

# **Agreement for the creation of the "European Network of learning and Teaching in agriculture and Rural Development" European Association : EA**

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## Preamble

The founding institutes defined under Article 2 have acknowledged the necessity of joining together, on an international level, in order to develop their scientific and pedagogical co-operation in initial and in-service teacher training and teaching in the fields of agriculture, forestry, environment, green systems and rural development. They all have decided that for, to create the **"European network for learning and teaching in agriculture and rural development"**

## Name and duration of the association

### **Article 1**

1.1 The name of the association is "European Network for learning and teaching in agriculture and rural development". Its acronym is E.N.T.R.E.

1.2 It is created for an unlimited duration.

## Aims of the network

### **Article 2**

The network is an exchange platform for professional experience, knowledge, skills, methods and cultural diversion in green, rural, agricultural and forestry education and research. It aims at strengthening sustainable development and liveability in rural areas.

### **The main aims are :**

To support the improvement of teaching and learning processes in green, rural, agricultural education.

To develop knowledge and understanding about educational agricultural systems within Europe.

To share, develop and promote teaching methods and strategies through European teacher training.

To impulse innovation in the agricultural training system, in order to modernise curricular and extra-curricular activities, teaching objectives and contents according to the evolution of the context of rural development.

To encourage and facilitate bilateral and multilateral exchanges of trainees, teachers and trainers.

To facilitate the project's development.

## Activities and results

### **Article 3**

To achieve these aims, the network develops:

- Communication systems,
- Scientific and thematic study meetings,
- Educational experimentation,
- Action research,
- Trainee teachers' and trainers' exchanges,
- Common courses

...

### Seat of the association

#### **Article 4**

4.1. : The network's administrative centre shall be based in one of the institutional member institutes.

4.2 : transfer of the association's seat

4.2.1. The seat may be transferred to another member state after decision at the Annual General Meeting. This implicates a change of the internal rules (see appendix 1)

4.2.2. In case of transfer, article

4.3 of the statutes has to be modified.

### Members of the network

#### **Article 5**

5.1. The members of the network can be : educational institutions, institutes supporting educational systems, professional rural structures and pedagogical research centres

5.2. Each member has to pay an annual subscription fee defined in the internal rules publication

5.3 The association integrates members from all European but also non- European countries.

#### **Article 6**

Membership may be ended :

- At the request of the member.
- When membership fees remain unpaid for a period of one year
- By decision of the general assembly on recommendation of the council.

### Finances

#### **Article 7**

7.1. The financial resources of the network are composed of :

- Sponsoring and donations
- Subscription fees and contributions for specific activities from member institutes
- Grants from governmental and regional institutions of member countries and also of international organisations
- Financial support (European, national, regional,...) for activities decided by the Council (meetings, studies and research, courses, study tours...) with agreement of governmental or international organisations.

#### **Article 8**

8.1. The annual subscription to be paid by members of the network shall be determined by the general assembly on the recommendation of the council. It is published in the internal rules (see appendix 1).

#### **Article 9**

The financial year shall be the calendar year.

### Council of the network

#### **Article 10**

10.1. The council shall be in charge of the implementation of the general policy of the network. It shall ensure the management of this policy and work out the activity programmes. It fixes the agenda of the Annual General Meeting, prepares the budget forecasts and the management report, which are to be submitted to the assembly.

10.2. The council shall be composed of the president, the vice president, the general secretary, the vice general secretary, the treasurer. They are considered as the national representatives of their country. Additionally there shall be one national representative for the other countries that have member institutes.

#### **Article 11**

11.1. The council shall meet once a year. One third of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum and the decisions of the council shall be recorded in the minutes.

11.2. The decisions of the council are taken by simple majority.

#### **Article 12**

12.1. The members of the council shall be nominated for a period of 2 years.

12.2. The president and vice president are elected by the council. The president cannot be re elected consecutively more than once.

The president and the vice president cannot be from the same country.

12.3. The general secretary, vice general secretary and the treasurer are elected by the council. They cannot be re elected consecutively more than once.

12.4. The general secretary and treasurer can be the same person in order to facilitate a coherent running of the network.

12.5. The president, vice president, general secretary, vice general secretary and treasurer, investigate diverse questions, oversee the implementation of decisions, suggest proposals for development and activities to be submitted to the council and for discussion by the assembly.

