
STATUTES



European Regional and Local Health Authorities

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TITLE I – Denomination and Headquarters

Denomination

Art. 1. A non-profit making association has been created under the designation “European Regional and Local Health Authorities”, in short “EUREGHA”.

The association is governed by the provisions of Title III of the Belgian law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit making associations, international non-profit making associations and foundations.

Headquarters

Art. 2. The headquarters of the association are located in Rue du Trône 4 / Troonstraat 4 1000 Brussels. They can be transferred to any place in Belgium. This change can be made by through mere decision of the Executive Board, published in the appendices to the Belgian Official Gazette during the month it was made, upon compliance with the linguistic laws.

TITLE II - Object

Art. 3. The not-for profit association aims to promote collaboration amongst regions and local authorities, more specifically regional and local health authorities in Europe, within the framework of the policies relating to public health and health care, as well as to establish focused collaboration with the Institutions of the European Union and with the international and public organizations related to public health and health care throughout the world.

Art. 4. - The association supports activities and initiatives in order to:

1. create **synergies** between regions and stakeholders in the field of health issues respecting the competences of the subnational authorities and the national organisation of the health systems, while remaining politically neutral;
2. maintain a EUREGHA **platform** of different stakeholders in the health sector;
3. **strengthen cooperation/collaboration** between regional and local actors and the EU institutions;

4. **promote the valuable contribution** of regions and local authorities, as well as local and regional health authorities to the European policy making process with regards to health and health related issues;
5. **increase the understanding** of regional and local health systems;
6. **promote activities** to develop a better understanding of regional/local health systems at EU level.

TITLE III - Association

Composition of the association

Art. 5. The association comprises:

1. members
2. a platform,
3. honorary members and
4. observers.

Their status and rights depend on the membership fees (see Art. 7).

They can be, *amongst others*:

- Regional and local health Ministers or equivalent representatives with a portfolio in health;
- General Directors of local and regional health authorities;
- Regional and local authorities competent to develop and implement policy and initiatives in health, public health, health care of countries of the European Union, or countries that are members of a European free trade agreement;
- Brussels-based regional and local representative offices;
- Brussels-based representative offices of local and regional health authorities;
- Associations of sub-national authorities with activities on health;
- Members of the European Parliament interested in health;
- Members of the Committee of the Regions interested in health;
- Interregional cooperation entities;
- Universities/academies/ public health institutes.

TITLE IV – Members (referred to as *full members* in the text)

Art. 6. Members can be:

- Regional and local health Ministers or equivalent representatives with a portfolio in health;
- General Directors of local and regional health authorities
- Regional and local authorities competent to develop and implement policy and initiatives in health, public health, health care of countries of the European Union, or countries that are members of a European free trade agreement.
- Brussels-based regional and local representative offices.
- Brussels-based representative offices of local and regional health authorities.
- Associations of sub-national authorities with activities on health.
- Interregional cooperation entities

Lobby organisations, as well as organisations with a commercial purpose, or individuals working for these organisations will not be accepted as members.

Art. 7. The full members agree to contribute in species or in kind on a yearly basis upon decision of the General Assembly after proposal by the Executive Board. The level of the subscription and the way of contribution will be also determined by the General Assembly after proposal by the Executive Board. If a region and its regional health authority decide to be both members and to both contribute, both of them will have voting rights.

Art. 8. Full members are represented at the General Assembly and have consultative and voting powers.

Art. 9. Full member candidates must direct, any means of communication, their application to the Chair of the Executive Board and should adhere to the statutes and rules of the association. Their candidacy will be approved by the General Assembly upon proposal from the Executive Board.

Art. 10. The Executive Board can decide without appeal and without prejudice not to accept a candidate as full member.

Art. 11. Full members can resign from the association by notifying the Executive Board by letter. Full members shall give six months notice which will take effect from the first of January of the year following their resignation.

