

STATUTES

Réseau Européen pour l'Égalité des Langues Rouedad Europa evit Kevatalded ar Yezhoù European Language Equality Network

Statutes for the legal registration of the network
Association law 1st of July 1901 – Republic of France

Title 1 - Name, duration, headquarters and goal of the association

Article 1. The European non-profit network association created under the law of the 1st of July 1901 of the Republic of France is named :

**Réseau Européen pour l'Égalité des Langues
Rouedad Europa evit Kevatalded ar Yezhoù
European Language Equality Network
abbreviated as “ELEN”**

Art.2. The Network is established for an indefinite period of time and can be disbanded at any time. Its headquarters are in the town of CARHAIX-KARAEZ, in Brittany (France). It can be transferred by decision of the General Assembly.

Art.3. ELEN has as its goal, to the exclusion of any profit seeking, **the promotion and protection of lesser-used (i.e. in particular, regional, minority, indigenous, co-official and smaller state....) languages, hereafter LULs, to work towards linguistic equality for these languages under the broader framework of human rights, and to be a voice for the speakers of LULs at the local, regional, national, European and international level.**

To accomplish this goal, the Network will:

- engage in advocacy for the promotion and protection of LULs;
- exchange information and experience regarding policy making for LULs at the European, national and regional level of governance;
- promote education and research in and about LULs;
- promote understanding, collaboration and partnerships for LULs in the broader context of the promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism.

Title II - The Members.

Art.4. The number of full members and associate members is unlimited.

Art.5.1. Provided they agree to the principles of linguistic equality, the following parties can become members or supporters of the Network:

- a) non-governmental organisations;
- b) national governments;
- c) regional governments;
- d) language planning boards;
- e) local authorities;
- f) research centres;
- g) universities;
- h) umbrella organisations;
- i) other groups accepted by the General Assembly.

Art.5.2. ELEN consists of full members that are non-governmental organisations. It also has supporter and observer status for governmental and international organisations (see Annexes 1 and 2).

Art.6.1. Full members are entitled to take part in all ELEN activities, and receive regular information on the activities of the Network and of its members in the area of linguistic equality and diversity. They are also qualified to vote. Members pay an annual contribution in accordance with the rules and procedures as stipulated in the standing orders.

Art.6.2. Full members are defined as those paying full membership fees for inclusion within the Network.

Art.7. Applications for membership can be sent to the ELEN Secretariat. The Steering Committee will decide whether the application is provisionally accepted.

Art.8. Members are free to leave the Network at any time by handing in their resignation in writing to the Secretariat, and provided that their annual contribution has been made.

Title III - The Governing Bodies

Art.9. The governing bodies of ELEN are:

- a) the General Assembly;
- b) the Steering Committee.

A) The General Assembly

Art.10. The General Assembly is the highest authority, responsible for the general policy of ELEN. The General Assembly is composed of all the full members organisations who all have the right to one vote each, and of the support members that have a right of consultative vote. It is chaired by the Chair of the Steering Committee.

Art.11. The General Assembly overall control of the Network with a view to accomplishing its goals. The General Assembly will:

- a) adopt the annual report;
- b) adopt the annual accounts and the budget;
- c) will elect members to sit on the Steering Committee;
- d) ratify decisions concerning the acceptance or exclusion of members;
- e) take decisions on who becomes supporters and observers;
- f) take decisions with regard to amendments to the articles of the statutes;
- g) take decisions concerning the voluntary dissolution of the Network;
- h) adopt and amend the standing orders.
- i) take decisions about the annual membership fees.

Art.12.1. The Chair of the Steering Committee will convene the General Assembly on an annual basis. At any time, ELEN can be convened for an Extraordinary General Assembly at the decision of the Steering Committee.

Art.12.2. The invitations have to be sent at least 45 days prior to the meeting and have to state day, hour, location and agenda, except in the case of an extraordinary meeting where the invitations must be sent 30 days prior to the meeting.

Art.12.3. The General Assembly can only deliberate validly if at least half of the members are present. The General Assembly takes legitimate decisions with a simple majority of the votes. Decisions with regards to amendments to the articles, acceptance and exclusion of members, or voluntary dissolution, can only be taken with a qualified majority of 3/5 of the votes. In case of a tied vote, the Chair will have the deciding vote. If attendance is less than 50% of the membership votes will be held by e-mail.