The president authorises payment of expenditures and can delegate his/her powers to the one of the vice presidents or to the general secretary.

### **Article 13**

13.1. The president shall preside over the council and the general assembly. He or she will represent the network, is able to delegate power to the vice president or to the general secretary.

### **Article 14**

14.1. The general secretary is the representative of the institution for administrative, and financial management of the network. He or she has the responsibility of day-to-day administration of the network. He or she will implement the decisions of the council and shall contribute to the development of the policy of the network, under the direction of the council.

The additional work resulting from these activities may require a reduction of teaching load. The council could decide upon a compensatory sum for the general secretary's work time spend for the network payable to the institute providing this person, which will cover a part of the deputising.

## The Assembly

### **Article 15**

15.1. The Assembly will be constituted of one representative from each member institute (that paid the fee) Each representative has one vote.

It shall have plenary powers over the carrying out of the aims of the network.

The assembly makes decisions on the main directions of the network and on the questions of the day. It discusses the annual and future activity programme submitted by the council. It fixes the annual subscription fee, ratifies the accounts of the financial year, and votes the estimated budget and the by-laws as well as the modifications of the statutes. It pronounces decisions on exclusion from membership. If necessary, it decides on the dissolution of the network.

15.2. The assembly shall meet at least once a year, 6 months after the end of year balance sheet and shall respect the laws of the country where the association is based. The council shall call the assembly, at least one month before the date of the meeting. An extraordinary session of the assembly may be called upon the request of 25% of the members.

15.3. Each member of the assembly may suggest one or more topics to put on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting, but not later than 10 days after reception of the summons.

### **Article 16**

16.1. The right of representation by proxy is granted to all members.

16.2. The vote by correspondence is granted to all members. The member must send his vote to the council, ten days before the general assembly.

#### **Article 17**

17.1. Decisions shall be taken by simple majority of votes of members present or represented ; such decisions shall be communicated to all members of the network and shall be recorded. In case of a split vote, the president's choice is carried.

#### **Article 18**

18.1. On the proposal of the council, the assembly may establish ad-hoc committees which may regroup together institutional, associate, user and co-operative members in pursuance of the activities of the network.

The assembly shall approve the objectives of any such committees and shall, if necessary, decide on their dissolution.

18.2. Member institutes may receive management and financial aid for activities undertaken on behalf of network.

#### Responsibility Procedures

#### **Article 19**

19.1: The entire board is responsible for the current management of the association within the framework of the decisions approved by the assembly. In no case it will take responsibility for any misdemeanour produced by one of its members.

19.2: None of the members can engage a project in the name of the association without a written approval of the Board.

#### Procedure in case of conflict

#### **Article 20**

20. In any case of conflict where an amicable solution cannot be reached, the national legislation of the association's seat will be applicable

#### Modification of statutes and dissolution of the network

#### **Article 21**

21.1. The council shall bring to the attention of all members, giving a minimum of two months notice, any proposal for modification of statutes or for the dissolution of the network, together with the date of the Annual General Meeting called to debate such proposals. No decision on such matters shall be valid unless supported by a two -third majority of the votes of all members of the network. If such a Annual General Meeting shall be convened, under the same conditions as above, and in a place permitting easy access, which assembly shall be empowered to take ultimate and valid decisions upon the proposition in question on the support of the majority of two thirds of the members present or represented.

21.2. Dissolution maybe pronounced by the Assembly, if a considerable change of original goals has taken place, financial resources no longer allow functioning or if it is integrated into another structure.

## Appendix 1

### Internal rules

#### 1 Fees for membership.

Fees are paid per institution. We suggest that they should be:

- 150 Euros for EU countries, EEE countries, Switzerland
- 50 Euros for all other European countries
- 50 Euros for the rest of the world

#### 2 Financial management:

The treasurer controls the budget; he only can pay the expenditures.

The money should be used only for the following items.

- meals and accommodation during meetings, if necessary communication expenses (telephone, mail,...), a set price will be granted
- travelling costs of the General Secretary and President with a maximum cost that has to be fixed by the new council
- promotion and publicity for the network (production, dissemination and WEB site creation)
- eventually financing a part of the work of the General Secretary (has to be decided by the new council)

#### 3 The network's promotion:

It is decided to form a promotion committee in charge of :

- producing a promotional leaflet to advertise the network in all countries (language has to be defined)
- create and produce promotional material
- create and maintain the network's WEB site