



Minority Rights
are
Human Rights!

YOUTH OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES (YEN)

STATUTES

Minderheitenrechte
sind
Menschenrechte!

These Statutes were adopted on 8 May 2021 during an Online General Assembly and replace the Statutes that had been adopted on 29 March 2018 in Opole/OppeIn (Poland).



For the sake of simplicity, only the feminine form is used in the following text for the various functions. All the posts and functions in the Rules of Procedure, however, refer to women, men and non-binary persons alike. Equally for the sake of simplicity, the term "minorities" is used as a short form for "autochthonous, national minorities". This shortened form is also used in expressions such as "national minorities" or "traditional minorities".

§1 Name, seat and duration

- .1 The association shall be called Youth of European Nationalities, hereinafter referred to by its abbreviated form, YEN.
- .2 YEN shall be a European umbrella organisation of youth organisations of autochthonous, ethnic, linguistic and national minorities (hereinafter called "minorities").
- .3 YEN is herewith set up for an indefinite duration as a registered association under Dutch law. YEN shall have its seat in Leeuwarden/Ljouwert, the Netherlands. The main activities are conducted in Berlin.

§2 Purpose

- .1 YEN shall work actively for the promotion and further development of the language, culture, identity and rights of European autochthonous, national minorities in order to maintain this cultural heritage for the general understanding among nations. It is YEN's aim to achieve a higher level of tolerance for different cultures within our society. One particular focal point shall be work with children, teenagers and young adults.
- .2 YEN shall support the endeavours of individuals and institutions in Europe, such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union, that strive to guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms. This shall be achieved on the basis of a unified Europe with a federal structure, granting autochthonous national minorities the rights of self-administration and preservation of their distinctiveness.
- .3 YEN is against racism, discrimination and assimilation of any kind of minority and, as a matter of principle, it is opposed violence in whatsoever form.

§3 Non-profit status

- .1 The association shall solely and directly pursue objectives of public benefit within the meaning of the chapter "Tax exempt purposes" of the German Tax Code (Abgabenordnung).
- .2 The assets of the association may only be used for the purposes defined in the statutes. The members do not receive any payments from the association's assets in their capacity as members.
- .3 The association is a non-profit organisation. It does not pursue economic purposes.

§4 Means for attaining YEN's Purpose

YEN shall set out to achieve its Purpose using, in particular, the following means:

- .1 Establishment of a network of minority organisations and members of minorities throughout Europe;



- .2 International youth exchanges;
- .3 Organisation and running of international seminars, congresses, workshops and cultural and social events;
- .4 Organisation and running of regional conferences and activities;
- .5 Publication of printed material and other information regarding minority groups and minority youth and matters of concern to them;
- .6 Cooperation with other non-profit minority and youth organisations throughout Europe.

§ 5. Financing and financial year

- .1 The material resources for achieving YEN's Purpose shall include the following:
 - .a membership fees, annually defined by the General Assembly;
 - .b Funded projects organised by YEN itself;
 - .c Administrative grants and other funding;
 - .d Surpluses from organised events;
 - .e Any other type of funding or support, gifts, estates, legacies and other donations.
- .2 The financial year is the same as the calendar year.

§6 Languages

- .1 YEN's official languages shall be English and German.
- .2 Each YEN member shall have the right to make use of its own language as working language at all YEN meetings and events and shall be encouraged to do so as far as possible. If the organiser of an event makes no provision for translation, the member itself shall be responsible for ensuring correct translation at least into English.

§7 Membership

- .1 Membership of the association is open to any natural or legal person that actively participates in the pursue of the goals of the association and that recognises the statutes and the resolutions of the General Assembly.
- .2 YEN shall have ordinary, extraordinary and supporting members.
- .3 The General Assembly decides on any application for ordinary and extraordinary membership, which shall be submitted in writing at least four weeks before the General Assembly. For supporting members, the board can take the decision on any application received throughout the year.
- .4 Membership of the member ends in any of the following events:
 - .a the dissolution of a member organisation or the death of a member;
 - .b the resignation of a member;
 - .c the termination of membership by YEN;
 - .d the exclusion of a member by YEN.
- .5 All other matters shall be regulated by the rules of procedure.