Art. 12. A full member who does not pay its yearly contribution will be excluded. The exclusion of a member from the association can be proposed by the Executive Board after having heard the representations of the concerned party, and should be pronounced by the General Assembly, having secured a majority of two thirds of the present or represented members in favour of this option.

Art. 13. Withdrawal of full membership leads to the expiration of the full member's rights and obligations, independent of the reason for the cancellation of the full membership. The withdrawn member will not be entitled to any compensation but is still obliged to pay the entirety of the annual contribution, relating to the current year.

TITLE V – EUREGHA Platform

Art. 14. The EUREGHA platform members can be:

- Regional and local health Ministers or equivalent representatives with a portfolio in health
- General Directors of local and regional health authorities
- Regional and local authorities competent to develop and implement policy and initiatives in health, public health, health care of countries of the European Union, or countries that are members of a European free trade agreement.
- Brussels-based regional and local representative offices.
- Brussels-based representative offices of local and regional health authorities
- Associations or platforms of sub-national authorities with activities on health.
- Interregional cooperative groups focusing on health matters

Art. 15. The EUREGHA platform members do not pay a contribution and have no voting rights.

Art. 16. The EUREGHA platform members can only participate, in an advisory capacity, in the Executive Board, the General Assembly, the working groups and the conferences upon invitation by the Chair of the association.

Art. 17. The General Assembly can decide without appeal and without prejudice not to accept a candidate as a EUREGHA platform member. Lobbying organisations and groups with a commercial purpose will not be accepted as EUREGHA platform members.

Art. 18. The EUREGHA platform members can resign from the association by sending a letter of resignation to the Executive Board.

Art. 19. The exclusion of a EUREGHA platform member can be proposed by the Executive Board, after having heard the pleas of concerned party, and pronounced by the General Assembly, having secured with a majority of two thirds of the present or represented members in favour of this option.

TITLE VI – Honorary Members

Art. 20. Honorary members are individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field of health. They can be amongst others:

- Members of the European Parliaments interested in health;
- Members of the Committee of the Regions interested in health;
- Members of the European Commission;
- Universities/academics/ public health institutes.

Art. 21. Honorary members are appointed by the General Assembly upon proposal from the Executive Board.

Art. 22. Honorary members are invited by the Executive Board as a result of their contribution to the field of health policy. They do not pay a contribution and are engaged on a consultative basis.

Art. 23. Honorary members are allowed to participate in the Executive Board, the General Assembly, the working groups and the conferences upon invitation by the Chair of the association.

Art. 24. Honorary members can resign from the association by sending a letter of resignation to the Executive Board.

Art. 25. An honorary member can be excluded upon proposal by the Executive Board and after consideration of the concerned party's views. Their exclusion will be pronounced by the General Assembly, having secured a majority of two thirds of the present or represented members in favour of this option.

TITLE VII – Observers

Art. 26 Observers are individuals with an interest in health who may contribute to the work of the association.

Individuals working for lobbying groups or for organisations with a commercial purpose will not be accepted as observers.

Art. 27. Observers are appointed by the Executive Board.

Art. 28. Observers do not pay a contribution and have no voting rights.

Art. 29 Observers can only participate, in an advisory capacity, in the Executive Board, the General Assembly, the working groups and the conferences upon invitation by the Chair of the association.

Art. 30. The Executive Board can decide, without appeal and without any prejudice not to accept a candidate as observer.

Art. 31. Observers can resign from the association by sending a letter of resignation to the Executive Board.

Art. 32. An observer can be excluded upon proposal by the Executive Board and after consideration of the concerned party's views. Their exclusion will be pronounced by the General Assembly, having secured a majority of two thirds of present or represented members in favour of this option.

TITLE VIII — General Assembly (general management organ)

Meeting of the General Assembly

Art. 33. The General Assembly is the forum in which EUREGHA's policies are discussed and decided upon by its members.

