

Pursuant to Article 13, Article 18 and Article 55, Paragraph I of the Law on Associations (Official Gazette no. 74/14); the Assembly of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, at its meeting held on 28 October 2021, in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 1, item a), indent 1, adopts the Statute:

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## **STATUTE**

### **OF THE ADRIATIC IONIAN EUROREGION**

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#### **PREAMBLE**

- Proceeding from stages leading to the creation of the Adriatic Euroregion, in particular:
- "The Declaration of Opatija" adopted on the initiative of the Littoral-Mountain Region, Istria Region, Dubrovnik and Neretva Region and the Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, in the course of the "Adriatic summer school" of the Assembly of European Regions held in the year 2002 in Opatija with the subject "Contribution of the regions to the process of viability - innovative practice for innovative policies of regional development"
- The decisions of the meeting of the presidents of the Croatian Adriatic Regions with the participation of the representatives of the Italian Region of Molise, held in Mošćenička Draga, Littoral-Mountain Region, 25 October 2003
- The report (CLRAE - AER) on common activities for the interregional collaboration: aims and results of the Summer school of the Assembly of European Regions and of the Program Centurio - Congress of the local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe
- The Conference held in Pula on 28 June 2004, which confirmed the need of promoting activities of collaboration among regions,
- The Seminar held in Dubrovnik on 06 September 2004, defining a series of sectors that such collaboration includes (fisheries, environment, agriculture, tourism and culture, infrastructure and transportation), without excluding the possibility of adding other future fields of work;
- The Conference in Chioggia from 22-24 September 2004, organized by the Parliamentary Assembly entitled "Towards Sustainable Development of the Adriatic: Collaboration among Local and Regional Institutions", resulting in great consensus and winning a wide participation of Parliamentary members from various parts of the region,
- The Conference in Termoli from 08-09 November 2004, at which the representatives of regions and municipalities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia signed "The Protocol on the Establishment of the Adriatic/Ionic Euroregion" and considered the first draft of the Statute of the new institution;
- The Conference in Pula on 22 April 2005, at which the Provisional Council of the Adriatic Euroregion adopted the first draft of the Statute;

- The Seminar in Brussels on November 2005 entitled “Adriatic Euroregion: Means for European Integration” aimed at presenting the initiative to the European Union and getting its support;
- The Convention in Venice on 06 February 2006, which shaped the initiative by signing the common political declaration with the enclosed draft of the Statute of the Euroregion;
- The decision of the State Administration in Istria County, class: UP / I-007-02 / 06-01 / 308, Ref. No.: 2163-06- 02-06-2, 20 September 2006, on the registration of the Association of Adriatic Euroregion in the Register of Associations of Croatia.

## **CHAPTER I - GENERAL REGULATIONS**

### **Art. 1**

#### **Contents of the Statute**

This Statute regulates the name of the Association, the initials, the acronym, the headquarters of the Association, territory of the action; representation; the appearance of the emblem, the appearance of the stamp of the association; the banner and the logo; the aims of the association; the areas of the Association in accordance with its objectives; the activities for the realization of the objectives of the Association; the methods to ensure the publicity of the Association; the conditions and the procedures for membership; termination of membership, rights, obligations and responsibilities of Members, disciplinary accountability of Members and the list of the Members, the bodies, their composition and the manner of convening sessions, of selection, of recall, the powers, decision-making and the duration of the mandate of the governing bodies and the manner of convening the assembly in the event of expiry of the mandate; election and recall of the liquidator of the Association; the termination of the Association; its assets, and the method of acquisition and disposal of its assets; the procedure for the alienation of assets in case of termination of the Association; ways of resolving disputes and conflicts of interest within the Association and other issues of importance for the Association of Adriatic Ionian Euroregion.

