



The European Law Students' Association

GRONINGEN

# **STATUTES ELSA GRONINGEN**

**Official English Copy**

## **Article 1. NAME, SEAT, AND DURATION**

1.1 The Association is called: “ELSA Groningen” ELSA stands for The European Law Students’ Association. ELSA Groningen is established in the Municipality of Groningen.

1.2 The Association is established for an unlimited period of time.

1.3 The Association is connected to ELSA The Netherlands, an Association with full legal capacity, established in Amsterdam and seating the Municipality of Amsterdam.

## **Article 2. PURPOSE**

2.1 The Association is independent and non-political in nature, aiming at the promotion and development of mutual understanding and cooperation, and at the establishment of personal contacts between law students and young lawyers from different European countries; all this is in line with the objectives of ELSA International.

2.2 The Association seeks to achieve this purpose through:

a. Encouraging and coordinating the following activities, which are then organised by its members:

1. Professional Development;
2. Academic Activities;
3. Seminars & Conferences;
4. Competitions

b. Promoting cooperation and communication between its members and the ELSA groups established abroad;

c. Organisation of other activities which by which they implement their rights and obligations as derived from their membership of ELSA International;

2.3 The Association does not seek to profit from members

2.4 The vision and mission of ELSA Groningen constitute the following core principles:



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ELSA Groningen envisions growing an ever closer and ever-fruitful community where law students in Groningen are able to achieve their full potential professionally, personally, and socially.

ELSA Groningen hopes to enable and provide opportunities in order to support individual and collective growth for both internal and external stakeholders of the Association.

ELSA Groningen recognizes the honor of being handed the trust and responsibility of our role as the Board. Hence, ELSA Groningen intends to be mindful and committed to the goals of ELSA International and align them with our goals as a local chapter. The Association is committed to excellence by thoroughly ensuring the quality of our work. ELSA Groningen shall see to it that the Association displays consistency and sustainability for future boards.

Inclusivity will always be a shared vision of ELSA Groningen. ELSA Groningen is committed to this vision by ensuring varied opportunities that benefit a wide range of people. ELSA Groningen hopes to see differences in educational levels, backgrounds, and cultures, not as boundaries but as ways to connect and grow.

### **Article 3. MEMBERS**

3.1 Members of the Association can be:

- a. Those who are registered as students at the Faculty of Law of the University of Groningen;
- b. Those who are affiliated with the Faculty of Law at the University of Groningen;
- c. Those who have graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Groningen, via the alumni programme offered by ELSA International;

3.2 The Board shall keep a register containing the names, email addresses, date of birth, and student number of all members

### **Article 4. END OF MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 The membership ends:

- a. by the death of the member;
- b. by cancellation by the member;



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c. by cancellation on behalf of the Association; this can happen if the member has ceased to meet the requirements for membership if he fails to fulfil his obligations towards the Association, and if the Association cannot reasonably be expected to continue the membership;

d. by dismay; this can only be pronounced when a member acts contrary to the regulations or resolutions of the Association or unreasonably disadvantages the Association.

4.2 Termination by the Association is effected by the board.

4.3 Termination of membership by the member or by the Association can only take place towards the end of the Association year and with due observance of a notice period of four weeks. However, membership can be terminated immediately if the Association or the member cannot reasonably be expected to continue the membership.

4.4 A cancellation contrary to the provisions of the previous paragraph will end the membership at the earliest permitted time following the date on which it was cancelled.

4.5 A member is not authorised to exclude a decision by which the obligations of the members of a financial nature have been increased by the cancellation of his membership.

4.6 Expulsion from membership is done by the board through a process of unanimous voting.

4.7 The decision to terminate membership by the Association on the grounds that the Association cannot reasonably be expected to continue the membership and the decision to expel from membership shall be made within one month of receipt of the notification of the resolution may be appealed to the general meeting. To this end, he will be notified in writing of the decision, stating the reasons, as soon as possible. During the appeal period and pending the appeal, the member is suspended.

4.8 When membership ends in the course of the Association year, the annual contribution will nevertheless remain due for the whole.

## **Article 5. ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

5.1 The members are obliged to pay an annual contribution, which will be determined by the general meeting.

## **Article 6. MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION**



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6.1 The Board consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of ten persons who are appointed by the general meeting.

6.2 The appointment is for a period of one year, commencing at the start of the Association year.

6.3 All members of the Board must be a registered student at The University of Groningen.

## **Article 7. APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARD**

7.1 Interest in a Board position shall be indicated at the end of the Association year that they wish to participate in the new Board. To this end, they must send a letter of application or e-mail to the Secretary General of ELSA Groningen before a date to be determined by the Board. In this, the member must indicate one or more preferences for certain board positions. Within seven days of the submission deadline, the member will receive an invitation for an interview with at least two members of the current Board.

7.2 The Board will first look for a President. This intended President will attend all other interviews for the new Board and has the right to speak. The current Board has the final decision on who will be nominated at the General Meeting. The board must, however, take the opinion of the intended President into account in its deliberations. If the proposed President is from the current Board, this person will be excluded from the decision-making process for this position.

7.3 The Board draws up a nomination of Board members. The Board must announce its nomination to the members at least seven days before the General Meeting at which the proposed Board is presented.

7.4 A nomination by ten or more members must be submitted to the Secretary-General, with signatures of ten or more, no later than 48 hours before the start of the General Meeting at which the proposed Board is presented.

7.5 During the last General Meeting of the Association year, the new Board is appointed in elections

## **ARTICLE 8. DAILY MANAGEMENT**

The executive board consists of the following members: President, Secretary General, and Treasurer.