Art. 34. The General Assembly will meet at least once per year, are chaired by the Chair of the Executive Board or his/her vice-chair and are held at EUREGHA's headquarters or at the place indicated in the notice. Members should be represented by their high-level political representative.

Art. 35. The Executive Board will send the notice and agenda to the full members at least one month before the date of the meeting. If the Executive Board or one quarter of its members request, the Chair is obliged to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly. Notification and agenda must be distributed at least three days before the Extraordinary General Assembly.

Decision process

Art. 36. The General Assembly comprises only the full members of the association. The EUREGHA platform members, honorary members, as well as observers, are only allowed to participate to the General Assembly upon invitation by the Chair of the association and only in an advisory capacity.

Art. 37. Each full member has one seat and one vote at the General Assembly.

Art. 38. A full member can be represented by another member upon the basis of a special power of attorney. Each member can, however, only hold two proxies as a maximum.

Art. 39. The General Assembly, on the condition that at least one third of its members is present and with a simple majority, will approve before 31 December of each year, the projected budget for the coming year and upon proposal from the Executive Board, approve the balance sheet of the preceding year, before 31 March of each year,.

Art. 40. Upon proposal from the Executive Board, and in the presence of at least one quarter of its members, the General Assembly will, based on simple majority voting, deliberate on:

- the decisions relating to the political strategy of the association;
- the membership contributions;
- the annual reports from the Executive Board and its work plans;
- discharging the Board and officials for the tasks of the preceding annual year;
- the acceptance or refusal of applications for membership;

The essence of the work and activities of the association is decided upon and launched by the General Assembly.

Art. 41. The General Assembly elects the Executive Board members consistent with article 54 of these statutes.

Art. 42. With the exception of particular cases provided for in these statutes, the decisions made within the meeting are spread among all the members by electronic mail or any other communication means. Decisions cannot be taken if they were not foreseen in the agenda. The resolutions of the General Assembly are recorded in the minutes of the meeting, are signed by the Chair and kept by the secretary who holds them at the disposal of the members at the headquarters of the association.

TITLE IX - Modifications of the statutes and winding-up of the association

Art. 43. Each proposal aiming to modify the statutes or relating to the winding-up of the association should be issued by the Executive Board or at least two thirds of the full members of the association. The Executive Board should announce such proposals to the full members of the association, at the latest one month prior to the date of the General Assembly that will decide over the aforementioned proposals.

The Assembly cannot deliberate if it is not represented by two thirds of its members, present or represented. Decisions must be approved by a majority of at least two-thirds.

However, if the General Assembly does not gather two thirds of the full members of the association, then a new meeting will be called according to the conditions already mentioned. The issue will be decided upon at this meeting, regardless of the number of full members present or represented. This second meeting will be convened at least 15 days after the first one.

The General Assembly establishes the winding-up and liquidation means of the association.

The net assets, if any, after liquidation will be affected to a non-profit making legal body of private law carrying on a similar corporate objective.

TITLE X - Administration

Executive Board (EB)

Art. 44. The Executive Board is the executive body of the association. It represents the interests of the members of the association and takes the necessary decisions between the convening of one meeting and the next one.

Art. 45. Without prejudice to the powers of the General Assembly, the Executive Board has all the powers of management and administration.

Art. 46. The Executive Board is responsible for the preparation of the decisions to be submitted to the General Assembly. It organises and coordinates its works.

Art. 47. The Executive Board deliberates at the simple majority of the votes of the present members. In case of parity of votes, the chair of the Executive Board has the casting vote. In case of circular consultation in the cases provided by article 48 of the statutes, the decision will be taken with a simple majority of the votes of those members of the Executive Board who replied within one week of the distribution of the draft agenda of the General Assembly.

Art. 48. The Executive Board meets at least three times a year and whenever necessary, upon convening by its chair. Notice of these meetings is forwarded by electronic mail at least one week prior to the meeting. The agenda is fixed by the chair after consultation with the other Executive Board members, who are entitled to propose items to put on the agenda. The decisions of the Executive Board relating to the convening of a General Assembly and determination of its agenda can be taken through circular consultation.