### **Art. 2**

#### **Title, legal status, headquarters and official language**

- Name of the Association in Croatian: Jadransko Jonska Euroregija (JJE) – abbreviated name: JJE
- Name of the Association in English: Adriatic Ionian Euroregion – AIE (abbreviated in AIE)
- Name of the Association in Italian: Euroregione Adriatico Ionica – EAI
- Name of the Association in Albanian: Eurorajoni Adriatiko Jonian – EAJ
- Name of the Association in Greek: Ευρωπεριφέρεια Αδριατικής - Ιονίου – EAI
- Name of the Association in Montenegrin: Ionian Adriatic Euroregion – JJE
- Name of the Association in Serbian: Adriatic - Ionian Euroregion – JJE
- Name of the Association in Bosnian: Adriatic - Ionian Euroregion – JJE

The territory of action of the AIE is the area of Member States.

The registered address of the AIE is in Dubrovnik, Ul. Branitelja Dubrovnika n. 45, Republic of Croatia. The decision to change the seat of AIE must be adopted by the Board, on proposal of the President.

AIE is a non-profit legal entity registered in the Register of Associations of the Republic of Croatia.

The official languages of AIE are the official languages of the countries to which belong the members of the Association.

### **Art. 3** **Symbols of the AIE**

The AIE has an emblem, a banner, a logo and a stamp.

- The emblem of the AIE is a square, consisting of 9 parts. The surface of the lower half of the square is dark blue, while the upper half is light blue. Inside the bicolour square, a white line which frames the square (also bicolour) containing the drawing of six white little fishes. The six fishes symbolize the six countries surrounding the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas.
- The banner of the AIE has a rectangular shape and is horizontally divided into two equal sections with the Association emblem in the centre. The ratio of width to length is 1:2. If the banner is in the upright position, it is allowed a 1:4 ratio is also allowed.
- The logo of AIE is green and rectangular, a white line frames the rectangular field containing the white text: EUROREGIONE ADRIATICO IONICA, ADRIATIC IONIAN EUROREGION, JADRANSKO JONSKA EUROREGIJA, JADRANSKO JONSKA EVROREGIJA, EURORAJONI ADRIATIKO JONIAN, ΕΥΡΩΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΑΔΡΙΑΤΙΚΗΣ – ΙΟΝΙΟΥ.
- The stamp of the AIE is round and seized 38 mm, in its centre is the emblem of the AIE and along the edge there is the name of the ADRIATIC IONIAN EUROREGION.

### **Art. 4** **Representation**

AIE is represented by the President who has signatory powers and who acts individually, independently and with full powers in legal transactions within the scope of AIE's activities.

In accordance with applicable regulations governing the power of representation, the President can give the authorization to represent the AIE, to another person, based on a written power of attorney.

About granting the power of attorney set in the preceding paragraph, the President shall inform the Executive Committee thereof.

The person designated by the President to represent AIE shall perform the tasks entrusted to him/her within the limits conferred by the power of attorney.

## **CHAPTER II - AIMS, SCOPE OF ACTION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Art. 5** **Foundation and Objectives**

AIE is an Association consisting of territorial governments, typically the first level below state level, belonging – at the time of its foundation – to the Republic of Italy, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Montenegro, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Greece, which are located on the Adriatic and Ionian Coast, and of national and international institutions.

The Members of the AIE will jointly act towards stimulating, improving and achieving the development in the area of the AIE, in order to improve the quality and standards of life of its inhabitants.

The Members of the AIE aims to the following objectives:

- to establish and the develop mutual relations among the population and regional institutions as pre-conditions for better acquaintance, understanding and cooperation and for the creation of an environmentally friendly economic development;
- identify common interests and define shared development strategies;
- implement cultural exchange programs;
- promote the exchange of good practices in the framework of EU-funded initiatives.
- The areas of action of the AIE are:
  - international cooperation
  - sustainable development
  - environmental and nature protection
  - democratic political culture
  - the promotion of European citizenship
  - youth policies.

