



STATUTES

(English)

1st version - Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2009)

2nd version – Madrid, Spain (2011)

3rd version – Berlin, Germany (2013)

ARTICLE 1 – ORGANISATION

ART 1. Section 1. Name

The international non-profit association shall be named "European Union of the Deaf Youth", hereinafter "EUDY" and is established under Belgian law (ivzw).

ART 1. Section 2. Legal personality

The EUDY is an international non-profit association under the Belgian law (AISBL), regulated by the dispositions of title III of the law from 27 June 1921 about the non-profit associations, the foundations and the international non-profit associations.

ART 1. Section 3. Legal seat

The legal seat of EUDY is in Belgium at the following address: Wetstraat 26/15, B-1040 Brussels. It can be transferred to any other location in Belgium by decision of the Board and must be ratified by the General Assembly. It is to be published in the Belgian State Journal (Belgisch Staatsblad).

ARTICLE 2 - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

ART 2. Section 1. Aims

EUDY is an international representative non-profit organisation for, by, and of young Deaf persons, promoting and supporting the interests of all young Deaf persons in Europe.

In keeping with the fundamental human rights stipulated and adopted by supranational organisations and followed by national as well as regional and local governments, EUDY shall have the below mentioned aims:

- a) Foster the personal development of young Deaf persons, including the strengthening of their identity, their sign language and cultural heritage;
- b) Empower young Deaf persons to become citizens in their own right by ensuring full and equal access to all information and communication through sign language
- c) Promote the rights as well as the access to education, employment, and others for any young Deaf person from urban and rural areas in the regions, including the less developed ones, in Europe;
- d) Encourage political and social participation in society from an early age;
- e) Further mutual understanding among Deaf youth across cultures, countries, and regions at all levels to facilitate the exchange of ideas, skills, and experiences.

ART 2. Section 2. Objectives

In furtherance of the above aims, EUDY shall have the following objectives:

- a. To encourage active co-operation between national organisations of young Deaf persons in Europe and to promote and co-ordinate Europe-wide activities for young Deaf persons and their representative organisations;
- b. To represent young Deaf persons at European and international institutions and organisations, which may include the European Union, Council of Europe, or the United Nations, among others;
- c. To co-operate with other organisations only if they do not object to the aims and objectives of EUDY. The exact terms shall be regulated by subsequent detailed agreements, which must be approved by the Board and ratified by the General Assembly;

- d. To encourage meaningful exchange in the spirit of intergenerational solidarity;
- e. To facilitate and organise training and other events to support the aims stipulated in the EUDY statutes;
- f. To conduct and commission research and collect data to strengthen the position of Deaf youth in the academic and political sphere. The results shall be referred to the general public and other interested parties, including EUDY partners and public institutions;
- g. To do all such things to further, directly or indirectly, the aims of EUDY.

ART 2. Section 3. Definitions

The term "Deaf young person" shall include children and refer to any person who is 30 years of age or younger. The term "Deaf" refers to any person with a hearing loss, in particular those who use a national sign language as their native or preferred language. National Deaf youth organisations are entitled to use their own preferred definition of "Deaf" and "sign language". EUDY are aware that the cultural term "Deaf" may be an evolving concept and may have to be adapted following societal and attitudinal changes.

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

ART 3. Section 1. Membership categories

There shall be five (5) membership categories:

- a. Full Members;
- b. Associate Members;
- c. Honorary Members;
- d. Individual Members;
- e. Supporting Members.

Membership in all categories shall be by application to the Board according to procedures, which the Board shall determine in the Internal Rules. Any decision regarding the removal or the addition of a new category of membership shall be ratified by the General Assembly. All applicants for Full and Associate Membership must be legally established in their respective countries.

ART 3. Section 2. Full Members

- a. National organisations of young Deaf persons active in any one or more than one European country (reflecting the Member States of the Council of Europe) with a majority of young Deaf voting members among its membership and with a governing Board with a majority of young Deaf persons and whose goals are similar to and/or in support of the above mentioned aims and objectives are eligible for admission to the Full Membership category.
- b. These organisations will hereafter be referred to as Full Members.
- c. Full membership is limited to one (1) national organisation of young Deaf persons in each country.

ART 3. Section 3. Associate Membership

Any European organisation, which does not meet the above-given definition of a national organisation of young Deaf persons, but desires to support and further the aims of EUDY, may be admitted to the Associate Membership category.

In addition, Associate Membership shall be open to the following organisations:

- a. Regional and local organisations working on behalf of and for young Deaf persons in Europe;

- b. European, national, regional, and local organisations working in spirit of the aims and objectives of EUDY;
- c. These organisations will hereafter be referred to as Associate Members.

ART 3. Section 4. Honorary Members

Honorary membership may be conferred upon any individual who has rendered important and outstanding European and international services to EUDY. The Board shall have the final decision as to whether award honorary membership. Any Member may bring a written suggestion to the Board.

