



## **MIREES ALUMNI INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

**The Statute of the Association has been stipulated by MAiA founding members Ms. Sara Barbieri and Mr. Carlo de Marco on 26/01/2012 at Notary Office Dr. Giorgio Olivieri, Corso G. Mazzini 10, 47100 Forlì (FC) Italy.**

**The original version of the Statute was drawn up in Italian language. What follows is a faithful English version translated by the MAiA Executive Board in order to allow its dissemination among the members.**

**The Statute was amended on 08/12/2014 as a result of the voting session which took place during MAiA General Assembly. The Statute was amended on 05/06/2021 as a result of the voting session which took place during MAiA Extraordinary Assembly.**

### **ART. 1**

MAiA is a non-recognized cultural association, freely organized under and following Article 36 of the Italian Civil Code.

### **ART. 2 – Venue**

The Association is based in Forlì (FC). Any change of venue within the same municipality does not constitute a statutory amendment. According to a prior resolution of the Board, the Association may establish offices or representations in other universities, research institutes and other relevant bodies on the Italian territory or third countries, particularly at the MIREES partner universities.

### **ART. 3 – Object and aim**

MAiA is a non-partisan, non-denominational and non-profit organization, which pursues the following social objectives:

- To support the Master of Arts MIREES by promoting its teaching activity and international character through its alumni's career paths;
- To foster high level cooperation among universities, professors, researchers and students of the MIREES network;
- To encourage active collaboration and exchange among former MIREES graduates (both the graduates of the current master degree and of the previously issued "*master Universitario*"), with the aim of easing their integration, once graduated, into the job market and to advance their research on Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans, as well as concerning the countries of former Soviet Union;
- To implement projects which are designed to promote cultural, social, political and economic development of the countries of Central and South Eastern Europe and to enhance mutual understanding in terms of cultural, political and economic cooperation between these countries, as well as Italy and the EU;
- To call for the practice of good-quality, varied and tailored job, training, apprenticeship or internship offers, including fair remuneration.

#### **ART. 4 – Duration**

The Association has unlimited duration. However, considering the strong link with the graduate program, if the latter should cease to exist, the executive and the advisory board, upon extraordinary assembly, shall decide whether to continue MAiA or not.

#### **ART. 5 – Members**

All the MIREES graduates (henceforth: MIREES Alumni) have the right to automatically become ordinary members of MAiA. In addition, MIREES graduates may intend to become active members after filling out the form and paying the membership fee with a validity of 2 (two) years, the extent of which and method of contribution will be determined annually by the Board.

#### **ART. 6 - Members' rights**

MAiA members have social powers and responsibilities; they constitute ordinary and extraordinary assemblies and enjoy the rights to vote and to stand as social positions.

#### **ART. 7 - Categories of members**

The Association includes the following categories of members:

- Founding members: are the signatories of the Memorandum which the present Statute is attached to, as well as the members who join the association within a month of its foundation. They are entitled to participate in annual events or any other initiatives. The founding members do not and shall not be required to pay membership fees.
- Active members: alumni who, after filling out the membership form and paying any membership fee, wish to join the Association, participating in its projects and social goals. Maintaining the status of active member shall be subject to the regular payment of the biannual membership fee.
- Ordinary members: are all the MIREES graduates who wish to join the Association, participating in its rules and social goals. Ordinary members get regular updates regarding the association activities and may wish at any time to become active members.
- Honorary members: researchers, professors and friends who are not MIREES graduates but belong to the MIREES community. They actively participate in the activities of the Association and of those of MIREES and its consortium.

Founding and active members and ordinary members have equal rights: to vote at ordinary and extraordinary assemblies; to approve or amend the Statute and regulations; to design the governing bodies of the Association; to approve the budget office as well as all Assembly acts.

#### **ART. 8- Admission, withdrawal and exclusion**

The admission of new active members is decided by the Executive Board, without stating any reasons and without appeal. Any member may at any time withdraw from the Association by written notice to the secretary of the same. Members who commit disreputable actions, inside or outside the Association, that constitute a clear obstacle to its activities or that harm the reputation of MAiA, could be expelled. The Board of Arbitrators will be convened to take the decision.

## **ART. 9 - Governing Bodies**

The governing bodies are:

Members' Assembly;

The Executive Board (consisting of):

- the President;
- the Vice-President(s);
- the Secretary;
- the Treasurer;
- the Counsellor (if any).

The Advisory Board.

## **ART. 10 - Members' Assembly**

The Assembly of Members may be ordinary or extraordinary. The Assembly is composed of all the founding, ordinary, active, and honorary members. The Assembly elects the Executive Board: founding, ordinary and active members are entitled to vote.

The Assembly has the task of outlining the general guidelines of the Association through proposals, initiatives, and projects in line with the purposes thereof. Only the extraordinary assembly has the power to amend the Statute and internal regulations of the Association. The ordinary assembly must be convened by the President a) at least once a year, within four months after closing the fiscal year, in order to approve the balance and budget sheets; b) as many times as the Executive Board deems necessary; c) when a specific agenda is requested in written form by at least one third of the members. In the latter case, the meeting must be convened within thirty days.

In order to cope with foreseeable difficulties of physically meeting in the same place, and given the highly international nature of the Association, the modalities of convening include long-distance forms of communication.

The convening of any Assembly shall be made by announcing an agenda, place, date and time of the first and second calls. This announcement shall be sent to all members via e-mail before the fixed date of the meeting. The first call is to be considered valid when at least half plus one of the members are present. The second call (at least 24 hours following the previous one) is valid whatever the number of members present or represented is.