#### **Art. 6 Activities**

In order to achieve the objectives set out in Article 5 of this Statute, the AIE performs the following activities:

- promotes the development of cooperation in the Adriatic Ionian area, in the fields of environmental protection, transport, communication, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and cultural promotion;
- undertakes all the activities useful to the promoting its participation in cooperation projects;
- encourages, through joint activities, international relations and other development cooperation activities;
- carries out activities aimed at the economic, social and environmental sustainability of its territories;
- undertakes activities for the preservation of protected natural areas;
- carries out activities in the field of environmental energy efficiency and environmental protection;
- promotes the involvement of the civil society and local communities, encouraging citizens engagement in decision-making processes;
- promotes democratic culture and democratic transition and organizes activities in field of information and communication;
- participates to international cooperation projects both as direct partner or associated partner.

#### **Art. 7 Principle of equal territorial representation**

The AIE guarantees to all its Members balanced geographic representation within its bodies. To this end, within the body of the Association are equally represented the Western and Eastern coasts, the northern, the central and southern areas of the Adriatic and the Ionian region.

#### **Art. 8 Public recognitions**

The AIE may award public recognition to particular personalities who have distinguished themselves in the field of promotion and realization of the Association's objectives, for the extraordinary results and the significant contribution to the development of the activities belonging to the field of action of the AIE.

The methods for assigning the aforementioned awards are established by the General Assembly.

### **CHAPTER III - TRANSPARENCY, PUBLICITY AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION**

#### **Art. 9**

##### **Disclosure of information**

The acts and the activities of AIE's Assembly are public. Information about activities is ensured by:

- providing timely and true information to the members of the AIE on all decisions and other important issues regarding the Association;
- guaranteeing correct information through the media;
- forwarding informative materials related to the meetings of the Association's bodies;
- public meetings of the bodies of AIE, except when the session is closed to the public, as required by the law or by a special regulation;
- using information and communication technologies (website, social networks, etc.);
- publishing its own works, as part of the tasks of the General Secretariat.

All Members are eligible to participate in the works of AIE in accordance with the Statute and the law and have the right to inspect the work of the bodies and the decisions taken by the bodies of the AIE.

### **CHAPTER IV - ACCESSION AND MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

#### **Art. 10**

##### **Acquisition of membership status**

The Members of the AIE are legal persons and may be full members or honorary members.

Full members of the AIE are units of territorial self-government of the Adriatic Ionian area, which accept this Statute as a provision based on the criteria of representation of the "first level below state level".

The Honorary members can be national governments and European institutions: The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions.

All have the right to speak, while the right to vote is reserved only to full members, or, in their absence, to their respective alternate/delegated members.

Any unit of territorial self-government of the Adriatic Ionian area may be an "Observer", based on the criteria of representation of the "first level below the state level", having not adopted the Act of Accession to the AIE, and may participate in the AIE without voting rights.

The decision on the participation in the works of observers or supporting institution is adopted by the General Assembly.

#### **Art. 11**

##### **Accession procedure**

The Accession process begins by submitting a statement or decision of a competent body of the candidate territorial self-government, organization or institution, stating the intention to accede to the AIE and to accept the Statute as the fundamental act of the organization.

The Executive Committee shall consider and propose the decision on membership to the Assembly of the AIE, which ultimately evaluates and decides about the accession.

Based on the positive decision of the Assembly of the AIE, a new member of the Association signs a solemn declaration of accession. Accession comes into force the day of signing of the Declaration of accession.

AIE can join alliances of associations, communities, networks and other forms of linking associations. The decision on it is adopted by the Assembly.

## **Art. 12**

### **Register of Members**

The AIE keeps a list/register of its Members. The list of the Members shall be kept electronically and contains information about the name of the Member, identification number, date of signature of the Declaration of accession, the date of termination of membership in the AIE, the act of a member of Accession and the data on persons authorized to represent the member.

The list of Members is kept by the General Secretariat of the AIE.

The list of Members of the AIE is available to all members of AIE and to competent authorities that may be interested in examining and consulting it.