ART 3. Section 5. Individual Members

Any individual of 30 years of age or younger, residing in one of the European countries, who has an interest in European Deaf youth affairs and feels that he/she can contribute to furthering the aims of the EUDY, can apply to be an Individual Member.

ART 3. Section 6. Supporting Members

Any individual older than 30 years, residing in one of the European countries, who has an interest in European Deaf youth affairs and feels that he/she can contribute in furthering the aims of the EUDY, can apply to be a Supporting Member.

ART 3. Section 7. Withdrawal

Any Member may withdraw from EUDY at any time without having to state reasons for doing so, informing the Board via written notice of resignation. The withdrawal shall come into effect after one (1) month from the date of the receipt of the written notice by the board. The Member shall, however, be obliged to pay any outstanding fees and payments.

ART 3. Section 8. Termination and Suspension

- a. Membership of the EUDY can be terminated, upon recommendation by the Board, by resolution of the General Assembly, at which at least two-thirds (2/3) of all Full Members, will be present and deciding by three-fourth (3/4) majority if the Member in question acts against the aims and objectives of the EUDY. The Member in question retains the right to defend itself at the General Assembly before the vote on exclusion or termination is taken.
- b. Solely in cases as mentioned in Article 5, Section 2c), and Article 6a) & c) the Board can suspend all rights of the Member in question.
- c. Members failing to pay regular fees without any valid reason shall automatically lose all privileges set out in the articles of statutes and Internal Rules and may by decision of the General Assembly be suspended from EUDY. If the Member has not paid the membership fee of the last three years, then the General Assembly may terminate the Member in question. The suspended or expelled member has the right to send a written appeal.

ART 3. Section 9. Rights

No Member, of whatever category at whatever point in time, can claim and/or exercise any rights whatsoever on the assets of EUDY except in a situation where a Member has granted a loan to EUDY.

ARTICLE 4 - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ART 4. Section 1. The General Assembly

- a. The General Assembly is the highest decision making body of the EUDY. It shall meet at least once a year.
- b. The General Assembly shall consist of Full Members, represented in accordance with their Articles of association but limited to a maximum of two (2) young Deaf delegates per Member. Each Full Member shall be entitled to two (2) votes. The EUDY Board Members may not act as delegates for their respective national youth organisations at the meetings of the General Assembly.
- c. The following individuals shall attend the General Assembly and have a right to address the General Assembly, but no right to vote:
 - The Board Members;
 - The Chair;
 - Staff of the EUDY Secretariat;
- d. The meetings of EUDY bodies are conducted in English and International Sign.

ART 4. Section 2. Observers

The following persons, legal or physical, shall be allowed to attend the General Assembly as "observer" and, with permission from the President, may address the General Assembly but shall have no right to vote: the Associate Members, Sponsoring Members (represented in accordance with their Articles of Association but limited to a maximum of two delegates per Member), Honorary Members, and Individual Members. The Board has the right to allow further Observers "Invitees" from co-operating organisations as stated in the aims and objectives.

ART 4. Section 3. Competencies

The General Assembly shall have the following exclusive competencies:

- a. Review and approve submitted reports on EUDY activities;
- b. Approve and amend the annual accounts and budgets;
- c. Review and approve the upcoming year's action programme and give new directions and input to EUDY;
- d. Consider and vote on all submitted recommendations, proposals and motions;
- e. Amend the Articles of association;
- f. Select and vote the countries to host EUDY activities and General Assemblies;
- g. Accept and terminate the membership of any Member according to the article 3 Section 8;
- h. Appoint and dismiss Board Members;
- i. Dissolve and liquidate EUDY.

ART 4. Section 4. Meetings

- a. Ordinary meetings of the General Assembly shall be held every year at a place voted and approved by the General Assembly. The President shall call such meetings. This call shall be accompanied by a proposed draft Agenda that shall be submitted to all Full Members at least three (3) months prior to the date of the General Assembly Meeting.
- b. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the President after consultation with the Board Members and EUDY staff or at the request of one-fourth (1/4) of the Full Members. Such meetings shall require advance notice of at least one (1) month.

- c. Delegates shall assume responsibility for their own travel and other expenses while attending meetings, unless otherwise agreed prior to the event in question.

ART 4. Section 5. Quorum and vote

- a. The General Assembly can only vote on a subject on the agenda or on any other subject that has been approved by majority of all Full Members present at the General Assembly.
- b. Each Full Member is entitled to two (2) votes at meetings of the General Assembly.
- c. The quorum shall always comprise more than 50% of those entitled to vote.
- d. Voting may be by roll call, by show of hands, or if requested by at least one (1) Full Member, by secret ballot, which can be by electronic means. All questions/matters except proposals for amendments in the Statutes or for the dissolution of the EUDY (which require a three-fourth (3/4) majority) may be decided by simple majority vote. If the number of votes is equal, a second vote shall be cast by the General Assembly.