§8 Rights and duties of members

- .1 Each member organisation shall have the right to participate in all YEN events. The number of possible participants shall be equal for all ordinary and extraordinary members and shall be laid down for annual and regular events in YEN's Rules of Procedure.
- .2 All minorities that are ordinary members of YEN shall have the right to participate in decisions of the General Assembly with an equal number of votes. If ordinary members from one minority living in the same country participate in the General Assembly, their votes shall be divided according to the regulations in the Rules of Procedure. The precise voting arrangements shall be regulated in the Rules of Procedure.
- .3 It shall be the duty of all members to do all in their power to promote the interests of YEN and to refrain from anything that might damage YEN's reputation and purpose. They shall abide by the Statutes, Rules of Procedure and decisions of YEN's statutory bodies.
- .4 All members shall be required to pay membership fees of an amount to be fixed in the Rules of Procedure. If so requested, members shall furnish evidence to the General Assembly that they have made such a payment. If an ordinary member does not pay its membership fee without any reasoning two consecutive years, it shall be downgraded to extraordinary member.
- .5 It shall be the duty of all members to inform YEN about their activities for the current year. YEN shall make this information available for its members in order to promote networking amongst them.

§9 YEN's statutory bodies

- .1 YEN's statutory bodies are:
 - .a the General Assembly (GA)
 - .b the Board
 - .c the Executive Board
 - .d the Working Groups
 - .e the Auditors

§10 General Assembly (GA)

- .1 The General Assembly shall be the supreme body of the Youth of European Nationalities. The ordinary General Assembly shall be convened once a year.
- .2 An extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened if so demanded by a tenth of the ordinary members of YEN, the Board or the Auditors.
- .3 Notice of at least four weeks shall be given by the Board for convening each ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly. Notice shall be in writing and sent to YEN's members at least by e-mail. It shall specify the agenda. If 10% of the members request an extraordinary General Assembly, notice of at least six weeks before the requested date shall be given to the board. Any proposals to amend the Statutes shall be sent to members along with the invitation to a General Assembly.
- .4 The quorum for the General Assembly to take decisions on functions reserved for it shall be for half the total number of possible votes in YEN to be represented. Every



member organisation of YEN shall have the right to participate in the General Assembly.

- .5 The following functions shall be reserved for the General Assembly:
 - .a to receive and approve the financial report and the accounts to be submitted by the Board;
 - .b to give discharge to and to carry out ordinary elections of the members of the Board and the Auditors;
 - .c to carry out ordinary elections of the members of the Working Groups;
 - .d to admit ordinary and supporting members and partners;
 - .e to expel members;
 - .f to remove the complete Board or parts of it from office;
 - .g to amend the Statutes;
 - .h to amend the Rules of Procedure, for which no previous notice shall be required;
 - .i to decide on the voluntary dissolution of the organisation;
- .6 The General Assembly can be held in electronic form (online), as long as the aforementioned provisions as well as the provisions for an online General Assembly, as laid out in the Rules of Procedures, are respected.
- .7 The amendment of statutes, the exclusion of members, the removal of the complete Board and the dissolution of the organisation require a two-thirds majority. The quorums for all other decisions are regulated in the Rules of Procedure.

§11 The Board

- .1 The Board consists of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and three Working-Group Convenors that shall be elected by the General Assembly. The positions within the Board shall be occupied by people from different member organisations and not more than two of them shall belong to one minority from one country.
- .2 The term of office shall be two years for each member of the Board. It shall not be possible to re-elect a Board member more than once.
- .3 The Board shall have the necessary quorum to take decisions provided all its members have been invited to attend and at least two-thirds of them are present.
- .4 The Board shall take its decisions by a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.
- .5 In principle members of the Board perform their tasks in an honorary capacity. Deviating from that, it is permitted to pay an appropriate amount of compensation to the members of the Board in accordance with § 3 number 26 a EStG (Germany). Decisions on this subject are taken by the General Assembly based on the regulations stipulated in the Rules of Procedure.
- .6 Except for the expiry of the term of office, the function of Board members shall end with the resignation, removal, legal incapacity, or death. Board members can announce their resignation in writing at any time. The resignation notice shall be submitted to the Board, in case of resignation of the complete Board, to the General Assembly.
- .7 The duties of the resigned Board member shall be passed on the remaining Board members.



- .8 If more than two positions are vacant after the resignation, the Board shall call for an Extraordinary General Assembly no more than 6 months after the resignation, unless the General Assembly is withing these 6 months.
- .9 If any position of the Board is not elected, the duties of that function shall be passed on the elected Board members until the next General Assembly.
- .10 If more than one position is left vacant, the Board shall call for an Extraordinary General Assembly no more than 6 months after the General Assembly.