8.1 The principal duties of the President, insofar as not entrusted to others, include:



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- a. Acting as Chairman of General Meetings and Board Meetings;
- b. Establishing the agenda for General Meetings and Board Meetings;
- c. Adopting and signing the minutes of the General Meetings and Board meetings;
- d. Acting as the first representative of the Association;
- e. Acting as an intermediary between the Association and the University of Groningen;
- f. The care for the contact of the Board with offices and companies outside the University of Groningen, insofar as this is entrusted by the Board to the President;
- g. Testing decisions and actions of the Board, Committees, and Teams against the Articles and the Rules of Procedure;
- h. Publishing an annual report in conjunction with the Secretary-General;
- i. Responsibility for the performance of the Directors in conjunction with the responsible Director;
- j. Responsibility for the expansion of the Association;
- k. Assisting and/or replacing Board members in relevant matters and/or activities;
- l. Responsibility for managing the Board members and the cooperation of the Board.

8.2 The Secretary General's principal duties, in so far as not entrusted to others, include:

- a. Taking care of the correspondence of the Board;
- b. Taking minutes of General Meetings and Board Meetings;
- c. Adopting and signing the minutes of the General Meetings and Board meetings;
- d. Taking care of the archive and membership file of the Association;
- e. Convening General Assemblies;
- f. Publishing an annual report in collaboration with the President.

8.3 The principal duties of the Treasurer, to the extent not assigned to others, include:



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- a. To administer the Association's funds and to keep accurate records of the Association's income and expenses in financial accounts;
- b. The collection of the contribution;
- c. Making payments and collecting outstanding balances;
- d. The annual preparation of a financial report on the financial year, which must be submitted to the General Meeting and stated on the agenda;
- e. Maintaining contacts with the financial institutions that are important to the Association;
- f. The care for the contact of the Board with offices and companies outside the University of Groningen insofar as this has not been assigned to the President by the Board;
- g. The care for applying for and receiving board months;
- h. The organisation of office visits at Partners.

8.4 The Secretary-General acts as deputy to the President in his or her absence

## **Article 9. COORDINATING GOVERNANCE FUNCTIONS**

The coordinating board positions consist of Vice President of Academic Activities, Vice President of Marketing, Vice President of Seminars & Conferences, Vice President of Professional Development, and Vice President of Competitions.

9.1 It is the duty of the coordinating board to regularly report their activities to the executive board during board meetings. The purpose of this reporting function is the following:

- a. For the President and Secretary General to collect data for the annual report;
- b. For the Treasurer to be able to prepare the financial report for the financial year;
- c. To inform the Treasurer of any events that require the use of the budget, so that they may make the necessary calculations.

9.2 The main duties of the Vice President of Academic Activities, insofar as not entrusted to others, include, but are not limited to:

- a. The organization of academic activities, such as drinks, excursions, and lectures at locations;



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b. Managing a specific Committee or Team.

9.3 The principal duties of the Vice President of Marketing, insofar as not assigned to others, include, but are not limited to:

a. Taking care of the promotion of the Association;

b. Announcing activities through social media;

c. Managing the ELSA website;

d. Managing a specific Committee or Team.

9.4 The principal duties of the Vice President of Seminars & Conferences, insofar as not assigned to others, include, but are not limited to:

a. The organization of debates and lectures;

b. the organization of seminars and symposia;

c. The organization of travel;

d. Managing a specific Committee or Team.

9.5 The main duties of the Vice President of Professional Development include, but are not limited to, insofar as not assigned to others:

a. Taking care of the international dimension of the Association;

b. The care of the internship program of ELSA, Professional Development;

c. The organization of career-related events;

d. Managing a specific Committee or Team.

9.6 The principal duties of the Vice President of Competitions include, but are not limited to, insofar as not assigned to others:

a. The organization of academic competitions;

b. Managing a specific Committee or Team.

## **Article 10. DIRECTORS**

10.1 The Board may appoint Directors



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10.2 The Board is responsible for the performance of the Directors. The Directors report regularly to the Board meeting at the invitation of the Board.

## **Article 11. GENERAL MEETING**

11.1 A General Meeting is held at least once per Association year at a time and place to be determined by the Board, but not:

- a. On Saturdays, Sundays, or recognized holidays;
- b. During an academic recess.

11.2 The official language at the General Meeting is English.

11.3 The official language at the General Meeting is Dutch if the General Meeting unanimously decides to do so.

11.4 The general meeting in the Association has all powers that are not assigned to the board by law or the articles of Association.

11.5 Every year, no later than six months after the end of the Association year, a general meeting – the annual meeting – is held. The annual meeting will discuss, among other things:

- a. the annual report and the account and accountability, together with the report of the committee referred to therein;
- b. the appointment of the committee for the following Association year;
- c. filling any vacancies;
- d. proposals of the board or the members, announced in the notice convening the meeting.

## **Article 12. ACCESS AND VOTING RIGHTS**

12.1 All members of the Association, as well as the board member who is not a member of the Association, have access to the general meeting.

12.2 Each member of the Association who is not suspended has one vote. The board member who is not a member of the Association has an advisory vote.

12.2 A member may cast his vote through another member authorised in writing. However, a member cannot represent more than two members.



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## **Article 13. PRESIDENCY AND MINUTES**

13.1 The general meetings are chaired by the chairman of the Association or his deputy. If the chairman or his deputy is absent, one of the other board members, to be designated by the board, will act as chairman. If the chairmanship is also not provided in this way, the meeting itself will provide it.

13.2 The Secretary or another person designated for this purpose by the chairman will take minutes of the proceedings at each meeting, which will be adopted and signed by the chairman and the Secretary.

## **Article 14. CONVENING GENERAL MEETINGS**

14.1 The general meetings are convened by the board. The notice shall be given in writing or through e-mail to the addresses of the members in the register of members. The term for the notice shall be at least seven days.

14.2 The subjects to be discussed are stated in the convening notice.

