



## EIUC Statute – Adopted 18/02/2017

The undersigned representatives of the Universities of Padua, Bochum (Ruhr-University), Coimbra, Graz, Leuven (Catholic University), Luxembourg, Maastricht, Venezia (Ca' Foscari), Vienna, Bilbao (University of Deusto), Åbo (Akademi University), Dublin (National University of Ireland, Dublin – University College Dublin), Southern Denmark, Hamburg, Nottingham, Bruxelles (Université Libre), Athens (Panteion University), Lisbon (New University), Strasbourg, Thessaloniki (Aristotle University), Belfast (Queen's University), Bratislava (Comenius University), Brno (Masaryk University), Bucharest, Budapest (Eotvos Lorand University), Cyprus, Galway (National University of Ireland – Galway), Latvia, Ljubljana, Malta, Montpellier, Poznan (Adam Mickiewicz University), Seville, Sofia, Tartu, Vilnius, Utrecht, and Zagreb which have been active in the European Master's Programme network,

### **Preamble**

Considering that human rights and democracy are fundamental values for all human beings and societies and recognising the universality, equality, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights;

Considering that the European Union, as stated in the Lisbon Treaty (or Treaty on European Union) "is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities" (Article 2), values which are further proclaimed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; that it recognizes the rights enshrined in the European Convention of Human Rights as its own general principles of law and aspires to be a party to this document (Article 6); and that it sets out to promote universality, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights worldwide (Article 21);

Considering the necessity of developing the teaching of human rights and democracy in the universities, as well as in the overall teaching systems both in school and out of school, in co-operation with national, European and international organisations and civil society entities;

Fully aware of the importance of the university in promoting a law-based civilisation, at the national, European, and international levels, infused with the universal human values, as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all relevant international and regional instruments;

Considering the necessity of promoting co-operation among universities, starting from the European ones, with the aim of further developing research and teaching programmes on human rights, democracy, and good governance, taking advantage from sharing their experience as well as educational and scientific resources;

Having regard to the Venice Charter, adopted on 26 July 1997 and revised on 15 September 2001 and 23 September 2016, setting up a European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation;

Considering that the European Master's Programme has developed into a unique cooperation project started among fifteen European Universities - University of Vienna, Catholic University of Leuven, University of Southern Denmark, Åbo Akademi University, University Robert Schuman (Strasbourg), Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Aristotele University



**EIUC**

European Inter-University  
Centre for Human Rights  
and Democratisation

of Thessaloniki, University College Dublin – National University of Ireland, Dublin, University of Padua, Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg, Maastricht University, University of Coimbra, University of Deusto (Bilbao), University of Lund, University of Essex (which later withdrew), and further extended to Panteion University, Athens, Université Libre de Bruxelles, National University of Ireland, Galway, University of Graz, University of Hamburg, University of Helsinki, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid (which later withdrew), Université de Montpellier, University of Nottingham, Uppsala University, Utrecht University, University Ca'Foscari, Venice, University of Belfast, Comenius University Bratislava, Masaryk University Brno, University of Bucharest, Eotvos Lorand University Budapest, University of Copenhagen (which later withdrew), University of Cyprus, University of Latvia, New University of Lisbon, University of Ljubljana, University of Malta, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan, University of Seville, University of Sofia, University of Tartu, University of Vilnius, and University of Zagreb, with the support of the European Union, the Region of Veneto, and the Municipality of Venice, and the sponsorship of the UNHCHR, UNESCO and OSCE;

Taking account of the intention expressed by the Council of the European Union in the Declaration of 10 December 1998, of continuing the European Master's Programme, and of the decisions enacted by the European Parliament and the EU Council in 2004 (Decision N°791/2004/EC), 2006 (EU Regulation (EC) No 1889/2006), and 2014 (Regulation (EU) No 236/2014) to support EIUC in the implementation of human rights and democratisation activities, through the *European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights - EIDHR*;

Recalling further the Regional Bill “European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation” of the Region of Veneto, currently in vigour;

Recognising the necessity of granting the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation a more suitable institutional foundation;

Recognising the cooperation developed in the framework of the Global Campus of Master's Programmes and Diplomas in Human Rights and Democratisation, involving - in addition to the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA) - the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LATMA), coordinated by the University of San Martin, Buenos Aires (Argentina); the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa (HRDA), coordinated by the University of Pretoria (South Africa); the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in South East Europe (ERMA), coordinated by the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the University of Bologna (Italy); the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in the Asia-Pacific (MHRD), coordinated by the University of Mahidol, Bangkok (Thailand); the Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in the Caucasus (CES), coordinated by the University of Yerevan (Armenia); the Master's Programme in Democratic Governance- Human Rights and Democracy in the Mena Region (DEMA), coordinated by EIUC.

