

EUROPEAN RURAL YOUTH OBSERVATORY (EURYO)

Statutes (Version 3.0)

November 2022

Note: This is a working document.
The document is still going to be proofread.

Only **minor changes** are expected to be made to the content of this document. All potential partners will duly be informed of any changes.

Statutes proposal

Section I: Mission, values and scope

1. Mission

The European Rural Youth Observatory (EURYO) is a research-oriented association led by researchers and composed of scholars, third sector representatives, public services providers, youth workers, and rural young people committed to moving forward European rural youth.

2. Values

EURYO is driven by a set of core values applying to both the network vision and to young people's future. At the **network vision level**, our core values include:

Openness: EURYO is open by definition, resulting in a multistakeholder network combining knowledge, practice, and policies. Openness means that EURYO is open to all sorts of members interested in moving forward European young people and bridging with different national and international bodies.

Interdisciplinarity: EURYO is powered by the combination of knowledge and expertise from a wide range of scientific fields.

Transparency: the processes leading to EURYO's public positions in terms of results or recommendations are fully disclosed to all audiences.

Sustainability: EURYO operation seeks self-sufficiency and viability in the long term.

Independence: EURYO positions reflect its members' own position.

Ambition: EURYO is an international reference for knowledge about European young people's livelihood and prospects in rural areas.

Regarding **rural young people's future**, EURYO upholds the following key values:

Inclusion: EURYO contributes to the inclusion of European rural people and therefore to stronger and more sustainable rural communities.

Diversity: EURYO contributes to all groups of European rural young people, irrespectively of their nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religious or political beliefs.



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Solidarity: EURYO is particularly driven to help improve the living conditions of European rural young people living in less developed European countries.

Determination: EURYO is determined to promote social change, meaning to target conditions and resources which can lead European rural young people to develop their full potential and achieve their own goals.

3. Scope

3.1. Goals

EURYO's specific goals are:

- To establish and support a network of relevant multi-stakeholder representation of different countries engaged in rural youth issues.
- To foster knowledge, skills, and best practice exchange to integrate scientific and technical advances, address current knowledge gaps and identify the most promising research avenues regarding European rural young people.
- To represent an open-access synthesizer to store and share several sources of information concerning rural European rural young people.
- To inform multiple stakeholders (policy-makers at all levels, NGOs, youth workers) as well as decision-making and practices based on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.
- To support young researchers in developing their knowledge, skills and projects associated to European rural young people.

3.2. Activities

EURYO's vision is met through a wide range of knowledge-based activities including research, consulting, training, and knowledge dissemination.

Research activities involve the development and/or support of international research projects.

Consulting activities cover independent policies and program evaluation at national and international levels.



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Training activities involve face-to-face, virtual or b-learning activities, ranging from workshops, training courses, and training schools to full advanced, international courses (masters or doctoral programs).

Knowledge dissemination involves all the activities developed by EURYO to disseminate knowledge across different audiences. These can include social media presence, seminars/webinars, conferences, and publications in different formats (policy briefs, reports, papers, special issues, journals, or books).

3.3. Working language

The language to be employed in the operation conducted by the association is English.

II – Governance

4. Structure

EURYO structure is three-folded, including a management level, a working level and a decision-making level.

4.1. Management level

EURYO management is ensured by three interdependent levels.

4.1.1. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is constituted of a Chair, and two vice-chairs. This committee is responsible for the top management of EURYO and is elected by the General Assembly for a 4-year term by a simple majority.

The Chair is expected to:

- a) Coordinate EURYO's activities in line with its mission and values;
- b) Chair EURYO's General Assembly and convene the general assembly meetings, including preparing the meeting agenda and validating the meeting minutes;
- c) Prepare for all decisions to be made by the General Assembly;
- d) Prepare and deliver a strategic plan for the development of EURYO's for a 4-year term;



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- e) Prepare annual Work and Budget Plans in line with the available budget for submission and approval by the General Assembly;
- f) Negotiate the Work and Budget Plans with institutional members of EURYO, including necessary revisions;
- g) Inform the Specialized Committee members about key developments of EURYO activities;
- h) Prepare and submit an annual report to the General Assembly for discussion and approval;
- i) Represent EURYO in negotiations with institutional members of the network as well as with national and international bodies.

The Vice-Chairs are expected to assist the Chair at all times, replacing her/him in any of her/his duties.