## **Art. 13**

### **Legal succession**

In the event of a change of status which changes the borders or identity of territorial self-governments that are members of the AIE, the membership in the AIE is transferred to the legal successor according to the regulations of the country where the unit belongs.

If on the area of the Member of the AIE a new unit of territorial self-government constitutes itself and it is not a direct legal successor of the Member, it is necessary to initiate, at the request of the unit, a new acceptance procedure.

## **Art. 14**

### **Rights and obligations of Members**

The rights and obligations of the Members of the AIE are:

- Participation in the establishment of joint policies and programs of AIE;
- Decision upon the assets and properties of the AIE and upon other acts as established by this Statute;
- Negotiation and mutual cooperation to achieve common goals;
- Participation in activities of common interest;
- To be elected in and to vote for the bodies of AIE;
- To be regularly and timely informed about the work of AIE and its bodies, along with its financial operations;
- Compliance with the provisions of this Statute and other acts of the AIE;

- Protection and promotion of the reputation of the AIE;

The Members participate in financing AIE through the payment of an annual membership fee as determined by the Assembly.

Honorary members, observers and supporting institutions contribute to financing the AIE on a voluntarily and optional basis.

### **Art. 15** **Disciplinary measures**

From the disciplinary point of view, the Members of the AIE are responsible for the violation of the dispositions set out in these Statute. Disciplinary proceedings can be initiated by any Member of AIE. The disciplinary proceedings shall be determined by the circumstances giving rise to a violation of membership obligations and responsibilities and by the severity of the violation and the damage caused to the AIE.

The preliminary enquiry is responsibility of the Executive Committee, which adopts the related disciplinary measures.

In case of violation of membership obligations and responsibilities, the following disciplinary measures may be imposed:

- Warning
- Exclusion from the AIE

The warning is adopted as a disciplinary measure for minor offenses.

Exclusion from the AIE as a disciplinary measure may be taken only in case a Member of AIE acts contrary to statute, goals, decisions and tasks, causing a serious damage to the existence and operation of AIE.

The decision to exclude Members of the AIE must be taken by the Assembly of the AIE and warning as a disciplinary measure may be adopted by the Executive Committee.

Against the decision of the Executive Committee may be submitted a complaint to the Assembly, within 15 days after the receipt of the Decision. The Assembly shall resolve the complaint within 30 days from the day of its submission.

The decision of the Assembly is definitive.

### **Art. 16** **Termination of the status of Member**

- Membership in AIE stops with:
  - Dissolution of the AIE;
  - Cessation of existence of a territorial self-government Member of the AIE;
  - Withdrawal through a written statement by the Member of the AIE;
  - Expulsion of a Member of the AIE.

## **CHAPTER V - DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Art. 17**

### **Dispute and conflict of interest**

The dispute / conflict of interest in the AIE arises when the interests of single Members, exercised within the Association, come into conflict with the interests and the activities of the Association.

The Members of the AIE must act honorably, honestly, conscientiously, responsibly and impartially in all the work of importance to the AIE, abiding their own credibility and the credibility of the Association.

In carrying out the activities of the AIE and in executing its objectives and tasks, the Members shall not put their interest above that of the AIE.

For disputes / conflict of interest, the Assembly shall appoint an Arbitration Board among the Members of the AIE. The composition, mandate and decision-making of the board shall be the Rules adopted by the Assembly.

The Arbitration Board will apply the regulatory provisions on mediation.

The decision of the Arbitration Board is final.

### **CHAPTER VI - MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION AND BODIES**

The bodies of the Association are:

1. The Assembly
2. The President
3. The Vice-President
4. The Executive Committee
5. The Auditor
6. The Coordinators of Thematic Working Groups
7. The Secretary General
8. The Liquidator

#### **Art. 18**

#### **The Assembly**

The Assembly is the highest governing body of AIE and it is organized on a democratic basis. The Assembly consists of all the founders of the AIE and all members of the AIE that joined later.

