

Children's Rights European Academic Network (CREAN)

Statutes

26.09.2017¹

Chapter I. Mission and aims

Article 1. Name of the network

Between the members of CREAN is hereby constituted a network under the form of an association within the meaning of Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss civil code whose name shall be "CREAN - Children's Rights European Academic Network", in the following referred to as CREAN. English is the working language of CREAN.

Article 2. Seat, Coordination Office and duration

CREAN has its seat at its Coordination Office. The seat and Coordination Office can be transferred to another member by decision of the General Assembly.

CREAN is established for an unlimited period of time.

Article 3. Aims, objectives and activities

CREAN aims to further enhance the academic field of children's rights as an interdisciplinary field of studies. The network is composed of European higher education institutions that work together to support the development of education, research and outreach activities.

The objectives of CREAN include:

- Promote attitudes that recognise children as subjects of rights principally as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Promote professional ethics that respect children as competent subjects.
- Promote children's rights to resources and participation in decision-making.
- Promote learning between advanced programmes on children's rights across European universities.
- Produce innovative knowledge and meet the need of forming human resources within Europe and on an international level.
- Foster cooperation between universities, public institutions and NGOs working in the field of children's rights.

To achieve these objectives, the activities undertaken by CREAN include:

- The organization of conferences and seminars
- Exchange of information (newsletter) and good practices
- Promotion of the interests of its members
- Exchange of students and teachers
- Events for students and alumni
- Research and outreach projects
- Scientific publications

¹ The initial statutes that have established the "European Network of Masters in Children's Rights" (ENMCR) as an internationally not for profit entity were adopted in 2007. Following decisions made during the General Assembly Meetings of 23 September 2013 (Madrid) and 2 July 2015 (Geneva), the actual statutes incorporate the expanded mandate and activities and also refer to the network as the "Children's Rights European Academic Network" (CREAN). The present version of the statutes includes technical modifications adopted by the Steering Committee on 26 September 2017 due to the transfer of the Coordination Office from the Freie Universität Berlin to the University of Geneva.

Chapter II. Members

Article 4. Who can be a member

CREAN members are higher education institutions which are based in one of the Council of Europe member states. The content of its members' teaching programmes, research projects and consultancies deal with children, childhood and children's rights both within the European region as well as beyond, for instance in relation to North-South dialogues and UN policies and mechanisms.

Article 5. Acquisition and loss of membership

Membership in CREAN can be acquired by:

- Letter of intent directed to the Steering Committee to enter CREAN and a
- Proposal through members of CREAN and
- Unanimous acceptance by the Steering Committee.

Thereafter, the General Assembly approves or rejects the Steering Committee's decision with a minimum of two-thirds of the votes of the members present or represented.

The Steering Committee can initiate the exclusion of a member from CREAN with a unanimous vote in case of disregard of the objectives, rules and statutes of the network as written here as well as in case of insufficient will.

The exclusion has to be approved by the General Assembly by simple majority vote.

Any member is free to resign from CREAN by submitting a letter of resignation to the Steering Committee in written form. Such resignation shall only be effective one month after reception of the resignation letter.

Those institutions or associations who lose their membership do not have any rights on the assets which stay as an exclusive profit of the network.

Article 6. Members' rights

Members have the following rights:

- To participate in activities organized by CREAN.
- To receive all information and communication on the activities and proceedings of CREAN.
- To vote in the General Assembly.
- To present suggestions to the General Assembly.
- To have a representative in the General Assembly.
- To demand fulfilment of duties of the General Assembly.
- To review economic activities of CREAN.
- Represent CREAN in seminars, conferences, forums, panels etc. with the approval/ agreement of the Steering Committee and in accordance with the statutes as written here.
- To present candidates to be elected into the Steering Committee

Article 7. Responsibilities of members

Members have the following responsibilities:

- To act according to all articles of the statutes as written here.
- To cooperate with the objectives of CREAN as written in the statutes.
- To pay a membership fee that will be established by the General Assembly

Chapter III. Governing bodies of the network

The governing bodies of CREAN are the General Assembly, the Steering Committee and the Coordination Office

Article 8. The General Assembly

8.1. The General Assembly is CREAN's highest decision-making body and is made up by all CREAN members.

8.2. The General Assembly possesses all powers permitting the realisation of the aims of the network which cannot be conferred or delegated by the Steering Committee.

8.3. The General Assembly has the following authorities:

- Designate the member that will host the network's seat and Coordination Office
- Election and dismissal of the Steering Committee members
- Election and dismissal of the Chairperson of the Steering Committee
- Approval of the annual plan of activities, the budget and the annual accounts.
- Exclusion of an institution as a member, on the basis of a proposal from the Steering Committee.
- Define obligations of members and the amount of the annual membership fee.
- Change of the statutes (See article 11)
- Voluntary dissolution of the network.

