amend the present articles of association. To this purpose, the consent of at least sixty per cent of the members present at this General Assembly is required. Amendments will only be effective after Royal Approval and after that advertisement requirements expressed under article 3 of the law of 25 October of 1919 would be fulfilled.

Statutes approved by the RERIES General Assembly, on the 28th of November 2002.
Amendments approved by the General Assembly, on the 21st of October 2004.