Have agreed to establish a non-profit Association named "European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation"

#### **Art.1 – Constitution**

1. In accordance with Art. 14 et seq. of the Italian civil code, the non-profit Association named "European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation" is established (hereafter “Centre”).

2. The Centre has its seat in Venice, at the Monastery of St Nicolò, Lido and shall be able to establish secondary branches in order to pursue its statutory aims. In the event of a



transfer of the seat within the Municipality of Venice will not entail modifications to the current statute.

3. The Centre operates at the national and international level.
4. The duration of the Centre shall be unlimited.

**Art. 2 - Aims**

1. The Centre aims at securing the implementation of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation, as organised by the relevant governing bodies of the latter.
2. The Centre further aims at coordinating the Global Campus of Regional Master Programmes in Human Rights and Democratisation, carried out in all Regions of the world with the financial support of the European Union.
3. The Centre may contribute to the implementation of further projects of the European Union aiming at promoting the development and consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and good governance, as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
4. The Centre will promote additional activities of education, training, research and information in the field of human rights, democratisation, good governance and European citizenship. In so doing, the Centre will seek the involvement and full cooperation of its members as appropriate.
5. The Centre will foster a community of graduates, scholars, researchers and professionals to promote democracy and the implementation of human rights worldwide.
6. In pursuing its objectives, the Centre will give priority to the programmes established in cooperation with the European Union and other international organisations, namely: the United Nations, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, as well as with other regional organisations, national institutions, and nongovernmental organisations.

**Art.3 – Members**

1. The members of the Centre are the universities which founded E.MA (E.MA Universities) and those which have subsequently been admitted by the Assembly.
2. Other universities participating in the European Master's Programme have the right to become members of the Centre, by acceding to the present Statute.
3. The Assembly may admit as additional members universities and other institutions of higher education willing to contribute to the aims of the Centre, provided that they fully agree with the terms of the present Statute. In particular, universities participating in one of the regional Master programmes of the Global Campus may be admitted as additional members.
4. Universities and other institutions of higher education wishing to access the Centre must submit an express request to the Board of Administrators, including a statement on willingness to contribute to the aims of the Centre, and commitment to approve and abide to the Centre's Statute and regulations. The Assembly, upon proposal of the Board of Administrators, shall decide on the accession, at its first available session.
5. The members of the Centre cease their membership either in case of withdrawal or in case of exclusion. Withdrawal must be communicated giving at least 12 months' notice. The member must fulfill its obligations towards the Centre until the moment of withdrawal. Exclusion of a member can be decided by the Assembly, on the proposal of the Board of Administrators, in case of acting against the aims, obligations and principles of the statute. Exclusion will enter into force 30 days following notification of the decision on exclusion, and must include the reasons on the basis of which it was decided. Decisions on exclusion of a member require a two-thirds majority vote of all members present in the Assembly.
6. The Centre's relationships and terms of reference are regulated in conformity with Italian Law. In particular, the Centre must comply with the norms aimed at guaranteeing



the effectiveness of the associates' relationships and at expressly excluding temporary participation in the Centre's life, meaning that membership for a limited period is expressly excluded. Membership status is not transmissible.

7. In conformity with the above-mentioned norms the governing bodies of the Centre are freely eligible; the principle of "one member one vote" is guaranteed.

**Art. 4 – Patrimony**

The Centre's patrimony is composed by:

1. The start-up (or endowment) fund conferred on the occasion of the request of legal personality in line with the Presidential Decree (D.P.R) 361/2000; fund which shall be adequate to the realization of the statutory aims, not available, and assigned as security to third parties who have a relationship with the Centre;
2. Any other sum or asset assigned to increase the patrimony.

The utilisation of the patrimony for any other contingent and exceptional need must be temporary, and shall be obligatory reintegrated in the earliest possible time.