The Assembly is chaired by the President of AIE and in case of his absence or incompatibility by the Vice President.

Participation in the Assembly is granted to the Legal Representatives of the Members of the AIE or their alternates provided with proxies; the latter shall have the same powers of the Legal Representatives during the Assembly.

In the Assembly may participate, as Honorary Members, the former-Presidents of the AIE.

#### **Art. 19**

#### **Work domain and competence**

The Assembly of the Association:



a) approves:

1. the Statute and its amendments;
2. other general acts necessary for the operation of the Association and their amendments;
3. work plan and financial plan for the following calendar year;
4. the activity report of the previous calendar year;
5. the balance sheet and the related annual financial report;
6. the decision on admitting new members and awarding the status of observers or supporting institution;
7. the decision on joining Alliances, communities, networks and other forms of associations;
8. the decision on changing the goals and activities, economic activities, and the termination of the distribution of the remaining assets of the association;
9. the decision on a change of status of the Association;
10. the decision on distribution of the remaining assets of the Association;
11. any other activity that the statute does not expressly assign to other bodies;
12. the request for membership by Alliances, communities, networks and other forms of associations.

b) elects and dismisses:

1. the President and the Vice-Presidents;
2. the Members of the Steering Committee;
3. the Secretary General upon proposal of the President;
4. the Auditor selected by a list of accounting experts prepared by the General Secretariat;
5. the Coordinators of the Thematic Working Groups;
6. the Liquidator;

c) evaluates:

1. the implementation of the program of activities of the Association;
2. the Report of the Auditor;
3. the Activity Report of the Association;
4. other issues of importance to the activities of the Association;
5. second instance appeals presented by the Members.

d) defines:

1. the main elements of the policy of the Association, as contained in its programs;
2. the methods of obtaining, distributing and using the funds available to the AIE for the achievement of its goals;
3. the establishment and the tasks of the Thematic Working Groups, as well as the procedure for the appointment and the term of office of their Coordinators.

## **Art. 20** **Sessions**

The sittings of the Assembly can be regular, electoral and extraordinary.

The Assembly meets ordinarily at least once a year, and, as a rule, the sittings take place on a rotating basis in the territory of a different Member State of the AIE. It may be convened by the President, upon his/her own initiative, upon request of the Executive Committee or of at least three Members of the AIE.

Elections take place every two years.

An extraordinary sitting of the Assembly will be held when particular needs arise. The President of the AIE may convene extraordinary sittings on its own proposal, upon request of the majority of the Members of the Association or upon request of the Steering Committee or the Supervisory Board, putting in writing the reasoned grounds and the proposed agenda for extraordinary Assembly.

If the President does not convene the Assembly at the request of applicants, within 15 days of the request, it shall be convened by the proposer.

The sittings of the Assembly are steered by the President and, in his/her absence, by the Vice President Vicarius. The Assembly can elect a working presidency among its Members and entrust it with the conduct of the sitting.

The Assembly is convened by the President of the Association by submitting a written invitation to the Members at least 30 days before the session.

The invitation contains information about the time and place of the meeting and the proposed agenda. It will include the materials on the order of the day. The material is submitted at least 10 days before the session.

The President is responsible for the execution of the decisions and documents adopted by the Assembly.

#### **Art. 21 Expiry of the mandate**

In the case of expiry of the mandate of the bodies of the AIE, according to the present Statute, their holders may continue to exercise their functions pending the appointment or election of successors and have the right to convene the General Assembly.

#### **Art. 22 Decision-making**

A session of the Assembly may be held if at least half of the members plus one member of the Assembly is present.

The Assembly normally makes decisions by majority vote of Members, present and represented, except in cases when this Statute or other act adopted by the Assembly, prescribe a different majority.

The decision on changing the articles of the Statutes of the Association shall be adopted by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members of the Assembly. If a member is unable to attend a session may be replaced by deputy.

Exceptionally, upon proposal of the President, a session of the Assembly may take place through electronic platforms or through a written procedure such as the exchange of e-mails.

