

Europe: Union of Theatre Schools and Academies – E:UTSA

Constitution and title

It is hereby founded among members adhering to an association according to the present statutes by the name of:

EUROPE: UNION of THEATRE SCHOOLS and ACADEMIES – E:UTSA

Preamble

E:UTSA aims to participate in the process of creating a united Europe, celebrating the range and diversity of cultural and creative expression.

Further, it aspires to redefine the role of theatre institutions and to be a driver in the development of 21st century practitioners.

E:UTSA is a union and exchange platform of European theatre schools which primarily supports student-led theatre projects and collaborations; with the goal of enhancing the educational experience of European theatre students and of creating a students' network which will enable future professional work.

By providing students with the opportunity of developing their own independent artistic networks, E:UTSA aims to bridge the gap between the students' educational and future professional lives and supports the principles of lifelong learning.

This will be achieved by offering space and support for students to take responsibility for their own generation's theatre through the creation of student-led work.

E:UTSA's main goal is to develop the creativity of students and their ability to collaborate.

It does this by establishing a forum to help the new generation of artists develop languages of performance during their initial steps into the world of theatre making.

E:UTSA is committed to supporting collaboration between its members, such as, for example student festivals, international workshops, student exchange, staff exchange.

E:UTSA responds to the Bologna idea of education.

E:UTSA endorses the "Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union".

Article 1

Registration

E:UTSA is registered in Rome. The registered seat can be transferred to any other place in Europe upon the proposal of the Board of Directors. This decision must be ratified by the General Assembly.

Article 2

Members

The association is composed of:

2.1 - member theatre schools and academies; legal entities that are theatre schools, academies and universities. Each member is represented by their respective dean/director (or his/her representative) and a student representative. The student representative is elected every two years by the academies' respective student body for a duration of two years. If during this time the student representative graduates or leaves for some other reason a new election is held. The mandate begins with the next General Assembly following the election. It is possible that both, the old and the new student representative, attend this General Assembly, where only one student representative votes.

2.2 - personal members; natural persons who are artists or professionals of the European theatre education scene and who participate in reaching the association's objective.

2.3 - honorary members; natural persons who contribute significantly to the development, research and the promotion of the values of theatre education and art in Europe and throughout the world.

2.4 - beneficiary members; the Board of Directors can propose the title of beneficiary member to any natural person or legal entity who contributes financially to the development of the association.

2.5 - associate members; any other natural person or legal entity, not classifiable under the above mentioned categories and whose activity may contribute in reaching the association's objectives.

Article 3

Voting and majority rules

3.1 The entities with voting rights are:

- the member institutions; for all decisions that are to be taken during General Assemblies. Both, the dean/director or his/her representative and the student representative have one individual vote for each decision taken during General Assemblies.

- the personal members; for all decisions that are to be taken during General Assemblies. They have one individual vote for each decision.

Entities participating in the discussions without having voting rights:

- Honorary members

- Beneficiary Members

- Associate members and other personalities invited by the Chair.

3.2 With the exception of particular occasions, which are clearly described in the statutes, the decisions are to be taken in General Assemblies by a simple majority of the members with voting rights. In the case of a tie, the decision shall rest with the Chair who has in this case two votes.

The decisions are held by secret ballot.

Article 4

Admission

4.1 Members of Europe: Union of Theatre Schools and Academies

In order to join the association as a member, the candidate, representing a recognized level of theatre education, should address an application with recommendations from two members of E:UTSA to the Chair.

A decision as to the admission of the candidate, after the approval of the Board of Directors, shall be taken by secret vote via email to the General Secretary or in the following ordinary General Assembly.

The membership is effective immediately.

4.2 Personal members

In order to become a personal member of the Union, a member school of the association should propose the candidate.

He/she should address an application to the Chair, communicated to all members. The decision regarding the admission of the candidate will be taken by secret vote during the following ordinary General Assembly.

The membership is effective immediately.

The title of personal member is assigned for a duration of three years and may be renewed.

4.3 Honorary members

In order to become an honorary member of the Union, the candidate should be proposed by a member of the association. The following ordinary General Assembly takes a decision as to the admission of the candidate by secret vote. The candidate becomes an honorary member with a qualified majority of two thirds of the present or represented members with voting rights.

4.4 Beneficiary members

In order to join the association as beneficiary member, the candidate should be proposed by the Board of Directors. A decision as to the admission of the candidate will be taken by secret vote during the following ordinary General Assembly.

The membership is effective immediately for the duration of the financial contribution to the association.

4.5 Associate members

In order to join the association as associate member, the candidate should be proposed by the Board of Directors on the basis of a specific project; the duration of which is agreed upon by both parties.

The membership is effective immediately for the duration of the artistic project.

Article 5

Resources of the association

5.1 The association's resources are composed of:

- subsidies granted by public authorities (States, cities,...);
- subsidies granted by the European Union;
- contributions from sponsors and beneficiary members;
- any other legally authorised resource.

5.2 Member schools agree to make a contribution towards the real costs of the Association if previously communicated and mutually accepted.

Member schools together with personal members may be asked to make an annual contribution to cover the necessary costs of the forthcoming year, proposed by the Board of Directors.

The amount of the contribution is ratified by the General Assembly.

5.3 Honorary members and associate members are not subject to an annual contribution.

5.4 Beneficiary members will make an annual financial contribution.

Article 6

Loss of membership

If there is a serious concern about a member, then membership of E:UTSA will be terminated by agreement of the General Assembly, following a proposal for such termination by the Board of Directors. No such proposal may be made however, unless the Board has asked the member in question to explain why the problem has occurred. The member must be given the chance to explain and to resolve the problem prior to any proposal for their membership to be terminated.

