

ARTICLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION EUROPEAN NURSING STUDENT ASSOCIATION

I. NAME – REGISTERED OFFICE

Article 1.

- 1.1 The name of the organisation is "European nursing student association", abbreviated as ENSA.
- 1.2 The organisation is founded for an unlimited period of time.

Article 2.

- 2.1 The registered office is established at 1000 Brussels, Rue de la Source 18, La Famille des Infirmières.

II. SCOPE, OBJECTS and METHOD

Article 3 - Scope

- 3.1 ENSA does not have a commercial purpose.
- 3.2 ENSA is independent from all governments, political parties and economic interests.
- 3.3 ENSA is an international organisation representing nursing students in Europe.

Article 4 - objects

- 4.1 promoting the highest possible training standard for European nursing students, so that the highest possible standard for nursing and health care is promoted and maintained for everyone regardless of age, race, skin colour, religious conviction, gender, orientation, political conviction, social status and mental state.
- 4.2 promoting the interests of nursing students and encouraging high professional ideals among them.
- 4.3 promoting and encouraging international relations between nursing students.
- 4.4 providing advice, if requested, for the creation and development of national nursing student organisations.
- 4.5 promoting solidarity work at national and international level. In this respect ENSA will observe the ethical rules of the international council of nurses (ICN).

Article 5 - method

- 5.1 organising an annual conference during which the annual general meeting will take place.
- 5.2 cooperating with national and international nurses, nursing students and health organisations.
- 5.3 participating in programmes or projects with a view to improving the profile of nursing students, the standards of nursing training and international practice.
- 5.4 wherever possible, spreading information, news and opinions that may be of interests for nursing students, the nursing profession and governmental and political organisations.

5.5 creating a uniform voice representing all nursing students at European level.

Article 6

6.1 ENSA is authorised to perform any legally permitted activity or action with a view to realising its objects.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Article 7

7.1 Membership is open to any national organisation representing nursing students in Europe. Membership is applied for in writing to the chairman of ENSA. The general meeting then decides at the next meeting.

7.2 Every European nation has one vote. The voting right of a European country is exercised by a delegate appointed by the member or members from the respective country, whose identity and coordinates are communicated to ENSA.

7.3 If a national organisation does not wish to participate in ENSA or if there is no national nursing student organisation in a specific country, membership of ENSA is open to the universities or schools offering nursing training.

7.4 If several training centres or organisations of the same country wish to join ENSA, they have to create an umbrella organisation or appoint the delegate who will have the only vote in the annual general meeting by mutual consent.

7.5 Participating members have the obligation to act in accordance with the rules of their national organisation and these articles of association.

7.6 ENSA is open to non-European nursing student organisations, but these organisations do not have the right to vote.

IV. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 8 – Annual general meeting

The annual general meeting is the regulatory body within ENSA. This body has residual powers within ENSA.

8.1 Each country only has the right to one vote, exercised through a delegate. However, several persons can represent a country at the general meeting.

8.2 The delegate must be a nursing student or be a member of a national nursing student organisation.

8.3 The general meeting is chaired by the chairman; in his absence the vice-chairman performs his tasks.

8.4 The chairman is responsible for the organisation of the annual conference during which the annual meeting takes place.

8.5 The minutes of the general meeting are prepared during the meeting and will be communicated to the members within one month after the date of the general meeting.

8.6 During the general meeting the members of the board of directors, including the chairman and the vice-chairman, are elected among the delegates who have the right to vote.

8.7 The annual general meeting is preferably organised in the home country of the chairman, in the home country of one of the members of the board of directors or in the same country as the country where the general meeting of the non-profit organisation EFN is organised that year. The board of directors decides.

8.8 In order to hold a valid meeting 50% of the members must be present. The decisions are taken by simple majority, except in the cases for which a specific majority is prescribed by law or by the articles of association.

8.9 The agenda is sent to the delegates by letter and/or e-mail together with the invitation, 8 weeks before the date of the general meeting. The delegates are entitled to submit items for the agenda until 9 weeks before the general meeting.

Article 9

9.1 The board of directors consists of the president, the vice-president and 3 other delegates who have the right to vote. The treasurer is elected among these delegates by the board of directors.

9.2 The board must realise the objects of ENSA and take the initiative in any of the matters arising during their term of office. Once elected, the board is responsible for its own organisation and must determine the tasks and responsibilities of each of its members.

9.3 If required ENSA will be represented at international events by the president and the vice-president, preferably jointly. If neither of them can be present, another member of the board will be designated to represent ENSA.

9.4 The term of office of a director ends immediately:

- a) by resignation, which is sent by letter to the president by the resigning member. If the president resigns, he will inform the vice-president of his resignation in the same manner.
- b) in case of a mental illness of a member, if this mental illness has been recognised by a European court.
- c) if two thirds of the members of the board of directors take a decision to that effect, if the termination of office is in the interest of ENSA. The board member concerned is heard in advance and is informed of the decision immediately.
- d) in case of death.

9.5 If the office of the president is terminated in accordance with one of the provisions of article 9.4, the vice-president will take his place. A new vice-president will be elected among the other board members.

9.6 The other vacancies, with the exception of the office of the vice-president, are filled by the delegates who had the highest score that was not considered in the election for the members of the board of directors. If the vacancies cannot be filled in this manner, the board of directors has the possibility to co-opt new members from among the delegates present at the general meeting. Members filling a vacancy finish the term of office of their predecessor and do not commence a new term of office.

9.7 In order to hold a valid meeting at least 3 the members of the board must be present.

9.8 Every member of the board of directors has one vote. Decisions are taken by simple majority, without prejudice to specific majorities required by law or the articles of association.

In case of equality of votes the president has a casting vote. Voting is also possible by telephone or video conference and e-mail.

9.9 The minutes of the meetings of the board of directors are available to the delegates at the latest one month after the meeting.

9.10 The tasks of the board of directors consist in:

- Preparing the agenda items to be dealt with at the annual general meeting;
- Following up on the decisions taken by the general meeting;
- Co-ordinating of the service to the members (e.g. newsletter, website,...);
- Representing ENSA in various meetings and activities relating to ENSA's objects;
- Representing ENSA in legal proceedings;
- Preparing the financial statements and the balance sheet of the past financial year and drawing up the budget for the next financial year;

9.11 All documents which may bind ENSA must be signed by 2 members of the board of directors; unless a power of attorney stating otherwise is granted;

9.12 The term of the offices held in the board of directors is one year.

Article 10 – Working language

10.1 The official working language within ENSA is English.

V. AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Article 11

11.1 The articles of association can be amended by the general meeting. In that case a two-thirds majority of the delegates present is required. In addition, a two-thirds quorum is required.

VI. DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Article 12

12.1 A proposal for dissolution of ENSA can be submitted by the board of directors or by at least three fourths of all delegates. The decision to dissolve the organisation requires a majority of three fourths of the delegates present who have the right to vote, at two successive general meetings.

12.2 The only agenda item of the general meeting convened to decide on the dissolution is the dissolution of the organisation.

12.3 The board of directors will decide on the method of liquidation and distribution of ENSA. The net assets will be transferred to an organisation with similar or altruistic objects.

Article 13

Anything that is not dealt with by this Constitution shall be settled in accordance with the Belgian law on international non-profit organisations and foundations of 27 June 1921, as amended by the law of 2 May 2002.