8.4. The General Assembly meets in principle every two years. The Chairperson of the Steering Committee will call for the meeting inviting the members by letter or email, which shall be sent at least eight weeks prior to the meeting including the proposed place, date and time.

The Steering Committee establishes the agenda of the meeting which shall be sent by letter or email to each member at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

The General Assembly meeting is chaired by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

In case of hindrance of a General Assembly member to join the meeting he/she may delegate, in writing to the Coordination Office, another representative of his/her institution or a substitute.

8.5. All members are entitled to vote in the General Assembly. Decisions are taken by simple majority vote of the members present and represented except as permitted by Statutes or by Law. Minutes of the meetings of the General Assembly will be sent to all members.

Article 9. The Steering Committee

9.1. The Steering Committee is CREAN's permanent representative organ, in charge of executing all decisions of the General Assembly, with the prerogative that they are not contrary to the present statutes. It consists of one ex officio representative of the member institution that hosts the Coordination Office and of four representatives of CREAN members that are elected by the General Assembly by simple majority of the members or its representatives for a period of three years and can be re-elected. The General Assembly has the right to change the total number of members of the Steering Committee in every election respecting a minimum number of 3.

The Chairperson of the Steering Committee is elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years. The Steering Committee appoints one of its members as deputy Chairperson in case of need. The Chairperson and deputy Chairperson of the Steering Committee may be re-elected.

9.2. The Steering Committee has the decision-making power on all affairs that have not been reserved to the General Assembly, either by this statute or a resolution of the General Assembly.

In particular, the Steering Committee has the following authorities:

- Call the annual General Assembly
- Present an annual report and an annual budget that are prepared by the Coordination Office to the General Assembly.
- Represent CREAN in front of public and private entities.
- Undertake fundraising activities, present proposals, coordinate common activities
- Conclude an agreement with the host institution about the rights and obligations of the Coordination Office

9.3. The Steering Committee shall meet and stay in touch at least once every 6 months and whenever the majority of the Steering Committee members require it. Due to the different locations of the members these contacts will be held by cybernetic means such as videoconference and other similar means. In case of hindrance of a Steering Committee member to join the meeting he/she may delegate, in writing to the Coordination Office, another representative of his/her institution or a deputy.

9.4. All decisions taken by the Steering Committee are taken by majority vote in accordance to the statutes. In between meetings, a decision of the Steering Committee may be taken by unanimous written approval. Electronic mail can be used as written approval in this sense.

9.5. All deeds concerning the network, except for daily management deeds, are validly signed either by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee together with another Steering Committee member - without them having to justify a previous decision of the Steering Committee - or, within the boundaries of the daily management deeds by a delegate responsible for these daily deeds.

All Steering Committee members as well as the delegate for daily management deeds are not bound in a contract to any personal obligations relating to the network's engagements. Their responsibility is limited to executing the mandate they received and to the mistakes that occur while they are doing so.

Article 10. Coordination Office

10.1. The Coordination Office is led by a single person, who can exercise powers as delegated by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee and the Steering Committee members.

10.2. The Coordination Office, in cooperation with the Steering Committee, has the following authorities:

- All coordinative and day by day administrative management activities.
- Assurance of flow of information.
- Website administration.
- Fundraising activities.
- Any activity delegated by the Steering Committee contributing to the achievement of the aims and objectives as written in the statutes.
- Public Relations activities.
- Dissemination of activities of CREAN members and their results.

Chapter IV. Concluding provisions

Article 11. Changing of statutes and dissolution of CREAN

Each proposal for a change in the articles of the CREAN statutes or for the dissolution thereof must be initiated by the Steering Committee or by one-fifth of the network members. In such case, the General Assembly can only take valid decisions if at least two thirds of its members are present or represented. In case this condition is not met, the Steering Committee convenes the General Assembly once again, with the same agenda and at least 15 days after the first scheduled reunion. The second convened General Assembly works and takes decisions regardless of the number of members present. This circumstance must specifically be mentioned in the second invitation. All changes to the statutes must be approved by a two thirds majority of all members present or represented.

Article 12. Dissolution of the network

The General Assembly can decide on the network's dissolution with a majority of four fifths of the members present or represented.

In case of the network's dissolution, the General Assembly will decide on the manner in which CREAN will be dissolved. The General Assembly designates one or several persons responsible for the liquidation who have wide-ranging powers to carry out the liquidation with all possible restrictions indicated by the General Assembly. CREAN's assets will be allocated to one or several projects, associations, foundations etc. that relate to the goals of CREAN as mentioned in Article 3 hereof, if no such association can be found, the network's assets shall go to another project with disinterested goals.