4.1.2. Specialized Committee

The Specialized Committee is constituted of the Executive Committee members, the working group coordinators, and co-coordinators. The Specialized Committee meets every 2 months and is expected to:

- a) Ensure that EURYO's activities are managed in line with its mission and values as well as with the strategic planning proposed by the Chair for the 4-year term;
- b) Assist the Executive Group in preparing for all decisions to be made by the General Assembly;
- c) Make recommendations regarding the Work and Budget Plans in line with the available budget for submission and approval by the General Assembly;
- d) Monitor EURYO's overall operation based on the annual reports prepared by the Executive Committee;
- e) Issue a list of recommendations of individuals to take part in the Advisory Board.



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4.1.3. Advisory Board

The Advisory Board is constituted of three high-ranked researchers with expertise in any of the areas covered by the EURYO mission who are not members of the association and four young people committed to EURYO's mission and goals. The members of the Advisory Board are invited upon recommendation of the Specialized Committee. The Advisory Board meets once a year with the Specialized Committee and is expected to:

- a) Make recommendations for ongoing improvement of EURYO's strategic vision;
- b) Deliver a short report about the overall implementation of the Work and Budget Plan from the previous civil year;
- c) Make recommendations regarding the Work and Budget Plan for the next civil year in line with the available budget for submission and approval by the General Assembly;
- d) Offer input at any time regarding outstanding challenges such as ethical issues, information about any existing scientific call, or alike.

4.2. Working level

4.2.1. Working Groups

EURYO's operation is driven by Working Groups (WG). The WGs are led by one coordinator and one co-coordinator. Coordinators and co-coordinators are elected by a simple majority of the Assembly, upon a written manifestation of interest of members.

EURYO encompasses four **Scientific Working Groups (SWG)** focusing on specific topics of interest:

- **Social Networks and Social Inclusion:** aims at analyzing the roles of social networks (family, friends, neighbors, rural communities at large) and of social inclusion mechanisms, (namely risk and protective factors at the rural community level) for rural young people's quality-of-life. Quality-of-life here is understood in a broader manner and according to all its dimensions (physical and/or psychological well-being, social development, socioeconomic condition, as well as educational and employment outcomes). Potential key questions to be analyzed by this WG: (a) How are social networks organized around rural



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young people? (b) What are their main characteristics? (c) What are the main factors at the rural community level involved in rural young people's social inclusion? (d) How do social networks and rural community factors contribute to rural young people's overall quality-of-life? and (e) How do these networks compensate for the lack or the inadequacy of formal/institutional support in rural areas?

- **Formal and non-Formal Education:** focuses on the role of formal and non-formal education in the process of school-to-work transition in rural areas. Some of the key topics to be addressed here are: (a) rural education infrastructure and human resources to address school to work transition; (b) mapping non-formal education aimed at vulnerable young people in rural areas, in terms of existing infrastructures, types of organization and types of interventions; (c) the role of VET in preventing Early School Leaving from Education and Training (ESLET) in rural areas (including best-practices than can be delivered as case studies); or (d) analyzing how available curricula address local resources and young people's needs.
- **Employment and Employment Services:** aims at analyzing how employment in rural areas matches local opportunities and how employment services adequately support rural young people. To achieve that, some key questions must be addressed: (a) What are the incoming employment needs and opportunities in rural areas? (b) What are the main obstacles to access employment for the younger generations? (c) Do employment services have the necessary means to address rural young people? Are they a priority for these services? (d) How is the whole process of supporting rural young (from outreach to job finding) organized? Are there best-practices that can be delivered as case studies? (e) How do the employment services match existing job offers with rural young people's needs and skills? (f) How do the services articulate job finding with training?; and (g) how much is youth self-employment under the radar of employment initiatives in rural areas?
- **Sustainability:** focuses on how the three pillars of sustainability (natural, social, and economic) can and should be combined in order to promote rural development, thus creating future prospects for rural youth. This WG will be inspired by the Green Deal initiative, to creatively discuss overlapping topics



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such as new avenues for agriculture development, social innovation aiming at youths in rural communities, or new businesses and economic activities emerging from a sustainability paradigm, including social economy initiatives. The WG will focus on the following questions: (a) How can a more sustainable agriculture sector contribute to rural youth prospects, while solving problems such as workforce rejuvenation? (b) What are the new economic activities inspired by the Green Deal and a sustainability paradigm that can represent an opportunity for rural young people's prospects? and (c) Are there social initiatives and best practices (local policies, programs, projects) that can help to improve rural younger generations to stay and prosper in rural communities?

The WGs meet once each 2 months. Each WG is responsible for delivering yearly:

- monthly reports of the WG activity;
- six materials for dissemination in social media (e.g. infographics);
- at least, one publication (submitted and/or published) of the following list: one policy brief, one report, or one peer-reviewed paper for an international journal (Q1 or Q2).