ART 4. Section 6. Minutes

- a. Minutes of every General Assembly are drawn up by one or more individuals agreed upon by the Board and the President prior to the General Assembly and approved by the delegates of the General Assembly.
- b. Minutes of every General Assembly shall, besides the President and Chair of the General Assembly, signed by the Chairman of the Auditing Committee and the Board Members present.
- c. Minutes of every General Assembly will be sent to Full Members at the latest two (2) months after the meeting took place.
- d. The minutes are kept in a separate binder, where they remain at the disposal of all Members and co-operation partners. Third parties wishing to consult the minutes must address a request to the Board.

ART 4. Section 7. Documents of the General Assembly

All related documents regarding the General Assembly must be sent to Full Members least two (2) months before it taking place.

The documents shall at least include:

- a. Welcome letter;
- b. Information letter;
- c. Agenda;
- d. Minutes (previous and current);
- e. Statutes;
- f. Board meeting reports;
- g. Annual accounts and budgets;
- h. Proposal- and motion forms;
- i. Delegate forms;
- j. Candidature forms for new Board Members
- k. Candidature forms for camps;
- l. Candidature forms for General Assemblies.
- m. and may include any other documents that the board deems important.

The proposal- and motion forms from Full Members must be disseminated by the EUDY Board to all Full Members least one (1) month before the General Assembly will take place.

ARTICLE 5 - THE BOARD

ART 5. Section 1. Members, Election Procedure, and Duties

- a. The Board shall consist of seven (7) Members. The General Assembly shall have the power to approve a Board that has less than seven (7) Members. Any Board must however, consist of a minimum of 3 (three) Members to be considered active. The exact number shall be determined by the General Assembly reflecting the number of candidates at any given election.
- b. Each Full Member has the right to propose one (1) candidate for the Board. The candidate proposed by a Full Member has to be a legal resident or national of the country of that Member. The General Assembly elects the President and the Board Members.
- c. The General Assembly shall elect:
 - A President who shall preside over meetings of both the General Assembly and the Board.
 - Up to six (6) Board Members.
- d. The Board Members shall not be allowed to hold more than one of the above functions at the same time.
- e. Board Members shall serve as individuals and represent the spectrum of EUDY membership, not as representatives for their respective national organisations.
- f. Board Members are elected for a two-year term and may be re-elected.
- g. The President is elected for a one-year term and may be re-elected.
- h. If a Board Member resigns, he/she must hand in his/her resignation by sending a registered letter, duly signed by him/her. His/her resignation will take effect, one month after the date of sending of the registered letter.

ART 5. Section 2. Competencies

- a. The Board has all competencies, which are not exclusively granted to the General Assembly. In particular the Board shall have the competence:
 - a. To give direction to the EUDY secretariat in implementing decisions of the Board;
 - b. For the recruitment and appointment of appropriately qualified person(s) to staff the EUDY secretariat;
 - c. Take responsibility for the finances of EUDY.
 - d. Oversee the organisation of the activities and General Assemblies.
- b. The Board reviews actions and takes decisions between meetings of the General Assembly and implements policies approved by the General Assembly.
- c. The Board takes decisions by consensus unless if there is a dissent opinion then it has to proceed to the vote by simple majority.
- d. The Board shall not interfere in the internal affairs of any Member organisation. However, the Board has the right to suspend or expel any member organisation whose activities may be found to be in violation of EUDY statutes, subject to approval by the General Assembly (See ART 3, Section 8).
- e. The Board has the authority to issue and revise Internal Rules within the limitations of the Statutes. A copy of the Internal Rules, including revisions, shall be sent to all Full Members after each amendment.
- f. The Board shall review applications for any membership category according to procedures, which the Board shall determine and which are included in the Internal Rules (See ART 3, Section 1).

- g. The Board shall, either at its meeting or by email, agree on a final agenda for meetings of the General Assembly.

ART 5. Section 3. Roles

As soon as the Board members are elected by the General Assembly, they decide together the roles of each member excepted the role of President which is already selected during the General Assembly. The possible roles of the Members of the Board are described as the following:

- a. President
 - i. Shall preside over meetings of both the GA and the board
 - ii. Shall make the preparations for the board meetings
 - iii. Shall arrange for accommodations for the board meetings
- b. Vice-president
 - i. Shall preside over meetings of the GA and the board whenever the president is unable to attend
- c. Secretary
 - i. Makes the minutes of every board meeting
 - ii. Organizes the archives
 - iii. Shall maintain contacts with EUDY's members
- d. Treasurer
 - i. Gives a financial report every board meeting
 - ii. Makes an annual financial report
 - iii. Has responsibility for the membership fee
- e. Board member(s)

ART 5. Section 4. Meetings

- a. The Board shall meet at least three times a year or as business requires.
- b. The meetings of the Board shall be held at a place mentioned in the invitation. The President shall call such meetings. This call shall be accompanied by a proposed draft Agenda that shall be submitted to all Board Members prior to the meeting.

