

**ASSOCIATION FOR EUROPEAN LIFE SCIENCE UNIVERSITIES
(ICA)**

STATUTES

Approved by the ICA General Assembly September 13 2006

SECTION I – DENOMINATION – REGISTERED OFFICE

Article One

Within the framework of the law of October twenty-five, nineteen hundred and nineteen, amended by the law of December six, nineteen hundred and fifty-four, the Association is named “**ASSOCIATION FOR EUROPEAN LIFE SCIENCE UNIVERSITIES**”, in short **ICA**. The Association addresses the disciplines¹ relating to **AGRICULTURE, FOOD, NATURAL RESOURCES, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT**. The Association is the follow-up of the **INTERFACULTY COMMITTEE AGRARIA**, created in 1988 at Brussels, and consecutive follow-up of the **INTERUNIVERSITY CONFERENCE FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED SCIENCES IN EUROPE**, and the **INTERUNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED SCIENCES IN EUROPE**.

Article Two

The statutory seat of the Association is at Ghent University, Belgium (Dean's Office, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University, Coupure links 653, B-9000 Gent, Belgium).

The registered office may be transferred within Belgium on the decision of the Board, published in the “Annexes du moniteur Belge” (Appendice of the “Moniteur Belge”) within the same month.

Article Three

The working language is English. Other languages may be used according to internal rules.

SECTION II – OBJECT – LIFETIME

Article Four

ICA is a non profit organisation which aims to stimulate and support its member institutions in the development of a European dimension in education and research through the development of concerted actions and in engaging globally, and to represent the general interest of its members at the European level.

Article Five

The Association is created for an unlimited lifetime; it may be terminated any time by decision of the General Assembly (article 28).

The fiscal year runs from January first to December thirty-first.

SECTION III - MEMBERS

Article Six

Eligible for membership of the Association are the European Higher Education Institutions relating to the Life Science disciplines.

Members are admitted by the General Assembly.

¹ Agriculture	Animal science and management	Business management
Biotechnology	Crop science and management	Economics
Education and training	Environmental science and technology	Engineering
Ethics	Food science and technology	Fisheries, aquaculture
Forestry	Horticulture	Human nutrition
Landscape architecture	Law	Mathematics and statistics
Nutrition	Policy	Plant science
Renewable resources	Risk analysis	Rural development
Sociology	Soil science	Tropical / Subtropical agriculture
Veterinary science	Viticulture and Wine production	Wood technology

Article Seven

1. All the members of the Association are free to withdraw with a six-month notice by sending their resignations by recorded delivery with acknowledge of receipt to the Secretary General. However, before actual withdrawing, resigning members shall have to fulfil all their obligations towards the Association.
2. Members may be excluded or suspended on decision by the General Assembly ruling by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast of represented members, after having been given the right to defend themselves. The concerned party should be informed in writing 40 days before the General Assembly with a registered letter.
3. Suspension of membership may be decided by the General Assembly if a member fails to pay its fee for TWO consecutive years.

Article Eight

Members shall pay a membership fee fixed annually by the General Assembly.

SECTION IV – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article Nine

The General Assembly is the governing body of the Association.

It has authority to:

1. Determine the general policy of the Association;
2. Admit or exclude members;
3. Elect the Board members and approve the Board's selection of the members of the Executive Committee including the Secretary General
4. Approve the balance sheet, accounts and budgets;
5. Recognise organisations as Standing Committees;
6. Make amendments to the Statutes of the Association;
7. Take any decision exceeding the powers legally or statutorily granted to the Board;
8. Terminate voluntarily the Association.

Article Ten

The General Assembly is made up of Rectors and Deans or other duly appointed representatives of all member institutions who have paid their subscription fees.

It is chaired by the President, the Vice-President or, failing that, any other member appointed by the President.

Article Eleven

The General Assembly shall convene once a year.

In addition the General Assembly may convene when one third or more of the members so request.

Article Twelve

The General Assembly shall be called by the Secretary General at least forty-five days before the meeting.

Convening notices shall contain a provisional agenda of the Assembly.

Proposals or amendments to the Statutes of the Association which were not mentioned in the convening notice shall not be tabled for deliberation.

Article Thirteen

All members have an equal right to cast one vote.

Members who cannot attend may be represented at the General Assembly by other members by sending a proxy form. In this case each member attending the General Assembly may have a maximum of three proxies.

Article Fourteen

The General Assembly is validly constituted when one third of the members are represented, and decisions are reached by simple majority of the votes cast (see for exceptions articles 7 and 27).