EURYO also includes three **Operational Working Groups (OG)**.

- **Training:** This WG is responsible for the organization, dissemination, and implementation of training activities. The training WG must provide yearly the following list of activities, upon proposal of the scientific WG:
 - one webinars series (including the ones proposed by the thematic groups)
 - one training school (virtual, hybrid, or face-to-face)

Once each two years, the training WG is also expected to deliver an international conference, rotating across the four themes covered by the SWG.

- **Outreaching and Consulting:** this WG is expected to constitute a grant pipeline by:
 - tracking existing funding schemes and calls;
 - regularly informing EURYO members of relevant funding opportunities through all existing channels (at least once each 2-month) and a newsletter (three times a year);



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- organizing joint research consortium's involving EURYO members and their institutions;
 - tracking and inform EURYO members of existing consulting activities for private and public institutions in areas related to the association's expertise;
 - opening calls for expression of interest for these consulting activities among EURYO members.
- **Communication and Dissemination:** this WG is expected to manage both internal and external communication targeting different audiences (scholars, policy-makers, youth workers, and young people), including:
 - managing an internal virtual Fórum tool;
 - managing the website and social media channels;
 - preparing all dissemination materials.
 - **Ethics:** this group will be responsible for quality assurance and ethics procedures regarding activities proposed under the EURYO's umbrella. The ethics WG will operate based on a Code of Conduct in line with EU regulations for research activities. Any research, training, or consulting activity will, therefore, be assessed by this WG before implementation.

4.2.2. General Assembly

- a) The General Assembly (GA) is composed by all EURYO full and associated members as defined in point 6 and meets ordinarily twice a year. The GA is managed by one President, the First Secretary, and the Second Secretary. The President is responsible for:
- Collecting and organizing full and associate membership requests and votes;
 - Scheduling GA meetings;
 - Preparing GA agendas;
 - Notifying all registered members of the GA meetings;
 - Facilitating the discussions during the GA meetings.



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- b) The Secretaries are responsible for:
- Replacing the GA President whenever she/he is not available;
 - Checking if the GA has reached a Quorum;
 - Preparing the minutes of the meeting and circulating them by EURYO's members.

In case one of the Secretary replaces the President during a meeting and the second Secretary is also not available, any member of EURYOs attending the meeting can replace the secretaries in her/his duties during that particular meeting.

- c) The GA meets to fulfill the following duties:
- Abide by EURYOs mission and values;
 - Discuss and vote changes to the Statutes;
 - Elect the Chair, Vice-Chairs, and WGs Coordinators, and Co-Coordinator for 4 year-term;
 - Manage procedures leading to replacement Chair, Vice-Chairs, and WGs Coordinators and Co-Coordinator;
 - Discuss and vote on the EURYOs strategic plan for a 4-year term;
 - Discuss and vote on the EURYOs annual Working Plans and Budgets;
 - Set membership fees;
 - Approve or refuse swiftly membership applications through an e-vote procedure;
 - Approve GA meetings minutes;
 - In fulfilling their powers, take into consideration the findings, advice, and recommendations of the Advisory Board.
- d) Overall, the quorum for all GA decisions is reached when half of the GA members attend the meeting with the exception of points e and f of this article.
- e) All the GA decisions for EURYOs management positions are made by a simple majority of members attending a GA meeting. All documents (strategic plans, annual Working Plans and Budgets) are approved by two-thirds of the members attending the GA meeting.



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- f) Replacement of any member in a key position of the association can be requested by a group representing at least one-fourth of EURYO's Full Members.

Replacement is approved by two-thirds of the Full members and Associate Members representatives attending a GA meeting.

4.3. Secretariat

EURYO has its registered office in the University Institute of Lisbon (Iscte), Avenida das Forças Armadas, 1649-026 Lisboa.

III – Membership

6. Types of members

6.1. Full members

- a) EURYO is composed of full members, chosen without distinction of nationality, race, sex, and creed, nor of adherence to ideological, political or professional groups, from among persons who are particularly interested in the association's mission and aims.
- b) Membership requests are sent to the GA using EURYO's website tool for that purpose.
- c) Only full members can take part in the direction and management of the organization: they are admitted at the proposal of the GA President, by an e-vote procedure open for 10 consecutive days.
- d) The membership fee is set by the GA and must be paid between the 1st of September and the 1st of December of each year. The title of Full Member and payment of membership fee gives exclusive right to certain EURYO's benefits listed in point 7 a..
- e) full members who fail to respond to convocations for two successive GA may, after the lapse of six months from the second GA, or who have failed to pay their fees in two consecutive years may be considered by the Executive Committee as having resigned. The GA may then terminate the membership status of full member.