Voting at meetings of the Assembly shall be public. The Assembly may decide on secret voting on certain matters.

The minutes of the meeting are written for each Assembly session, which is signed by the recording secretary (Secretary), and shall be permanently kept in the archives of AIE.

**Art. 23**  
**President and Vice presidents**

The Association has a President, a Vice President Vicarious and a Vice President.

President and Vice Presidents are elected by the Assembly for a term of two years, having in mind that the President and the Vice President Vicarious are from different countries of the two sides of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas.

The President and Vice Presidents are elected by a majority vote of those present at the Elective Assembly.

A candidate for the office of President, Vice President Vicarious and Vice President can be any Member of the Assembly. The candidate for the office of President, must to submit his/her candidacy in writing to the Secretariat 10 days before the Elective Assembly, with written support of a minimum number of six (6) Members, who must also be Members of the Assembly.

The President:

1. is the Legal Representative of the AIE;
2. convenes and presides over the meetings of the General Assembly and of the Executive Committee and proposes the order of the day;
3. enforces the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Executive Committee, unless provided otherwise by the Statute;
4. proposes amendments to the Statute;
5. signs their acts,
6. coordinates the work of the AIE;
7. presents the annual financial report to the Assembly;
8. files the minutes of the sittings of the Assembly to the competent office, which manages the Register of Associations;
9. enters into contracts and undertakes legal actions in the name and on behalf of the association;
10. presents an activity report to the General Assembly;
11. performs other duties in accordance with the law, the statute and regulations of the AIE.

In the case of absence, the President is replaced with the Vice President Vicarious.

The President is responsible to the Assembly for his/her mandate.

**Art. 24**  
**Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is the executive body of AIE and it has ten (10) members together with the former Presidents, as Honorary Members with no voting rights.

The Executive Committee is elected by the Assembly for a term of two years.

The Executive Committee consists of the President of the AIE, who assumes the office of Chairman of the Committee by right; by the Vice President Vicarious of the AIE, who assumes the office of Vice President of

the Committee by right; and by the Vice President of the AIE, who is a member by right. The remaining 7 Members are chosen from among the Members of the AIE.

#### **Art. 25**

##### **Liability of Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee reports to the Assembly within the limits of the competences entrusted to it. The Executive Committee and each of its members can be revoked if they:

1. fail to fulfill the obligations set forth in this Statute;
2. act contrary to the provisions set in this Statute and to the guidelines determined by the Assembly. The mandate of member of the Steering Committee shall terminate if the unit of territorial self-government he or she represents is no longer a Member of the AIE.

#### **Art. 26**

##### **Tasks of Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee:

1. ensures the implementation of this Statute, of the other acts and guidelines determined by the Assembly;
2. draws up a proposal for the financial plan and a programmatic report for future activities;
3. prepares the budget and the annual financial report;
4. promotes and coordinates cooperation with other organizations;
5. submits an annual activity report;
6. proposes to the Assembly a liquidator and his/her remuneration in the event of a liquidation procedure;
7. monitors the activities of the Thematic Working Groups and evaluates their proposals
8. prepares and organizes the Association's editorial and information activities;
9. approves the report on the organisation and functioning of the General Secretariat;
10. promotes the involvement of particular professionals for the achievement of the Association's purposes;
11. performs tasks entrusted to it by the Assembly and that are necessary for the regular functioning of the Association, availing itself of the structures already operating in the field of cross-border cooperation.

#### **Art. 27**

##### **Sittings of Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee ordinarily meets at least once a year and, as a rule, each time in the territory of a different Member.

The sitting may be held if the majority of Members of Executive Committee is present, and the decisions shall be considered valid if taken by majority vote of the present Committee members.

The notice of a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be sent 10 days before the meeting.

The Executive Committee shall be convened by the President of the Association upon his/her decision, or upon request of one of its Vice Presidents, or when requested by one third of the members of the Executive Committee.