**Art. 5 - Funding**

The Centre costs are met through funds from its own activity, and from properties and contributions received from:

1. the participating universities, by means of teaching, research, training, and related support services;
2. the Region of Veneto, under the Laws in vigour;
3. the Municipality of Venice, by means of making available the venue of the Monastery of St Nicolò at the Lido, and the contiguous premises;
4. the European Union, within the limits of the specific provisions of the EU budget;
5. any other entity or international organisation, for ad hoc projects;
6. any other public or private contributor, on a regular or extraordinary basis.

The costs of the Centre's initiatives must be covered with a view to preserve the patrimony.

Distribution of profit, surplus, funds, reserves or capital, even indirectly, is forbidden during the entire life of the non-profit association, unless destination or distribution are imposed by law. Any surplus that might arise has to be fully re-invested in order to pursue the Centre's aims, cannot be revalued and is not transferable.

**Art. 6 - Organs**

Organs of the Centre are:

- the Assembly;
- the Board of Administrators;
- the President;
- the First Vice President, and other Vice Presidents, if appointed;
- the Honorary President/s, if appointed;
- the Secretary General;
- the Advisory Board, if established;
- the Auditors

**Art. 7 - Composition of the Assembly**

1. The Assembly is the highest governing body of the Centre; it gives directions and supervises the implementation of policies.

2. Members of the Assembly are the members of the Centre, as defined in Article 3 of the present Statute.

3. The universities and institutions of higher education participating in the Centre, will be represented by their Rector or Vice-Rector, or by a professor, designated by the university, experienced in the field of human rights or democracy.

**Art. 8 – Convening and meetings of the Assembly**

1. The Assembly meets at least once every year and whenever the President deems it necessary or when requested in writing by one tenth of its members. In such case, the summons must be notified within thirty days from the date of the request.
2. A summons must be made by the President in written form, and shall be notified at least ten days before the meeting. The summons has to indicate the date, location and time of the meeting as well as the agenda items proposed; and, eventually, the date, location and time of the second convening meeting expressly admitted and foreseen, which must be scheduled at least 24 hours after the first convening;
3. If the Assembly meets upon request of one third of its members it may be convened either by the President or by the Secretary General.
4. Every member has the right to one vote and can in addition be entitled to two proxies.
5. The Secretary General or a person designed by him or her acts as the Secretary of the meetings. The minutes of all meetings shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the meeting.
6. The Assembly can convene also by video- or teleconference, provided that all the participants in the meeting can be identified by the President and by all the other participants as well, that all of them are allowed to follow the agenda under discussion and to intervene in real-time, that they are allowed to access, as well as propose, documents related to the agenda items discussed, and that all the aforementioned conditions are recorded in the meeting's minutes. Provided these conditions are met, the Assembly is considered convened at the seat where both the President and the Secretary of the meeting are located, in order for the minutes to be drafted and signed.
7. The Assembly, in ordinary session, is validly constituted during first convening with the absolute majority of the members. During second convening, the Assembly is validly constituted if at least one third of its members are present.
8. Unless a higher quorum is required by this Statute, decisions of the Assembly are taken by a majority vote of all members attending.

**Art. 9 - Tasks of the Assembly**

1. The Assembly is sovereign in all subjects of its competence, in accordance with the present Statute and the existing norms.
2. The Assembly will decide on the following:
  - 1° appointment of the President, of the First Vice-President and other Vice-Presidents if required, and of the Honorary President/s of the Centre;
  - 2° appointment of the Secretary-General;
  - 3° appointment of the Board of Administrators;
  - 4° appointment of one to three Auditors;
  - 5° appointment of the Advisory Board;
  - 6° approval of the general directions, of the annual work programme, and of the budget of the Centre for the activity cycle ahead;
  - 7° approval of the financial statement of the Centre;
  - 8° the regulations of the Centre;
  - 9° the acceptance of contributions from entities that are not members of the Centre or from the private sector;
  - 10° the approval of draft agreements with public and private entities;
  - 11° the determination of the emoluments for the members of the Centre's organs;
  - 12° the approval of proposed changes to the present Statute.
  - 13° the exclusion of members of the Centre
  - 14° the dismissal of any official appointed by the Assembly in accordance with Art.21 of the present statute.
  - 15° the dissolution of the Association and the appointment of a liquidator in accordance with Art. 22 of the present statute.



3. When adopting decisions connected with the activities and budget of the Global Campus, the Assembly will duly take into account respective proposals of the Global Campus Council.

