

# **STATUTE**

## **of the European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development**

(state of 9 September 2000)

The statute of the European Network contains the following 20 articles and was approved by the Annual General Meeting in Dessau on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1994.

### **Aims and Objectives**

1. The association will be known as, in English, "The European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development", hereafter referred to as the "Network". All translations of the name into the members' mother tongues have equal status for Network affairs.
2. The Network is a voluntary association of individuals and organizations from European countries who are committed to supporting the Network's aims, which are:
  - to promote transnational cooperation between individuals and organizations working in the fields of economic self-help and local development;
  - to enable joint research and practical project work;
  - to represent these aims vis-à-vis local, regional, national and European parliaments, government officials and authorities. The aim is to bring about an economic change towards a sustainable and people-centered economy which is based on solidarity and on democratically controlled, non-polluting technologies.
3. The Network has a further specific objective, i.e. the promotion of partnerships between its members and individuals and organizations from countries outside the EU, in particular the countries of Central and Eastern Europe who share these aims and objectives.

### **Membership**

4. Full membership of the Network is open to all individuals, associations and institutions from the member states of the European Union who support and promote the Network's aims and objectives.
5. Individuals and organizations from countries outside the EU can become associate members of the Network.
6. Organizations and institutions can each nominate one individual person who is entitled to vote at Network meetings. The principle of "one member, one vote" is valid irrespective of whether the member is a natural or a legal person, a full or an associate member.
7. Applications for membership are examined and then accepted or rejected by the Executive Committee. All these decisions will be presented to the subsequent Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be confirmed.

8. Membership fees are decided upon by the AGM on the basis of proposals submitted by the Executive Committee.
9. Organizations and individuals who do not wish to become full or associate members but who would like to support the Network and be informed about its activities can attain sponsorship status.
10. Membership fees will be for one period of office, i.e. from AGM to AGM and will be paid within 3 months from the admission or registration. Failure to pay membership fees will lead to the membership being suspended. The coordination office is responsible for the collection of and accounting for membership fees and other financial affairs of the Network. If applied for by members, the coordination office can arrange an alternative payment of membership fees, e.g. a payment in kind or more specific a non-monetary exchange of information material and/or publications.
11. Membership will be terminated with the resignation or death of an individual member, the resignation or dissolution of a member organization or institution, or the nonpayment of arrears for more than 2 years. Otherwise, membership can be revoked only by the Annual General Meeting and only for activities harmful to the aims and/or interests of the Network. This article applies equally to full and associate members.

### **Management Structure**

12. The Network's management structure consists of:
  - an Executive Committee,
  - a Network Council,
  - the Annual General Meeting.
13. The Executive Committee consists of 3 individuals:
  - a director,
  - a deputy,
  - a treasurer.

They are responsible for the business operations of the Network. The director is entitled to represent the Network in all affairs during his or her period of office. All the three of them are elected by the AGM.
14. The Network Council consists of the Executive Committee plus the representatives of the regional contact and cooperation offices of the European Network. Between two AGM's, the Executive Committee decides, with the agreement of the Network Council, about the setting up or closing down of a regional contact and cooperation office. The Executive Committee has to inform the Network Council immediately. The decision is valid provided that no member of the Network Council objects to it within an appropriate period.

The Network Council is responsible for

  - the setting of priorities and objectives within the framework given by the AGM and the statute,
  - the distribution of financial means within the Network,
  - the evaluation of Network projects.
15. The Executive Committee is accountable to the Network Council which is in turn accountable to the Annual General Meeting which is the highest decision-making organ of the Network. The Annual General Meeting is taking place at a location determined at the previous AGM. A lapse of 24 months between two AGM's is not to be exceeded. All members are sent an invitation and a provisional agenda at least 3

weeks before the actual AGM. The Executive Committee and the Network Council submit activity reports, including a specific financial report, to the AGM.

16. The AGM is entitled
  - to alter or supplement the agenda;
  - to adopt or reject the activity reports of the Executive Committee and the Network Council;
  - to elect the members of the Executive Committee and the Network Council;
  - to determine membership fees and conditions;
  - to define new priorities and objectives of the Network;
  - to alter or supplement the statute;
  - to decide upon the location of the following AGM.

The AGM may also elect two members as representatives who are entitled to investigate all activities and procedures of the Executive Committee and the Network Council, and to report back to the Network members. Generally, to pass a resolution, the AGM needs a simple majority yet not when it comes to changing or supplementing the statute or to dissolving the Network. In these cases a two-thirds majority is needed.
17. The Network runs a coordination office which is responsible for the following tasks:
  - to provide the members with information,
  - to produce the Network Guide,
  - to support the general communication between the Network and partners from outside,
  - to support the communication between the members of the Network Council,
  - other necessary tasks.

The Executive Committee is responsible for the activities of the coordination office.
18. In case a member of the Executive Committee or the Network Council retires, the remaining members of the Network Council can admit a temporary member until the next AGM.
19. Both the Executive Committee and the Network Council see to it that all Network members are regularly and sufficiently informed about their activities.

### **Use of Resources and Assets**

Furthermore, it is the Network's task to get financial and other means from public or private sources in order to continue and to extend its activities. Once obtained, such resources and assets are to be used for the benefit of the Network as a whole and to support its aims and interests as laid down in article 2. If the Network should be dissolved, all remaining assets are to be distributed in a way that other non-profit organizations and/or associations which promote the same aims and interests are the beneficiaries.