If a member is unable to attend the session, he/she may authorize a third party with the right to vote.

In very exceptional cases, at the proposal of the President of the AIE, the meeting of the Executive Committee may be held through electronic platforms or by written procedure via e-mail, if justified by special circumstances.

Therefore, the decisions of the Executive Committee taken in the aforementioned manner, must be ratified by the General Assembly in the first useful meeting.

#### **Art. 28**

##### **Revocation of the Executive Committee**

Executive Committee, the President and Vice President, the Assembly of AIE may resolve before the expiry of the mandate if they exceeded their powers, do not fulfill their duties conscientiously and call for their dismissal before the expiration of the term for which they were elected.

If it dismisses the entire Executive Committee, the Assembly at the same meeting elects a new full term Committee, and if it dismisses individual members of Steering Committee, the Assembly shall elect new members of Executive Committee for the time until expiry of the term of the present Committee.

Executive Committee and each of its members are responsible to the Assembly.

Each member of Executive Committee can ask for his dismissal before the expiration of the term for which he was elected, provided that he is obliged to perform his duties until the decision on dismissal. The Assembly shall make a decision on the request for dismissal on the first session.

#### **Art. 29**

##### **Thematic Working Groups**

The AIE is articulated into Thematic Working Groups open to all AIE Members. Each group is coordinated by a representative of a Member, who has the task to promote the activities related to the related thematic area by preparing a plan of activities in which all Members can be involved.

The General Assembly establishes the groups and appoints their coordinators.

The Coordinators of the thematic groups have the following tasks:

- exchange and disseminate good practices;
- develop joint programs and projects;
- build partnerships;
- define political positions on the various thematic areas;
- plan common initiatives within their own thematic area;
- promote the preparation of studies and reports;
- organize training and capacity building activities.

#### **Art. 30**

##### **Auditor**

To verify the correctness of the financial transactions, the General Assembly appoints an Auditor selected by a list of accounting experts prepared by the General Secretariat. The term of office, renewable upon decision of the General Assembly, is fixed at two years.

The duration of the mandate, renewable upon decision of the Assembly, is set at two years.

The Auditor may be dismissed according to the conditions and procedures established for the Executive Committee and its Members.

The Auditor cannot be a Member of the Executive Committee.

**Art. 31**  
**Activities of the Auditor**

The Auditor verifies the correctness of the assets and financial performance and certifies the regularity and accuracy of the accounting.

The Auditor presents to the Assembly a report on the work done and the results of monitoring.

**Art. 32**  
**The General Secretariat**

The General Secretariat of the AIE is managed by a Secretary General who is appointed by the Assembly upon proposal of the President of the AIE. Elected for a term of three years to manage the activities of the AIE.

The rights and obligations of the Secretary General shall be determined by the rule on internal organization of the Secretariat.

The Secretary General shall keep the register of Members and of their representatives and delegates in the Assembly and is responsible for the documents of the Association and takes care of financial relations in line with current regulations.

Financially-material and similar tasks are typically performed by a Secretary General, and may be delegated to other bodies, companies and organizations for the empowerment provided.

The General Secretary is in charge of the administrative, accounting and legal management of the Association.

The organization and implementation of the activities of the General Secretariat, as well as the qualifications, experience and number of its staff, are decided by the Executive Committee upon proposal of the Secretary General.

**Art. 33**  
**Task and Activities of the Secretariat**

The Secretary General:

- organizes and coordinates the works, initiatives and activities of the AIE;
- assists the work of bodies of the AIE and supports the implemented activities;
- contributes to the preparation of the order of the day of the sittings of the Assembly and if the Executive Committee of the AIE and prepares the sessions, performing technical and administrative tasks;
- provides organizational support to the program of activities as adopted by the Assembly of the AIE, promoting and encouraging cooperation among the Members;
- promotes the participation of the AIE in international cooperation projects;

- carries out activities related to the preparation and control of their execution.
- submits the report on the organisation and functioning of the General Secretariat to the Executive Committee;
- proposes the regulations on the management of the Association's activities to the General Assembly for approval.

