



Statutes of the European Association of Women Resource Centres (WRC) – WINNET Europe

§ 1 The Name of the Association

The name of the European Association of Women Resource Centres (WRC) – will be **WINNET Europe**.

§ 2 The Association's mission

The Association's mission is, in a collaborative effort among EU member states regional, local national/federal organisations in Europe, to support and reinforce the activities of regional and local resource centres for women and or other similar women organisations to work to advocate the following:

- That women claim their share of society's resources
- That women's competence is utilised in society
- That women's and men's efforts are evaluated equally

The Association shall work to influence opinion and spread knowledge about the conditions of life for women. The Association shall, through influencing and co-operating with organisations and authorities locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, work to bring about a society in which women's capabilities, rights and obligations are safeguarded. The Association shall work to promote the establishment of equal conditions and opportunities in matters of work, working conditions, scope for development and entrepreneurship for women and men, and that an equal distribution among the sexes of power and influence is effected. The Association shall aim to promote cooperation across national boundaries. The association can develop any activities to reach it goals.'

§ 3 The Association's domicile

The Association's domicile is in *Stockholm*, Sweden. The work of the Association is assisted by Central Sweden's regional office in Brussels. The Association is managed with the assistance of a Secretariat and an Internet-based network portal - www.winneteurope.eu - serving as the virtual office and communication tool between the members of the Association and with the European Commission and its institutions.

§ 4 Membership

Full membership

The Association is open to regional and local resource centres for women and for those that have national levels or/and federal state regions resource centres



corresponding for women or similar women organisations, which work with the same aims as the Association.

A member is one that after consideration according to the established criteria has been accepted by the Board and has paid the membership fee.

Each country can be represented in the AGM with maximum five (5) votes. Countries with more than 5 members must take an internal decision about the five (5) members who will represent them to the AGM. Forms of national co-ordination are encouraged.

European associations, national, regional and local authorities, organisations or networks or individuals who intend to support the Association can be accepted as supporting members. In regard to supporting membership the number of members per country is not limited. A supporting member is not entitled to vote.

Membership is open to member countries of the European Union, the European Economic Area and countries in the formal process of accessing to the European Union.

§ 5 **Criteria / common definitions**

By **National Resource Centre for Women** is meant an organisation that

- Works in accordance with the aims set out in the section describing the Association's mission
- Operates at a national level
- Has its basis in the demand from Regional and Local Resource Centres
- Is open to the Regional and Local Resource Centres existing in the country in question
- Forms a meeting place and support for Regional and Local Resource Centres
- Has activities that are designed by and carried out by women
- Is firmly established in or with support of national authorities and organisations
- Is governed by a plan of operations and budget, and has an annual report and follow up
- Has a board / control group, or equivalent, and an executive responsible for administration
- Is a non-profit organisation



By federal state regional and regional resource centre, or corresponding, for women is meant an organisation that

- Works in accordance with the aims set out in the section describing the Association's mission
- Operates at a federal state or regional level
- Has its basis in the demand from Regional and Local Resource Centres
- Is open to the Regional and Local Resource Centres existing in the federal state
- Forms a meeting place and support for Regional and Local Resource Centres
- Has activities that are designed by and carried out by women
- Is firmly established in or with support of federal state's and /or regional authorities and organisations
- Is governed by a plan of operations and budget, and has an annual report and follow up
- Has a board/control group, or equivalent, and an executive responsible for administration
- Is a non-profit organisation

By Local Resource Centre for Women is meant an organisation that

- Works in accordance with the aims set out in the section describing the Association's mission
- Works on a local level and takes part in local development
- Has its basis in the demand from women
- Is open to women and/or WRCs in its geographical area
- Forms a meeting place and support for women in the area
- Has activities that are designed by and carried out by women
- Is firmly established in or with support of local and or regional authorities and organisations
- Is governed by a plan of operations and budget, and has an annual report and follow up
- Has a board / control group or equivalent, and an executive responsible for administration.
- Is a non-profit organisation.

§ 6 Annual Membership Fee

Members shall pay the fee determined by the Associations General Meeting (AGM)

§ 7 Organisation

The AGM is the Association's highest decision-making organ of the Association. The AGM elects the Board of WINNET Europe.



§ 8 Motions

Motions to the AGM shall be in writing and received by the Board at the latest six (6) weeks before the AGM.

§ 9 Nominations

The elections committee shall have received nominations to the Board at the latest six (6) weeks before the AGM.

§ 10 Board

The Board is elected by the AGM for a period of two years. For pragmatic reasons the first elected Board, year 2006, is elected only for a period of one (1) year.

The board comprises a chairperson, elected directly from the AGM, a deputy chairperson and one further member from each country/federal state that are members of the Association. Each member of the board shall have a deputy board member (proxy). The AGM determines in which order the deputies shall serve.

Decisions are made by majority decision. The chairperson has the decisive vote. The board has a quorum when at least half of the board members are present.

The main tasks of the board is to organize the annual AGM and to implement its decisions. The AGM determines any other tasks and roles for the board needed for the operation of the Association.

The board can elect an Executive Committee within itself and in that case the board defines the role and the responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

The board may employ staff at its administrative headquarters and in projects, and make decisions about working schedules for the staff and for the executive committee.

§ 11 Operating year of the Association is the calendar year.

