



AER Youth Regional Network Statute

Appellation and terms

The *AER Youth Regional Network (YRN)* is an open network and forum within the realm of the Assembly of European Regions, AER.

Article 1 – Mission and objectives

1.1 The AER Youth Regional Network (YRN) is a forum where young people can

- a) Influence and improve local, regional and European policy;
- b) Exchange experiences and good practices.

1.2 YRN embraces the principles of Human Rights:

- a) *Universality*: Human rights must be afforded to everyone, without exception;
- b) *Indivisibility*: Human rights are indivisible and interdependent. To guarantee civil and political rights, a government must also ensure economic, social and cultural rights (and vice versa);
- c) *Participation*: People have a right to participate in how decisions are made regarding protection of their rights;
- d) *Accountability*: Governments must create mechanisms of accountability for the enforcement of rights;
- e) *Transparency*: Governments must be open about all information and decision-making processes related to rights;
- f) *Non-Discrimination*: Human rights must be guaranteed without discrimination of any kind.

1.3 The mission and objectives are met by

- a) Promoting youth participation at regional and local level;

- b) Supporting to the development of legal frameworks for regional and local youth participation;
- c) Advocating cooperation with other institutions and organisations in Europe and beyond.

1.4 The YRN adheres to the Statute and governing principles of AER.

The composition of the YRN Presidium should respect a geographical and gender balance.

1.5 The working language of YRN is English.

Invitations and draft agendas should be sent to members at least six weeks and working documents at least four weeks before the meetings.

1.6 All votes are by simple majority, defined as a majority of the members present and voting, unless otherwise specified in the present statute.

All elections are carried out by secret ballot, unless an unanimous decision to the contrary is made by the body in question.

Other decisions are taken through a vote by show of hands, unless a member requests otherwise.

In the event of a tied vote, on issues other than elections, the President of the body in question has the casting vote.

1.7 Common practice of political assemblies shall be applied to all YRN meetings.

Decisions are, in principle and whenever possible, adopted by consensus. The consensus should be understood as being the absence of any objection formulated and submitted by a member which may constitute an obstacle to the decision in question.

1.8 Minutes shall be taken of the proceedings. They shall be signed by the President of the body in question, adopted at the following meeting and should be at the disposal of all members.

Article 2 – Membership

2.1 The AER Youth Regional Network is composed of organised youth at regional level such as regional youth parliaments, regional youth and

students councils, regional youth organisations or youth politicians appointed by an AER member region if the already mentioned do not exist.

Eligible members are all European regions under the condition that they respect the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe.

The term "Region" covers in principle territorial authorities between the central government and local authorities, with a political representation power as entrusted by an elected assembly.

2.2 The Presidium accepts new members. The General Assembly ratifies the Presidium's decision.

2.3 The members are each represented by two delegates. They must be 16 to 35 years old, or otherwise in compliance with their national legislation.

Article 3 – Relations with AER

3.1 The AER Executive Board is responsible for the structural relations between AER and YRN.

3.2 The YRN President is

- a) Adjunct of the AER Executive Board acting as a full member of the AER Executive Board with full voting right.
- b) A member of the Presidium of AER Committee 3 for Culture, Education and Youth.

Article 4 – The General Assembly

4.1 The General Assembly is the highest authority of YRN and convenes representatives of all its full members.

The General Assembly charges the Presidium to implement its decisions.

4.2 The General Assembly is public and convened at least once a year by the Presidium.

The presence of two thirds of the full members who have registered 10 days before the General Assembly shall be necessary to constitute the quorum.

4.3 Each region has one vote at the General Assembly. The vote will be expressed directly by one of the representatives of the member region present.

4.4 The General Assembly

- a) Adopts the annual reports from the Presidium and the Thematic Committees;
- b) Adopts the annual Work plan;
- c) Decides on setting up or disbanding the Thematic Committees;
- d) Ratifies the Presidium's decision concerning the admission of new members;
- e) Ratifies the Procedures.