The office of the General Secretariat is in Campobasso (Italy). The General Assembly may decide to make the office full operational and autonomous where particular needs arise for better management of the Association's activities, and to move it to another city.

The General Secretariat may have a liaison office with the Institutions of the European Union in Brussels (Belgium).

#### **Art. 34**

#### **Prorogation of the powers of the Bodies**

Upon expiry of the mandate, the holders of the Bodies continue to exercise their functions, which are extended until their successors are appointed or elected.

### **CHAPTER VII - PROPERTY, ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY**

#### **Art. 35**

#### **Acquisition of financial resources**

To achieve the objectives set out in Article 1 of the Statute of the Association, the AIE secures the funds from the following sources:

1. the membership fee from each Member, as defined by the Assembly;
2. financial resources coming from the participation in international projects;
3. grants, donations and other voluntary or optional contributions;
4. other sources.

In case the Association is awarded with projects financed under EU programs or other public funding programs, each Member of the Association may make available to the Association their human and materials resources (such as office and equipment).

In case of specific activities and programs, the Executive Board may seek the extraordinary financial contribution from the Members, who will autonomously decide upon their participation in these programs and their financing.

#### **Art. 36**

#### **Assets of the association**

The Association may dispose of its assets only to meet the goals and performances as established by the Statute of the Association, in accordance with the law.

After satisfaction of creditors and liquidation costs, for the remaining assets of the Association the court may order the transfer of such assets to associations, institutions, foundations or other legal entities established to achieve the same objectives indicated in the Statute.

The association has no right to share the property with its founders, with the Members of the Association, with the persons authorized to represent the Association, the employees or any other related person.

The Association manages the assets pursuant to the provisions on material and financial operations of nonprofit organizations.

All income and expenses are determined by the financial plan, which is adopted for one calendar year and is valid for the year in which it is passed.

Upon completion of the year for which the financial plan was adopted, prepares the financial statement.

The financial year of the Association begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st of the same year.

## **CHAPTER VIII - DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION AND PROCEDURE FOR THE LIQUIDATION OF ASSETS**

### **Art. 37**

#### **Dissolution of the association**

The AIE ceases to exist in case all the reasons set out in Article 48 of the Law on Associations applies, and upon decision of the Assembly, or in case, due to withdrawal of all other Member States, only remain the Members of one country.

In the case of a decision by the Assembly, the Assembly may decide on the dissolution of the AIE with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members of the Assembly.

### **Art. 38**

#### **Liquidation**

The Liquidator is elected by the Assembly upon the proposal of the Steering Committee.

The Liquidator may be a person who is not a Member of the Association and shall have professional (financial and legal) profile suitable to taking care of the distribution of the Association's assets.

The Liquidator represents the Association in the process of liquidation and takes care of filing the liquidation procedure in the Register of Associations; moreover, the Liquidator is person authorized to represent the Association in completing the procedure up to the cancellation from the Register of Associations.

The mandate of the Liquidator lasts until the completion of the liquidation procedure and of the cancellation from the Register of Associations, or until to his impeachment by the Assembly.

## **CHAPTER IX - TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Art. 39**

The Statute is the constitutive act of the Association and all other acts of the Association shall be in accordance with the provisions thereof.

The interpretation of the provisions set in the Statute is decided by the Assembly.

Amendments to the Statute may be proposed by any Member of the AIE. The Assembly adopts the amendments to the Statute.

### **Art. 40**



For all matters which are not regulated by this Statute, the provisions of the Law on Associations apply.

**Art. 41**

This Statute shall enter into force on the day of its adoption and shall apply as of the date of certification by the competent state administration offices.

*(Statute revised and adopted by the General Assembly of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion on 26 October 2021)*

*Dubrovnik, 26-10-2021*

*Signature of the President*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

*Nikola DOBROSLAVIĆ*