**Art. 10 - Membership of the Board of Administrators**

1. The Board of Administrators will be composed of eight members elected by the Assembly, including the President and one or more Vice-President/s of the Centre with specific responsibilities.
2. The members of the Board shall propose to the Assembly the President and Vice-President/s for election.
3. The E.MA Chair and the Chair of the Global Campus Council may be invited as observers to the Board, without voting rights.
4. The Board may also invite other persons, representing public or private regular contributors to the Centre's budget, as observers to the Board without voting rights.
5. The Board of Administrators shall serve for a term of four years and for a maximum of two consecutive terms.
6. In case of resignation of the Board of Administrators, the same Board will remain in charge until a new Board of Administrators is appointed. In case the majority of the Board members resign, the entire Board is to be considered resigning. The President will at that point convene the Assembly at the earliest time possible to appoint a new Board of Administrators.

**Art.11 - Convening of meetings of the Board of Administrators**

1. The Board of Administrators is convened by the President through written summons indicating the date, location and time of the meeting as well as the agenda items proposed – and shall be notified at least within ten days before the meeting's date.
2. The Board of Administrators can also be convened upon request in writing of at least two Board members, within 30 days by the receipt of such request. In cases of exceptional urgency, the President or the Secretary General may convene the Board of Administrators with five days' notice. The summons shall list the agenda items to be discussed, and all necessary documentation shall be enclosed in order to ensure that all Board members are adequately informed.
3. The Board of Administrators is validly constituted with the majority of the Board members attending, and deliberates with the favorable vote of the majority of the members attending. In the event of a tied vote, the vote of the President shall be decisive.
4. The deliberations of the Board of Administrators shall be reflected in the meeting's minutes signed by the President and by the Secretary of the meeting.
5. If necessary the Board can convene and deliberate also by video- and tele-conference, provided that all the participants in the meeting can be identified by the President and by all the other participants as well, that all of them are allowed to follow the agenda under discussion and to intervene in real-time, that they are allowed to access, as well as propose, documents related to the agenda items discussed, and that all the aforementioned conditions are recorded in the meeting's minutes. Provided these conditions are met, the Board of Administrators is considered convened at the seat where both the President and the Secretary of the meeting are located, in order for the minutes to be drafted and signed.

**Art. 12 - Tasks of the Board of Administrators**

1. The Board of Administrators, subject to approval by the Assembly, will adopt the following acts:
  - a) the annual work programme and budget of the Centre for the activity cycle ahead;
  - b) the financial statement of the Centre;
  - c) internal regulations;
  - d) approval of projects and measures entailing expenses of more than 60.000 €;



- e) hiring and discharging of senior staff, upon proposal of / or in consultation with the Secretary General.
2. Subject to an agreement with the members, the Board may avail itself of personnel provided by the said members.
3. The Board adopts any act of administration that is not within the competence of another organ, unless otherwise provided by law or by the present Statute.
4. When adopting decisions connected with the activities and budget of the Global Campus, the Board of Administrators will duly take into account respective proposals of the Global Campus Council.

**Art. 13 - Tasks of the President**

1. The President legally represents the Centre towards third parties and in legal acts.
2. The President will summon and chair the Assembly and the Board of Administrators. He/she will supervise the proper functioning of the Centre, as well as the implementation of the directions enacted by the Assembly, the Board of Administrators, and the Advisory Board.
3. The President, together with the Secretary General or the Secretary General by written proxy, subject to authorisation by the Board of Administrators, signs the contracts with the European Union and the cooperation agreements with other international and national organisations, either public or private in nature.
4. In urgent cases of necessity, under his/her responsibility, the President may adopt acts normally within the competence of the Board of Administrators. Such acts will be submitted to the Board for ratification at its earliest meeting.
5. In case of absence, impediment, resignation or death of the President, his/her functions shall be temporarily taken up by the first Vice-President.

**Art. 14 - Honorary President/s**

The Assembly may elect one or more Honorary Presidents among persons of high moral and cultural standing. He/she may take part, as an adviser, to any meeting of the Centre's organs. Namely, he/she will be invited to the awarding of diplomas / opening ceremony of the European Master's Programme, as well as at other relevant events scheduled by the Centre.

