



STATUTE OF THE ASSOCIATION

”SWEDEN EMILIA ROMAGNA NETWORK”

Convinced that the strengthening of the relations between Sweden and Italy in the framework of the European Union can be successfully achieved by developing grass root partnership among those actors that are operating closest to the citizens, the signatory parties have decided to create a non-profit association named the "Sweden Emilia Romagna Network (SERN)", hereinafter referred to as the Network.

PART I

OBJECT -ADDRESS

Article 1 - Object

The Network consists of public and private actors working and collaborating to develop the relations between Sweden, Emilia-Romagna and Italy.

The objective of the Network is the development of international ties and partnership activities among its members. It shall also support the initiation of innovative cooperation projects that will create synergies among various types of actors.

Article 2 - Address

The official address of the Network will be at Stradone Martiri della Libertà 15, Parma, Italy.

The official address might be transferred to another state of the European Union following a decision of the General Assembly.

The Network will be able to set secondary offices in Sweden or in Italy.

PART II

MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Article 3 - Eligibility

Eligible members of the Network are:

1. In Sweden: regions, county councils, municipalities, associations of local and regional authorities;
2. In Italy: the regional government, the provinces, the municipalities, the local authorities in their associated forms in Emilia-Romagna, AICCRE Emilia-Romagna, as well as the same institutions of other Italian regions;
3. In Italy and Sweden: subjects from the civil society who agree to the aims and purpose of the Network, including educational institutions at all levels.

The founding members of the Network are those that have signed the Statute.

Article 4 - Admission

New Members may join the Network by making a written request to the Executive Board. The Executive Board with an absolute majority decides on the request.

If accepted, the request shall be followed by the payment of the fees within 60 (sixty) days.

Article 5 - Withdrawal

Each member has the right to withdraw from the Network. The Executive Board must be notified of the withdrawal in written form before the 31st December of the year prior to the intended withdrawal.

Article 6 - Voting Rights

Each member of the Network expresses the following number of votes in the General Assembly:

1. Regions and county councils: 12 votes
2. Provinces : 8 votes
3. Municipalities and associations of local and regional authorities with more than 50.000 inhabitants: 5 votes
4. Municipalities and associations of local and regional authorities with more than 25.000 inhabitants: 4 votes
5. Municipalities and associations of local and regional authorities with less than 25.000 inhabitants: 3 votes
6. Others: 1 vote

The voting rights can be expressed once the membership fee has been paid.

PARTNERS OF THE NETWORK – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Article 7 - Eligibility

Eligible partners of the Network in European countries other than Italy and Sweden are: regions, counties, provinces, municipalities, associations of local and regional authorities; subjects from the civil society who agree to the aims and purpose of the Network, including educational institutions at all levels.

Article 8 - Admission

Partners may join the Network by making a written request to the Executive Board. The applicant shall be introduced by a member of the Network. The Executive Board with an absolute majority decides on the request.

If accepted, the request shall be followed by the payment of the partnership fees within 60 (sixty) days.

Article 9 - Withdrawal

Each partner has the right to withdraw from the Network. The Executive Board must be notified in written form no later than the 31st December of the year prior to the intended withdrawal.

Article 10 – Participation and fees

The partner can participate in all the activities of the network but does not have voting rights in the General Assembly. The partners shall pay a yearly partnership fees.

PART III ORGANS OF THE NETWORK

Article 11 – The Organs

The Organs of the Network shall be:

- 1. The General Assembly**
- 2. The Executive Board**
- 3. The Chairperson of the Executive Board**
- 4. The Presidium**
- 5. The Board of Auditors**

Article 12 - The General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be the highest authority of the Network and have power to take decisions concerning all the activities of the Network. In particular, it shall be within the competence of the General Assembly to:

1. Decide about the Statute of the Network and the rules of procedure for the General Assembly;
2. Elect the Executive Board for a two-year-period;
3. Decide the membership fees of the Network;
4. Approve the budget and the auditor's report;
5. Elect the Board of Audit for a two-year-period;
6. Approve the strategic guidelines of the Network proposed by the Executive Board;
7. Approve the annual report on the activities of the Network.

The General Assembly is constituted by all the members of the Network. It is to be held at least once a year, no later than 30 June, either in Sweden or in Italy. The Assembly is chaired by the Chairperson of the Executive Board.

The Assembly is valid when summoned by the Executive Board with a two-month-notice and when attended by at least half of the members. The agenda and materials for the session shall be delivered to the members one month prior to the session.

Decisions shall be taken by an absolute voting majority, except in the following cases:

1. Amendments to the Statute of the Network shall require a voting with a qualified majority of two-thirds of the votes;
2. The termination of the Network shall require a voting with a majority of two-thirds and the presence of at least two-thirds of the Network's members.

Article 13 – The Executive Board

In the time between the sessions of the General Assembly the Executive Board will be the Network's highest authority. The Executive Board is composed by 22 members, 11 for each country.

The Executive Board implements the strategic guidelines approved by the General Assembly. In particular, it shall be within the competence of the Executive Board to:

1. Formulate and adopt internal regulations of the Network;
2. Formulate and propose the budget of the Network;
3. Appoint a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson among its members who shall not be of the same nationality and shall be chosen on a rotating basis among the Swedish and the Italian members of the Executive Board.

4. Indicate the priority areas for the Network;
 5. Decide upon the location of the Network Secretariat;
 6. Prepare annually a final report on the activities carried out in the framework of the Network.
 7. Appoint the staff of the Secretariat upon proposal of the Chairperson.
- The Chairperson has the casting vote in the Executive Board.

Article 14 – The Chairperson of the Executive Board

The Chairperson is the legal representative of the Network.

The Chairperson summons and chairs the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

The Chairperson proposes the appointment of the staff of the Secretariat to the Executive Board. The Chairperson oversees the activities of the Secretariat.

Art 15 – The Presidium

The Presidium consists of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Board.

The Presidium may decide about urgent matters between the sessions of the Executive Board meetings.

The Presidium shall inform the Executive Board of the decisions taken at the following Executive Board meeting.

Article 16 – The Board of Audit

The Board of Audit consists of two Italian and two Swedish members of Network that are not part of the Executive Board.

The Board of Audit elects a Chairperson among its members. The Chairperson of the Board of Audit must be of a different nationality than the Chairperson of the Executive Board. The Chairperson of the Board of Audit has the casting vote in the Board of Audit.

The Board of Audit prepares a report concerning the correct and proper use of the resources for the statutory purposes laid in the decisions and acts of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

The Board of Audit has the right to check and read all books, accountants' files etc. of each organ of the Network. The Board of Audit reports to the General Assembly.

PART IV

FINANCES OF THE NETWORK

Article 17 - Fees

The General Assembly shall decide the fees the Network members are to contribute to participate in the Network. The yearly fees shall be proposed by the Executive Board.

The patrimony of the Network consists of the fees of the members, partners and other sources of financing which may come from the European Union, as well as other sources of public and private funding from the local, regional and national levels.

In case of dissolution of the Network, the Executive Board will decide upon the destination of the patrimony to other actors with the same objectives.

Each member carries the cost of its representative(s) for attending the General Assembly.

Each member carries the cost of its representative(s) for attending the meetings of the Executive Board.

PART V

OTHER

Article 18 - Languages

The official language of the Network shall be English. In the framework of the Network's meetings the Italian or Swedish language may be used as working languages.