4.5 The General Assembly elects separately, for a mandate of two years, the members of the Presidium:

- a) The President- who must be representing an AER member region;
- b) Three Vice Presidents, with assignments defined by the Presidium;
- c) The Presidents of the Thematic Committees;

The Presidium must be composed of members representing at least 4 different regions. They may be re-elected for a second consecutive mandate. Only two consecutive mandates are possible.

Article 5 – The Presidium

5.1 The Presidium prepares the work and all the decisions of the General Assembly. It is responsible for the management of the YRN. Between assemblies, it is the highest authority of YRN.

5.2. The Presidium

- a) Manages the coordination of all YRN activities;
- b) Recommends the General Assembly to set up or disband the Thematic Committees;
- c) Accepts new members;
- d) May entrust precise mandates, with limited time scales to third persons to achieve objectives decided on by the Presidium.

5.3 The Presidium is authorized to meet and to make decisions in accordance with the YRN's statutory objectives or useful to its smooth

running. Decisions made in this way are submitted to the General Assembly.

5.4 The invitation, draft agenda and working documents should be sent to members at least one week before the meeting.

Decisions of the Presidium are valid if at least a majority of the members are present, including participation by online means.

Article 6 – The President

6.1 The President prepares the work and all the decisions of the Presidium. The President represents the organization in all external relations.

6.2 The President chairs the meetings of the Presidium and the General Assembly and has the power to make all necessary decisions concerning the implementation of the decisions of the said bodies.

6.3 Should the President resign the First Vice-President should act as substitute until the next General Assembly.

Article 7 – The Vice-Presidents

7.1 The Vice-Presidents

- a) May represent the President;
- b) Have assignments as decided by the Presidium.

7.2 Should a Vice-President resign the Presidium will have an open call to the regions of the General Assembly for the substitute Vice-President position. The decision is made by the Presidium until the next General Assembly.

Article 8 – Thematic Committees

8.1 The Thematic Committees are open to all members of YRN

- a) The YRN Economy Committee for Economy and Regional Development;
- b) The YRN Social Committee for Social Policy and Public Health;
- c) The YRN Cultural Committee for Culture and Education.

8.2 The Committees are responsible for

- a) Exchange and dissemination of best practices;
- b) Running of programmes and projects.

8.3 The Committees may prepare, decide and implement initiatives in the framework of their assignments. Whenever relevant for the network, they may

- a) Assign ad hoc Working Groups and Task Forces to assist in its activities;
- b) Initiate studies and reports;
- c) Engage in training and capacity building;
- d) Cooperate with international, interregional, regional, municipal organisations and public authorities;
- e) Use relevant tools in the AER Toolkit.

8.4 The President of each Committee is elected by the General Assembly on proposal by the committee itself and with a term of 2 years, renewable once.

The President of the Committee is responsible for its smooth running. The Committee may appoint one or more Vice Presidents if appropriate.

8.5 The Committees will meet at least twice yearly for exchange of best practices and dissemination, project generation, consultations, and debates.

Minutes shall be drawn up after each meeting, signed by the President of the Committee. Minutes should be at the disposal of all members and must be sent to all members by online means within one week.

8.6 Should a President of a Thematic Committee resign, the Vice-President of the Thematic Committee should act as President until the next General Assembly.

Article 9 – Procedures

9.1 Within the framework of the Statute, the Procedures specify general rules of administrative, financial and technical nature.

The text of the Procedures is adopted by the Presidium and ratified by the General Assembly.

Article 10 – Amendment of statutes

10.1 This Statute can only be amended by the YRN General Assembly. The agenda of said assembly must expressly mention this item.

Article 11 - Dissolution and liquidation

11.1 The dissolution of the Network may only be proposed to the AER Executive Board by a General Assembly with a 2/3 majority, defined as more than 2/3 of those present and voting.

(Adopted by the YRN Extraordinary General Assembly in Vojvodina (RS) on 6 May 2017)