Article Fifteen

The Annual General Assembly shall appoint two auditors of nationality different from that of the Treasurer for a renewable three-year term, and give them the responsibility of auditing the Association's accounts.

Article Sixteen

The deliberations of the General Assembly shall be minuted and signed by the Chairperson of the session and countersigned by the Secretary General or, failing that, by one of the members of the Executive Committee.

All members or third parties able to prove their legitimate interest may ask for a copy of the minutes signed by the Chairperson or the Secretary General.

SECTION V – THE BOARD

Article Seventeen

The Association's strategy and objectives are developed by the Board and proposed to the General Assembly. The Board is responsible for the general administration of the Association.

The Board is responsible for defining internal working rules (byelaws) within the framework of these Statutes.

The Board shall be composed of the President, the Vice-President and at least three ordinary members. A balanced distribution of the members over the different regions of Europe will be assured.

The members of the Board are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term that is renewable once.

The Board can decide to co-opt one additional Board member for specific purposes until the next General Assembly.

The President and Vice-President are elected by the Board members. The President is the Chairperson of the Board.

The Board is to meet at least once a year.

Article Eighteen:

The widest power to perform any acts of administration and arrangement which concern the Association are vested in the Board.

The Board shall administer the Association according to the general strategy and policy approved by the General Assembly, and shall decide in particular about projects related to education, training and research organised by the Association. The Board shall also decide about publications.

Without prejudice to authorizations provided for by law and by the present statutes, the Board may execute and receive any payment, request, or give receipt of the payment, give or receive any deposit, acquire or alienate personal or real estates, rent or let with a lease, even for more than nine years, accept and receive private or state subsidies, accept and receive legacies, donations and transfers, grant and accept loans and advances, with or without cover, grant and accept subrogations and securities, mortgage social real estates, waive contractual or actual rights, decide to release mortgages, plead whether as plaintiff or defendant before any jurisdiction, carry out court decisions, deal or compromise.

Article Nineteen

By their functions, members of the Board do not assume any personal liability. Their responsibilities are limited to their terms of office.

Members of the Board shall not receive payment for the performance of their duties.

SECTION VI – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article Twenty

The Board shall delegate the execution of the policy of the Board to the Executive Committee (ExCo).

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Secretary General and at least four ordinary members.

The members of the Executive Committee are appointed by the Board and approved by the General Assembly for a three-year term that is renewable.

The Board appoints a Secretary General.

The duties and tasks of the ExCo and the Secretary General are defined by the Board.

One member of the ExCo will be appointed as Treasurer.

Article Twenty-one

The Executive Committee can decide to establish temporary Task Forces (TF) in order to address specific tasks. Task Forces report to the ExCo.

Article Twenty-two

Actions exceeding day-to-day management and committing the Association shall be signed by the President or Vice-President and countersigned by the Secretary General.

Legal proceedings as plaintiff or defendant shall be managed by the Board represented by the President.

Financial accounts exceeding the field of current expenses shall be signed by the President and the Treasurer.

Article Twenty-three

By their functions, members of the Executive Committee do not assume any personal liability. Their responsibilities are limited to their terms of office.

Members of the Executive Committee shall not receive payment for the performance of their duties (except for the Secretary General and the Executive Secretary who are paid professionals; or with the agreement of the Board).

SECTION VII – THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Article Twenty-four

The Standing Committees are responsible for the organisation of a certain discipline within the scientific field of the Association or to certain activities within the general aim of the Association.

Standing Committees report to the Board; and are invited to work with the ExCo in the execution of the policy of the Association.

SECTION VIII – ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – BUDGETS

Article Twenty-five

By January thirty-first of each year, the Treasurer shall make up the accounts of the previous year. The Executive Committee shall submit the accounts and a proposed budget for the following year for approval of the Board who then submits those documents to the General Assembly.

Article Twenty-six

Auditors appointed according to article 15 of the present Statutes shall carry out the annual audit of the Association and report to the General Assembly.

SECTION IX – AMENDMENTS – WINDING UP - LIQUIDATION

Article Twenty-seven

The General Assembly may deliberate amendments to the Statutes if their objects are expressly stated in the convening notice. Amendments shall be adopted by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast. The members should be informed in writing 40 days before the General Assembly

Article Twenty-eight

The general Assembly may decide the termination of the Association under the same conditions as mentioned in article 27.

Article Twenty-nine

In the event of a voluntary termination, the General Assembly shall appoint one or two liquidators and specify their powers.

Article Thirty

In the event of any termination, whether voluntary or judicial, at any time and for any reason, the General Assembly shall decide by a simple majority to allot the Associations assets, after liabilities have been discharged, to an institution whose object and purpose are similar to the present Association.