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- f) Full members can resign by written notification (e-mail) to the GA President.

6.2. Associate members

- a) Organizations, foundations, institutions, corporate bodies without distinction of nationality, nor adherence to ideological, political, or professional groups, who may be interested in EURYO's aims and activities, and who wish to financially support the Association, may be accepted as Associate Member and may use that title. Associate membership is subject to the approval of GA.
- b) The membership fee is set annually by the GA and must be paid between the 1st of September and the 1st of December of each year. The title of Associate Member and payment of membership fee gives exclusive right to certain EURYO's benefits listed in point 7.b..
- c) Each associate member counts for one vote, irrespectively of the fact that more than one institution is representing the same country.
- d) associate members who fail to respond to convocations for two successive GA may, after the lapse of six months from the second GA, or who have failed to pay their fees in two consecutive years may be considered by the Executive Committee as having resigned. The GA may then terminate the membership status of associate member.
- e) The associate members can resign by written notification to the GA.

6.3. Collaborating partners

- a) Organizations, foundations, institutions, corporate bodies, without distinction of nationality, nor of adherence to ideological, political, or professional groups, who may be interested in EURYO's aims and activities, and who wish to collaborate with the Association, may be accepted as Collaborating Partners and may use that title. Collaboration is subject to the approval of GA.
- b) The agreement to be a Collaborating partner must be based on the mutual interest in the collaboration between the Association and the partner.
- c) The Collaborating Partners has no fees and will not have any right for EURYO's services including the right to vote in any of the GA, working



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- group, commission or project, inside the Association. They cannot take part in the direction and management of the organization;
- d) On the recommendation of the Council, the GA may terminate the Collaboration status.
- e) The Collaborating Partners can resign by written notification to the GA.

7. Benefits

7.1. Full members

Full members are awarded with:

- a) 25% discount in all paid training activities and conferences promoted by EURYO.
- b) 25% discount in EURYO's journal publication fees.
- c) Personal public profile in EURYO's webpage.
- d) Priority access to training activities.
- e) Priority over external experts in being invited for consultancy activities hired to EURYO.
- f) Reception of three annual newsletters containing announcements of funding calls, calls for papers or announcements of conferences in thematic areas covered by EURYO.
- g) Right to use personal EURYO's logo in personal institutional website or dissemination materials (e.g., presentations).
- h) Exclusive access to raw data of research conducted by scientific projects supported by EURYO.
- i) Access to databases created by EURYO's scientific WGs.

7.2. Associate members

- a) Copies EURYO's publications for institutional libraries.
- b) Possibility of collaboration on producing papers or special issues organized by EURYO.
- c) Hot link for institutional website on EURYO's website.
- d) Free advertisement of local/institutional journals calls for papers and events on EURYO's website.
- e) Right to use EURYO's logo in institutional dissemination materials.



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- f) Possibility of grants for special activities and projects.
- g) Possibility of organising sessions (e.g. workshops, creative sessions) at EURYO's biannual conference with a 50% discount.

IV - Financial resources

8. Funding

The financial resources at EURYO's disposal are notably:

- a) Fees from full and associate members, at rates decided upon by the GA, it being understood that full members will never be liable for additional contributions.
- b) Payments or overheads for research, study, and consultation contracts entered into with international organizations and public or private institutions.
- c) Fees from the organization of conference, congress, workshops, trainings or any other event organized by EURYO.
- d) Fees from the publication of scientific journals.
- e) Grants from international organizations and public or private authorities.
- f) Donations and legacies.

V. Final dispositions

9. Statutes amendments or dissolution

- a) The present Statutes can be amended at any time by an Extraordinary GA of members convened on the initiative of the Council or at the request of one-fourth of the full members.
- b) The date of the Extraordinary GA which will pronounce on the said proposal must be notified by the GA President at least one month in advance.
- c) Deliberations at the Extraordinary GA are only valid if two-thirds of the total number of members (sum of Full Members and Associate Members representatives) are present or represented in the meeting.
- d) No decision will be passed unless it secures a majority of two-thirds of the votes of those present or represented, only votes for or against being counted.



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- e) However, if this Extraordinary GA is not attended by two-thirds of EURYOs members another Extraordinary GA, convened, on the same conditions as indicated above, will decide definitively and validly on the proposal under consideration, whatever the number of members present or represented.
- f) The Extraordinary GA will define the mode of dissolution and liquidation of the association.



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