The meeting is chaired by the Board President or, in his absence, by the vice-President. In case both of them are absent, the meeting will be chaired by the oldest member present. Each member has one vote and may delegate another active member to represent him/herself. The authorization shall be sent from the e-mail address of the member delegating to the e-mail address of the Executive Board. Each delegated member may attend the meeting representing no more than another member.

The Assembly may decide with a simple majority of participants' votes unless otherwise specified by this Statute.

The members' Assembly, sovereign body of the Association, may dissolve the executive Board in case of serious and motivated reasons, by a two-thirds majority of all members. The decisions taken by the Assembly will be compiled into reports, transcribed, and signed by the chairman and the secretary. Drafting the report of the meeting is normally the responsibility of the Secretary.

## **ART. 11 - Amendments to the Statute**

Amendments to this Statute may be adopted only by extraordinary Assembly and only if in the agenda. In order to approve these changes, it will be necessary to achieve the qualified majority of two thirds of the participating members.

## **ART. 12 – Executive Board**

The Executive Board is elected with an absolute majority during the ordinary Assembly which takes place every three years and which also elects, if established, the Board of Arbitration. Such votes must take place by secret ballot.

The Board is composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven people chosen among founding, active, and ordinary members who wish to become active members. The Board elects President, vice-President, Secretary, and appoints the Treasurer. The role of Treasurer and Secretary can be covered by the same member of the Board. The Board may also include one or more Counsellors.

All the Board's offices, to be exercised free of charge or rewarded with a small symbolic compensation, have a duration of three years and its members may be re-elected. In order to ensure continuity to the Association's work, the outgoing President has the right to be part of the new Board. Such a right, in case the outgoing President cannot or does not wish to exercise it, is transferred to the outgoing vice-President or the oldest outgoing member or, on the basis of the same criterion, up to exhaustion of the outgoing members.

The Board shall meet whenever the President (or at least two of its members) deem it necessary, without further formalities. The meeting is chaired by the President or vice-President. The executive Board shall act unanimously or, where this is not possible, with an absolute majority of its members, on a priority basis. The main task of the council is to plan and promote the Association activities and to ensure that they are relevant to its purpose.

In particular, any decision about each initiative of the Association and the ways to pursue it, is up to the Board. To this end, the Executive Board is required to listen to the opinions and suggestions of the Assembly's members, and to prepare both an annual and a three-year action plan showing the guidelines, projects and priority activities, as well as possible funding sources.

Furthermore, the Executive Board shall act on the following subjects:

- Admission and expulsion of new members;
- Approval of the budget and balance sheet to be submitted as explained in art. 14;
- Extent of any annual membership fees;
- Members' ordinary and extraordinary meetings, to be called at least once a year, on the decisions referred to in Article 11, third paragraph;
- Drafting of regulations for social activity;
- Management of ordinary and extraordinary administration, with the exception of tasks specifically assigned to the assembly.

The Board is jointly liable for the good performance of the Association, both in moral and financial terms.

## **ART. 13 - President, Vice-President and Treasurer**

The President, elected by the Executive Board, fully heads and legally represents the Association. He or she promotes, in consultation with the Executive Board, the amendments to this Statute if needed. The vice-President replaces the President and assumes his or her tasks in case of absence, impediment or if delegated.

The Treasurer takes care of the financial administration of the Association, is in charge of collecting any dues and revenue, keeps the accounting books and prepares, in collaboration with the Board, the balance and budget sheets and ensures the management of expenditures.

#### **ART. - 14 Advisory Board**

All active members form the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board provides independent feedback to the Executive Board and ensures that the Association outputs are fit for purpose.

Members of the Board (i.e. active members) are eligible to apply to all activities proposed and sponsored by the Association. Ordinary members wishing to apply to such activities need to become active members first (see Art. 7).

#### **ART. 15 - Board of Arbitrators**

The Board of Arbitrators may be established by the Assembly and is responsible for resolving disputes concerning the admission and expulsion of members who commit disreputable actions, inside or outside the Association, that constitute a clear obstacle to its activities or which harm the reputation of MAiA.

The Board of Arbitrators may also rule on executive board members' unworthiness and possible exceptions moved by partners or groups of shareholders on the legitimacy of the work.

The Board of Arbitrators can be formed on the initiative of the Executive Board, which proposes to the Assembly to elect the three arbitrators from among its members, by a simple majority and by secret ballot.

The Board of Arbitrators remains in office for two years and its members can be re-elected. If the Board is not formed, the Executive Board will be called to rule on matters related to expulsion of members.

#### **ART. 16 – Assets of the Association revenues**

Mutual fund aimed exclusively to the realization of the social aims.

The Association's assets consist of:

- Membership fees approved by the Board of Directors and paid by the shareholders;
- Contributions to the Association given by “Alma Mater Studiorum” (University of Bologna), or by the MIREES Consortium; other contributions raised from participating in European, national or local authorities' calls for funding in order to implement social activities; any bequests and donations;
- Movable and immovable properties received by the Association in any capacity as long as legitimate;
- Reserve fund;

The revenue of the Association are:

- Any fees;
- Any grants, bequests, donations;
- Any other income that contributes to increasing the mutual fund.

#### **ART. 17 - Financial reporting**

The fiscal year coincides with the calendar year and the balance and budget acts must be approved without exception by June 30 of each year.

#### **ART. 18 Assets of the Association**

In any form, the assets of the Association shall not be divided among the members. In the event of dissolution of the Association, the assets will be donated to other non-profit organizations which pursue compatible goals with those of the Association.

**ART. 19 - Final and transitional provisions**

Although not provided by the present Statute, reference is made to the provisions of the Italian Civil Code and other laws in force.