§12 Functions of the Board

- .1 It shall be the task of the Board to manage YEN. All functions that these Statutes do not expressly assign to other statutory bodies shall be entrusted to the Board. Its field of activity shall include, in particular, the following:
 - .a Implementation of decisions adopted by the General Assembly
 - .b Maintaining contacts with all organisations that are of relevance for the work of YEN;
 - .c Drawing up the budget, writing the annual report, including the financial report, and keeping the accounts.
 - .d Convening ordinary and extraordinary GAs and sending out the appropriate invitations;
 - .e Administration of YEN's assets;
 - .f Hiring and firing of YEN's employees;
 - .g Issuing publications or giving permission for issuing YEN publications.
- .2 The Board shall be permitted to grant powers of representation to one or several of its members or to third parties for them to represent YEN within the limits laid down in such powers.

§13 The Executive Board

- .1 The Executive Board consists of the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer. It is head of ongoing business affairs of YEN.
- .2 The positions within the Executive Board have to be occupied by different member organisations and not more than one of them shall belong to one minority from one country.
- .3 It is authorized to take decisions in all matters falling within the jurisdiction of the board, which do not affect the creation of the annual work plan of YEN or the working groups.
- .4 The Executive Board shall have the necessary quorum to take decisions provided all its members have been invited to attend and more than half of the executive board is present
- .5 The Executive Board shall take its decisions by a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.



§14 Working Groups

- .1 YEN shall have three Working Groups.
- .2 The aim of the Working Groups shall be the development of different projects for YEN in the matters assigned to them with the objective of enhancing the development of strategies and substance within YEN.
- .3 The Working-Group Convenors shall preside over the Working Groups. The General Assembly shall elect one Working-Group Convenor for each Working Group.
- .4 It shall be possible to change the matters assigned to Working Group and these shall be recorded in the Rules of Procedure.
- .5 The members of the Working Groups shall be elected by the General Assembly for one year. The detailed election procedure shall be laid down in the Rules of Procedure
- .6 Members of the Working Groups shall be permitted to resign at any time by giving notice in writing. Such notice shall be addressed to the Board.

§15 Auditors

- .1 There shall be two Auditors elected by the General Assembly for two years. It shall be possible for them to serve for more than one period of office. The Auditors shall be elected alternately and shall belong to different minorities.
- .2 It shall be the responsibility of the Auditors to inspect the financial management and the accounts. They shall report to the General Assembly on the outcome of their inspection and give a recommendation regarding the discharge of the Board.
- .3 YEN's Board shall make all relevant documents available for inspection and shall answer the Auditors' questions.
- .4 The Auditors can inspect the financial management and the accounts in electronic form (online), as long as the aforementioned provisions are respected.
- .5 The Auditors shall be permitted to enlist the support of an external professional.
- .6 Any Auditor who fails to report to the General Assembly either in person or in writing shall be deemed to have resigned, and the General Assembly shall immediately proceed to elect a replacement.

§16 Amendments to the Statutes

- .1 The only way to amend the Statutes shall be by means of a decision of the General Assembly. Amendments shall be sent to the members in writing at least four weeks before the planned vote.
- .2 The General Assembly shall adopt amendments to these Statutes by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast.

§17 Rules of Procedure

- .1 In addition to these Statutes, YEN shall have Rules of Procedure for dealing with matters that are not provided for or are only partially provided for in these Statutes and which define the general procedures within the organisation.
- .2 The Rules of Procedure shall be checked and updated regularly. They shall be treated as a "living" document, designed to ensure the flexibility of the organisation. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure shall be made known to the members of YEN at the latest four weeks after their adoption.



- .3 Amendments to the Rules of procedure shall be adopted by the absolute majority of votes. The General Assembly shall have the power to amend the Rules of Procedure without prior notice.

§18 Dissolution

- .1 In case of the dissolution of the association, the President of the Board and the Vice Presidents shall act as jointly authorized liquidators, if the General Assembly does not appoint other persons for this function.
- .2 The dissolution of the organisation requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at the General Assembly.
- .3 In the event of dissolution or annulment of the association or the suspension of its tax-privileged status, the assets of the association shall be transferred to the Federal Union of European Nationalities that should use them directly and solely for non-profit purposes.
- .4 The above-mentioned provisions shall apply accordingly if the association is deprived of its legal capacity.
- .5 YEN's accounts and documentary records shall be conserved for at least twenty years following its dissolution. The liquidator(s) shall decide on who is to be responsible for keeping these records.

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