§ 12 Plan of operations, budget

The financial year is the calendar year. For each financial year there must be a plan of operations and budget. Proposals are drawn up by the board and presented to the AGM for approval.



§ 13 Power of attorney

The Association's business is authorised by the board. The board can elect one or more people to have power of attorney.

§ 14 Audit

The AGM elects two auditors and two deputies.

§ 15 Voting rights

Every full member with the right to vote has one (1) vote at the AGM. Supporting members do not have voting rights.

Members of the board are not allowed to vote on the matter of freedom from responsibility for the board, or participate in the election of auditors or deputy auditors.

Decisions on factual issues are made by majority decision. The chairperson has the decisive vote.

In the case of the election of individuals, this shall be conducted by a closed vote, if so requested. In the case of an equal number of votes the drawing of lots shall make the decision.

§ 16 The AGM

The AGM shall be held annually, before the end of June

Notification of the AGM must be sent out at the latest four weeks ahead of the AGM. An extraordinary general meeting shall be convened if the board or at least one third of the members with the voting right considers this to be necessary.

Documents relating to the AGM shall be available via electronic communication at the latest 4 weeks ahead of the AGM and at the latest two weeks ahead of an extra AGM.

The election committee's suggestions shall be available via electronic communication at the latest two weeks ahead of the AGM.

The following points shall be included on the agenda:

- The question as to whether the meeting has been called in the correct manner
- Acceptance of the register of voters
- Acceptance of the agenda



Election of officials for the AGM:

- Chairperson for the meeting
- Secretary for the meeting
- Two people to check the minutes and count votes
- The Board's annual report and financial statement
- Granting the Board freedom from responsibility which includes all board members
- Motions
- Definition and approval of plan of operations and budget
- Authorization to the Board to implement the plan and the budget
- Decision of membership fee for the following year
- Decision of fees or no fee to the Board and auditors
- Election of auditors
- Election of deputy auditors
- Complementing the free places of the board or deputies
- Election of the election committee
- Any other matters

Every two years the AGM elects:

- A Chairperson
- A Treasurer
- The other Board members
- The Deputies

§ 17 The Election committee

The elections committee prepares elections at the AGM. This is appointed at the AGM for the period up to and including the next AGM and comprises at least 10 members, and including members from the north, south, east and west regions of Europe. One of the members is the convenor.

The election committee's proposals shall be available at the administrative headquarters and via electronic communication at the latest two weeks ahead of the AGM.

§ 18 Changes to the statutes

The AGM has the right to decide by simple majority such changes that do not involve a change of the Association's non-profit aim according to § 2, 10, 18 and 20. Change of § 2, 10, 18 and 20 can be effected, if two general meetings of members, of which at least one should be the AGM, have so decided.



The AGM has the right to decide by simple majority such changes that do not involve a change of the Association's non-profit aim according to § 2, 10, 18 and 20.

Change of § 2, 10, 18 and 20 can be effected if two general meetings of members, of which at least one should be the AGM, have so decided.

In order to respect the criteria of the official status of European association (that will be decided by the EU institutions) the AGM or an extraordinary general meeting can decide to change the statutes of the Association WINNET EUROPE.

§ 19 Exclusion

A member can at the board's suggestion be excluded from the Association by the AGM. The board shall then have found that the member has acted in such a way as to damage or counteract the Association's or its members' interests.

§ 20 Dissolution

A proposal to dissolve the Association can be raised by the board. For a decision it is required that the issue be dealt with at two successive AGMs and that the proposal on each occasion is supported by at least two thirds of the number of votes cast.

After dissolution, the Association's assets shall be donated to research or be given to organisations that work in accordance with the Association's aims.

§ 21 The Scientific and Political Advisory Committee

The advisory committee shall be established as a knowledge pool for cooperation within the WINNET Europe . The aim of the advisory committee is to argue for the studied needs of the EU member states so that via studies the development of women's equal opportunities in regional development, growth, job's and entrepreneurship will be enhanced. The members of the advisory committee will be selected by the decision of the board and approved by the AGM.

The members of advisory committee consist of 50 % local politicians from the member states of EU and 50 % researchers. The scientific background of researchers should be in the subjects of society, regional, growth and job's development, entrepreneurship, ICT, equal opportunities and the gender perspective.



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Britt-Marie Söderberg Torstensson
Chairwoman of the Interim Board of
WINNET Europe

Dr. Christiane Bannuscher, IDB Germany
Anneli Bauvald, Rapla County Enterprise and Development Centre, Estonia
Anna Catasta, CdIE- Centro di Iniziativa Europea, Italy
Anna Difort – Dura, Institute of Economic Analyses, Diagnoses and Forecasts, FEM-Poland
Mirja Erlund, The Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Finland, Finland
Eva Fabry, NRC – The Swedish National Federation of Resource Centres for Women, Sweden
Lisbeth Holmquist Arbrandt, Baltic-Russian-Swedish Resource Centre for Women, Sweden
Béatrice Maucondvit, Infofemmes - CNIDFF, France
Orinta Minalgaite, Women and Business in Lithuania (FEM-Lithuania)
Maria Sanguiliano, Risorse Donne, Italy
Popi Sourmaidou, ERGANI, Greece
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Ilona Vass, HUNORKA, Hungary