ART 5. Section 5. Quorum and Vote

The quorum shall always comprise at least the simple majority of Board members. The Board shall take a decision by a simple majority based on a show of hands. The President has the casting vote if a motion is tied.

ART 5. Section 6. Replacement

Should a vacancy occur for any Board Member or the President, re-elections for that position only shall be held at the next General Assembly, unless the General Assembly approves the Board with a reduced number of Members adhering to the minimum of three (3) Members stated in ART 5, Section 1a). An interim Board Member will be appointed at the discretion of the Board should the next General Assembly be more than six (6) months after the position becoming vacant. In the event of the office of the President becoming vacant, the position will automatically be filled by the Vice-President until the next General Assembly.

ART 5. Section 7. Minutes

- a. Minutes of every Board Meeting are drawn up by a Member of the Board or any member of the EUDY staff appointed and indicated by the President at the start of the Meeting, and signed by the person responsible for the minutes and the board, represented by the President and another board member.
- b. The minutes are kept in a separate binder, where except for personal and confidential matters of sensitive nature, they remain at the disposal of all Full Members.

ART 5. Section 8. Representation of EUDY

- a. All legal acts that bind EUDY shall, in the absence of a special proxy, be signed by the President or the Vice-President.
- b. All financial decisions and acts shall be signed by the President and/or the Treasurer.
- c. The Board may decide to grant specific mandates to one or more Members of the Board or even third parties, in order to represent the EUDY in one or more specific undertaking(s).

ART 5. Section 9. Termination

- a. If a Board member does not follow the statutes and the internal rules, the Board should take action. A board member will get two, written, chances and at the third count, a majority of the board will decide to remove the board member in question.
- b. The terminated Board member has the right to appeal to the General Assembly. The written appeal should be received by the Board, at least one month after the termination took place. The General Assembly then will have the last word in this matter.

ARTICLE 6. FINANCES

ART 6. Section 1. Sources of income

- a. The sources of income for the EUDY shall be:
 1. Membership fees;
 2. Subsidies, grants, gifts, contributions, donations, legacies, and other provisions of wills and testaments given to support either the general aims and objectives or a specific purpose of EUDY;
 3. Monies acquired by any other means not in violation of the law.
- b. The amount of the various membership fees shall be listed in the Internal Rules. Each Member is required to pay the annual fee by the date specified in the Internal Rules in order to remain a member in good standing.
- c. The Board may, in special cases, or when necessary, obtain bank loans or loans from member organisations.

ART 6. Section 2. Accounting year

The accounting year shall follow the calendar year from 1 January to 31 December.

ARTICLE 7. AMENDMENT AND DISSOLUTION

ART 7. Section 1. Amendment

The General Assembly may review and take action on proposed amendments to the current articles of the statutes only at an Extraordinary Meeting. Any proposal for amendments to the Statutes can emanate from

the Board or from at least five Full Members. The draft of all amendments will be put on the Agenda together with the Board's recommendations and added to the invitation for the Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly, according to article 4, section 4b. A two-third (2/3) majority vote at the General Assembly is required for approval of proposed amendments and the quorum mentioned in article 4, section 5c, must be respected.

ART 7. Section 2. Dissolution

- a. Proposals regarding the dissolution of the EUDY shall be submitted by either the Board or the majority of Full Members in good standing at the Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly.
- b. Voting on such a proposal shall be taken at an Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly.
- c. The quorum shall always be comprised of two-thirds (2/3) of those present and entitled to vote. Approval for dissolution shall require a three-fourth (3/4) majority vote.

In the event of dissolution, the Extraordinary Meeting shall decide that the assets of the EUDY shall be awarded to another named non-profit organisation having a similar or related aims and objectives.

ARTICLE 8. GENERAL TERMS

ART 8. Section 1. Applicable law and legal text

- a. Aspects, which are not foreseen in the present Statutes, and more particularly the publications in the Annexes to the Belgian Official Journal (Belgisch Staatsblad), will be dealt with in accordance with Belgian law, including the Act of 27.06.1921, as amended by the Acts of 02.05.2002, 16.01.2003, 22.12.2003, 9.07.2004 and 27.12.2004.
- b. The Dutch original text is the legal text. The English text version has equal status to the Dutch text.

ART 8. Section 2. Interpretation of Statutes

In case of difference as to the interpretation of the Statutes, the General Assembly must vote on the issue at hand according to the voting procedures laid out in these statutes.