Art. 49. The Executive Board adopts the rules of procedure useful for the operation of the association. The text of the rules of procedure adopted by the Executive Board should be presented to the General Assembly for ratification. The rules of procedure can be modified according to the same procedure.

Art. 50. The resolutions of the Executive Board are entered in the minutes of the meetings signed by the Chair and kept by the Secretary, who holds said minutes at the disposal of the full members of the association at the headquarters of the association.

Art. 51. The Executive Board appoints the Secretariat which will be the technical coordinator responsible for the organisation of the association's meetings and for the management of its daily activities.

Art. 52. The Executive Board, with the agreement of the General Assembly, can decide upon the creation/closing of Working Groups for the purpose of expert-work in the area of health and health-organisation.

Executive Board members

Art. 53. The Board comprises a maximum of ten members, including the Chair, Vice-Chair(s) and Treasurer. They are appointed by the General Assembly and based upon objective criteria set up in the rules of procedure.

Art. 54. Members of the Executive Board are appointed for two years by the General Assembly with the simple majority of present and represented members. The composition of the Board can be modified with decision of the General Assembly.

Art. 55. Board members can be revoked by the General Assembly, having secured a majority of two thirds of the full members present or represented in favour of this option.

Art. 56. The board members are personally responsible only for the exercise of their term in office.

Art. 57. The member's term in office ends by his/her resignation, revocation or by the expiry of his/her office. The resigned member shall temporarily be replaced by another member upon decision of the Executive Board until the following General Assembly.

Chair

Art. 58. The Executive Board elects the chair and either one or two vice-chairs – all for a period of two years from amongst its members.

Art. 59. The Chair heads the General Assembly and the Executive Board meetings and represents the association in its external relationships. In line with the Executive Board, the chair can delegate part of its functions to the vice-chair or other Members of the Executive Board.

The Chair of the Executive Board can invite regional/local politicians and/or regional/local health authority's experts to High-Level meeting in order to prepare the General Assembly meeting.

Art. 60. Should the chair lose his/her statute of member of the association, his/her function will be carried out by the vice-chair (or should there be 2 vice-chairmen, by the one appointed by the Executive Board). If no vice-chair is able to take care of that office, the Executive Board will appoint a chair from amongst the other Board members.

Art. 61. The vice-chair replaces the chair in his/her functions, in case of absence of the chair. In case no chair or vice-chair is available, the General Secretary can represent the Association but without exercising decision making powers.

Art. 62. The Chair works closely with the Secretariat and can delegate specific powers to the Secretariat.

Daily Management

Art. 63. A secretariat office shall be established by the Executive Board to deal with the day-to-day business and provide a range of services to members and partners under the supervision of the Chair and within the framework of the general instructions of the Executive Board and the decisions of the General Assembly.

Treasurer

Art. 64. The Treasurer is elected among the members of the Executive Board or can be an honorary member appointed by the Executive Board for two years.

Art. 65. The Treasurer must supervise the administration of the finances carried out by the secretariat and, together with the Chair, is responsible for the financial activities of EUREGHA.

Signatures

Art. 66. The instruments that bind EUREGHA must be signed by the Chair and another member of the Executive Board.

Legal proceedings

Art. 67. The legal proceedings as plaintiff as well as defendant are followed by the Board of Board members represented by its chair or by a director appointed by the latter.

TITLE XI - Budget and accounts

Art. 68. The financial year ends on 31 December of each calendar year. The Executive Board should present the bookkeeping relating to the past financial year and the projected budget for the coming financial year for approval to the General Assembly.

The financial means of the association are represented by:

- the contributions of the members;

- the financing granted by the European Union and by public institutions;
- the income from the actions conducted by the association;
- donations
- any means authorised by law.

Art. 69. Any provision not provided for in these statutes will be governed by the legislation in force.