**Art. 15 - Secretary-General**

1. The Assembly will appoint the Secretary-General, following a proposal submitted by the Board of Administrators.
2. The Secretary-General is responsible for the management of the Centre. In the carrying out of his or her duties, he/she is accountable to the Board of Administrators. In particular, the Secretary General shall be responsible to:
  - a) hire and discharge all but senior staff and to control and co-ordinate the activities of the Centre's employees;
  - b) implement the decisions taken by the Centre's governing bodies;
  - c) take care of the process of the deliberations of the Assembly and the Board of Administrators;
  - d) draft the schemes to submit to public agencies and private entities, national and international, prepare applications for grants, including those provided by the European Union;
  - e) manage the Centre's bank accounts;
  - f) take part in, with consultative status, and keep the records of the meetings of the Assembly and the Board of Administrators;
  - g) perform any other specific acts conferred to him/her by an ad hoc decision of the Board of Administrators;
  - h) carry out any other ordinary administrative calling.



3. The Secretary General can receive mandate from the President to perform specific acts involving responsibility towards third parties. Such mandate shall be drafted in front of a notary.

4. The Secretary-General will receive, for his/her functions, a salary determined, on a yearly basis, by the Board of Administrators.

**Art. 16 - Composition and tasks of the Advisory Board**

1. The Assembly can appoint, upon proposal of the Board of Administrators, an Advisory Board composed by individuals and representatives of international, national, and non-governmental organisations, active in the field of human rights and democratisation.

Moreover, the Assembly may appoint as members of the Board other persons of high professional standing in the areas relevant to human rights and democratisation or to EIUC activities, nominated by the members of the Centre.

2. The main task of the Advisory Board is to provide advice to the organs of the Centre as regards the contents of the education, training, and research activities, implemented by the Centre.

3. The Advisory Board will meet at least once every year.

**Art. 17 - Space and building**

The Building and the related facilities made available by the Municipality of Venice (Monastery of St Nicolò and contiguous premises) and by other institutions can be used - on the conditions determined by the appropriate organs of the Centre - by the participating universities for educational and research purposes in the field of human rights and democratisation

**Art. 18 - The Auditors**

The Assembly appoints from one to three Auditors and one or two substitute Auditors, to be selected among the auditors enrolled in the Official Registry of Auditors. The Auditor/s will serve for a term of three years, may be re-appointed once, and will receive for his/her/their function an emolument determined by the Assembly.

The Auditor/s submit/s to the Assembly an assessment of the budget proposed by the Board of Administrators. He/she/they will also provide periodic assessments according to the statutory provisions and to the Law, and can proceed whenever deemed necessary or advisable to endorse measures of inspection, assessment, and control. All findings have to be recorded and written in the appropriate books.

The Auditor/s is/are invited to take part in the meetings of the Assembly and the Board of Administrators when budget issues and matters that are within his/her/their competence are being discussed.

In case a Board of Auditors is appointed, the most senior member shall act as president of the Board.

**Art. 19 - Financial year**

The financial year of the Centre begins on 1st August and closes on 31st July every year. The accounts (or financial statements), which are presented together with the accompanying reports of the Board of Administrators and of the Auditors, should be subject to the approval of the Assembly within six months from the closing of the financial year.

**Art. 20 - Working languages**

Working languages of the Centre's governing bodies are Italian, English, and French.

**Art. 21 - Dismissal of officials**

All officials appointed by the Assembly can be dismissed in case of violation of the statutory rules, regulations, principles or codes of professional conduct. Such decision requires the favourable vote of at least two thirds of all members of the Assembly.





**Art. 22 – Dissolution of the Centre**

1. In case the Centre is dissolved for any reason, its patrimony must be devolved to another association having similar aims and objectives, or used for public utility, having consulted the relevant control authorities and unless differently provided by law.
2. In order to decide on the dissolution of the Centre and devolving of its patrimony, the Assembly the favorable vote of at least three fourths of the members of the Assembly is required.

**Art. 23 - Reference**

As for what is not covered by the present Statute, the provisions of the Italian civil code relevant for nonprofit associations, and other Italian Law rules relevant for nonprofit associations are applicable.

**Art. 24 – Statute amendments**

The present Statute may be amended by an absolute majority of all members of the Centre, provided that three fourths of all members are present.  
Any proposed statutory amendment shall be notified in writing by the President to all members of the Assembly at least 30 days before the meeting.  
Statutory amendments can only be decided in the presence of a notary.