The General Assembly shall decide by secret vote.

Article 7

Administration of the association

The association is administered by a Board of Directors, which is to report to the General Assembly.

The Assembly is the sovereign body of the association.

Article 8

General Assembly, quorums and representation

The General Assembly shall consist of all the members of the association as stipulated in the paragraphs 1-5 of Article 2.

8.1 - The General Assembly meets once a year in an ordinary session and can meet in an extraordinary session by invitation of the Board of Directors or upon the request of at least a quarter of the association's member institutions.

8.2 The General Assembly has the legal power to take decisions as soon as the absolute majority (50% plus 1) of the member schools are present or represented.

If the quorum is not achieved, the Assembly is reconvened within 15 days.

The decision that will be taken during this Assembly will be fully valid regardless of the number of present or represented members.

8.3 If a representative is unable to attend, he/she can give his/her power of vote to another member; one member shall not have more than two additional powers of vote/proxy.

8.4 If a student representative is unable to attend, he/she can give his/her power of vote only to another student representative of another member institution.

8.5 The agenda of the General Assembly is suggested by the Chair and fixed by the Board. The agenda will be sent to the members at least 3 weeks before the date of the Assembly. Members have the opportunity to add points to the agenda within 1 week upon receiving the agenda.

8.6 The meetings are minuted. The Chair signs the minutes. They are distributed to the other members of the association; both for the General Assemblies as well as for the meetings of the Board of Directors.

8.7 The Chair leads the General Assembly.

8.8 The treasurer presents the financial report and submits the budget to be approved by the Assembly.

Article 9

The Chair, the Board of Directors

9.1 The Board of Directors that is led by the association's Chair directs the association.

The members stated in the paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the present statutes elect the non-student Chair. He/she is elected by secret vote at the General Assembly on the basis of a work programme that was previously presented to the members. He/she is elected as the Chair if he/she reaches the absolute majority of the votes of the present or represented school members. If no absolute majority is achieved, a second election round will be carried out where the Chair will be elected with a relative majority. Between the two rounds, one or more candidates may withdraw from their application. The Chair of the Board of Directors is also the Head of the office. His/her mandate lasts two years. He/she can be re-elected with a limit of two consecutive mandates. The minimum delay between the end of his/her mandate and the beginning of a new one is set at one year.

Besides the Chair, the Board of Directors is composed of three non-student members who are elected for a duration of two years from the member schools' representatives and the personal members, by secret vote at the General Assembly.

In addition, three student members are elected by the student representatives, by secret vote at the General Assembly for a duration of two years.

If during this time a student board member graduates or leaves his/her institution for some other reason he/she can remain on the Board until the next General Assembly is held. It is possible that both, the old and the new, student board members attend the next board meeting, where only one student board member votes.

The members of the Board of Directors can be re-elected with a limit of two consecutive mandates. The minimum delay between the end of their mandate and the beginning of a new one is set at one year. Among its members, the Board of Directors elects by secret vote three individuals for a two-year-mandate who will form the office of the association together with the Chair:

- a vice-chair
- a general secretary
- a treasurer

In the case that none of the newly elected board members can definitely confirm he/she will apply for the position of the general secretary, an additional seventh person has to be elected. The general secretary will be elected by secret vote during the General Assembly by the members and personal members after the board of directors was selected. In this case the general secretary will be a seventh member of the board of directors.

9.2 In the case of a serious concern about a member of the board of directors (including the Chair) then any member has the right to propose a vote of no confidence during the General Assembly. All members vote by secret vote whether the vote of no confidence shall be held.

If the first vote is in favour of the vote of no confidence, then any member of the board of directors can be voted to step down from their position as member of the board of directors, including any special position (e.g. Chair). This decision must reach a two-third majority.

9.3 In case of vacancies, the Board sees to the temporary replacement of its members. Their final replacement is carried out during the following General Assembly. The mandate of such elected members shall end at the time when the mandate of the replaced members was due to be concluded.

Article 10

The Board of Directors

10.1 The Board of Directors meets at least twice a year by invitation of the Chair or upon the request of at least a third of its members. The Chair shall send an invitation including the agenda to all board members 3 weeks before the meeting. Upon receiving the invitation the board members have one week to add points to the agenda.

10.2 Decisions are taken with the majority of the votes, each member having one vote. In case of a tie, the decision shall rest with the Chair.

10.3 The effective presence of at least half of the Board members is required for validating decisions.

10.4 If a member is unable to attend, he/she can give his/her power of vote to another Board member; one member shall not have more than one such additional power of vote.

10.5 The commitment of the Board members is unpaid.

Article 11

Budget

The budget must be voted in balance.

Article 12

Language

Language of communication in E:UTSA is English.

Article 13

Statutes modifications

The statutes can be modified by the General Assembly upon the proposal of the Board of Directors or two thirds of the members of the association.

The decisions are valid only if two thirds of the member schools are present or represented.

Votes are valid with a majority of two thirds. The modifications are immediately effective.

Article 14

Dissolution

The dissolution of the association is subject to the same procedure as the modification of the statutes as stipulated in article 13. In case of dissolution, one or more official receivers are nominated by the Assembly and the assets, if applicable, are transferred to organisations pursuing similar goals who have been active for at least two years at the moment of the association's dissolution, with the exception of any organisation including one or more members of E:UTSA or its staff.