Art.12.4. Following each General Assembly, a report has to be drawn up and signed for approval by the Chair of the Steering Committee and needs to be adopted by the next General Assembly. The decisions of the General Assembly are recorded in minutes.

B) The Steering Committee

Art.13. The Steering Committee governs ELEN. All members of the Network have the right to be members of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee members pursue their mandate free of charge.

Art.14. The Steering Committee members are elected for a period of three years and can be re-elected.

The Steering Committee will elect :

- a chair, president
 - a secretary/ vice-president,
 - a treasurer/ vice-president
- and as many vice-presidents as needed.

Art.15. The Steering Committee will meet at least once a year. Decisions will be taken on the basis of a simple majority. In case of a tied vote, the Chair will have the deciding vote. The decisions of the Steering Committee are recorded in the minutes.

Art.16. The Steering Committee is responsible for:

- a) convening the General Assembly;
- b) preparatory work for the meetings of the General Assembly;
- c) the preparation of the working programme;
- d) the financial management;
- e) engaging personnel;
- f) drawing up standing orders;
- g) the examination of application for membership, ratified by the General Assembly;
- h) other tasks which do not legally or statutorily fall under the responsibility of the General Assembly.

Title IV: Financial Policy

Art.19. Accounts and budgets are prepared by the Steering Committee and submitted for approval to the General Assembly.

The resources of ELEN are membership fees, grants and funding from authorities at every level, the selling of products or services, donations, and any other legal resource.

Title VI: Modification of the articles, dissolution and settlements

Art.20. Each proposal for modification of the articles or the dissolution of the Network has to originate from the Steering Committee or at least a quarter of the members. The Steering Committee has to notify the members at least 60 days in advance of the date of the General Assembly on which such proposals will be discussed. The General Assembly can only deliberate validly if half of the members are present or represented. A decision is only valid if it gets a qualified majority of 3/5.

In case of dissolution, the destination of the operating net assets will be determined by the General Assembly in accordance with the goals of the Network.

Statutes adopted in Paris the 8th of September 2012.
(Preparatory meetings in Brussels the 7th of May 2012 and in Strasbourg the 24th of May 2012)

The Chair

The secretary

Jean-Marie Woehrling

Tangi Louarn

ANNEX 1 – Observer Status for organisations in ELEN

1. The purpose of observer status in ELEN is to allow an organisation to better acquaint itself with the Network and its activities.
2. Organisations wishing to request observer status shall address the ELEN Steering Committee in a communication expressing the intent to participate in ELEN activities, however, waiving the right to vote on strategic decisions.
3. ELEN shall examine requests for observer status on a case-by-case basis.
4. Observer status in ELEN shall be granted for a period of 12 months. In addition to being invited to the General Assembly, organisations with observer status in ELEN may participate in sub-groups and working parties.
5. During its period of observation, an observer organisation shall provide the members of ELEN with any additional information it considers relevant concerning developments in its activities.
6. Observer organisations shall have access to ELEN internal documentation. They may also request technical assistance from the Secretariat in relation to the operation of the ELEN system in general.
7. Representatives of organisations accorded observer status may be invited to speak at ELEN meetings after members of that body have spoken.
8. Observers shall not be required to make financial contributions for services provided to them.

ANNEX 2 - Supporter status for organisations in ELEN

1. The purpose of Supporter status is so as to allow organisations to support ELEN financially in its day to day operational costs, but without having to participate in its activities.
2. Organisations wishing to request supporter status shall address the ELEN Steering Committee in a communication expressing the intent to become supporters of ELEN, however, waiving the right to vote on strategic decisions.
3. ELEN shall examine requests for supporter status on a case-by-case basis.
4. In addition to being invited to the General Assembly, organisations with supporter status in ELEN may participate in sub-groups and working parties.
5. Supporter organisations shall have access to ELEN internal documentation. They may also request technical assistance from the Secretariat in relation to the operation of the ELEN system in general.
6. Representatives of organisations accorded supporter status may be invited to speak at ELEN meetings after members of that body have spoken.