

# Consortium for European Research with Election Studies (CERES) DRAFT Statutes

Statutes to be adopted by the meeting on 26 August 2011 in Reykavik

## 1: Name, Registered Office, Fiscal Year

- a. The non-profit Association is called "Consortium for European Research with Election Studies". It is abbreviated to the short name CERES.
- b. The office of the Association is to be registered at the legal site of the European University Institute: Via dei Roccettini 9, I-50014 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), Italy. It can be transferred to any other location by a simple decision of the Board.
- c. The fiscal year shall equal the calendar year.
- d. The Association was established on 26 August 2011 for an indefinite period.

## 2: Objectives of the Association

- a. The goal of CERES is to further the aims of research into democratic governance in Europe by conducting studies of elections, referenda and other pertinent forms of political behaviour held in European national and trans-national settings.
- b. The CERES Association provides technical and methodological support for research on electoral democracy and a platform for collaboration of national election studies with each other and with the European Election Studies (EES).
- c. The Association is unselfishly active and shall not pursue a beneficial purpose. The Association's financial assets may only be used for the purposes laid down in these Statutes. No individual may gain personal benefit either through payments which do not conform to the objectives of the Association or through disproportionately high remuneration.

## 3: Language

- a. The official language of the Association is English. The legally binding language version of the Statutes depends on the official language of the country where the Association is registered.

## 4: Membership

- a. Membership of the CERES shall be open to all physical persons who declare their support for its objectives.
- b. Applications for membership will have to be approved by the Board except that in the case of those who gave papers at the 2010 EPOP meeting or the 2010 PIREDEU Final Conference (and whose papers are posted on the EPOP 2010 or PIREDEU web sites) will be automatically accepted as members.
- c. Membership ends upon death, resignation in the form of a written declaration submitted to the Board, by non-payment of the subscription, or following the exclusion of the member.

- d. A member can be excluded from the Association for reasons of gross contravention against any interests of the Association, following a resolution passed by the General Meeting, whereby a majority of two thirds of the votes present or represented is required.

## 5: Membership fee

- a. The General Meeting shall determine annual subscription rates for all members.

## 6: Structure of the Association

- a. For the attainment of the foregoing objectives, the functions of the CERES shall be carried out by and through the following bodies: the General Meeting ("meeting") and the Executive Board. ("Board").

## 7: The General Meeting

- a. The General Meeting shall be the plenary organ of the Association and shall be held no less than every two years. By default, the General Meeting will be held at the fringes of the bi-annual General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) held in odd calendar years. The General Meeting shall also convene (in the guise of a "Special Meeting") should at least one third of the members demand a meeting by giving notice to the Board of the purpose, a suggested venue, and an agenda. Such a meeting must be held within 12 weeks of notice being received by the Board. Notice of a Special Meeting is to be given to the full membership at least eight weeks in advance, communicated by e-mail and by publication on the website of the organisation.
- b. Decisions taken at a General Meeting need to be included on the agenda sent out beforehand. The agenda shall be decided by the Board but must include any items contained on the agenda of a Special Meeting that has the support of one third of the membership.
- c. All individual members shall be entitled to participate in the General Meeting.
- d. Voting rights in the General Meeting are allocated as follows: each European country represented by a member studying this country, working in this country, and present at the meeting shall have one vote. Each European country represented by a member studying this country, working in this country, and present at the meeting, and where a nationally-funded National Election Study exists shall have one additional vote.
- e. These country vote(s) are divided in equal parts by the number of members present at the meeting who are studying this country and working in this country.
- f. No member present at the meeting can carry a (share of a) vote of more than one country.

- g. Proxies are not allowed.
- h. The General Meeting shall be the organ with powers to adopt or modify the provisions of the Statutes.
- i. The General Meeting shall elect the Executive Board. Candidatures for the Executive Board have to be expressed in writing before the General Meeting which elects members of the Executive Board. If a vote is called for then those voting will be asked to express support for up to the number of candidates corresponding to the number of vacancies to be filled.
- j. Unless otherwise required by the Statutes or the law, a decision by the bodies of the Association shall require a simple majority.
- k. At the request of one member, voting has to be conducted by written procedure according to the rules set out in 7d-7g.
- l. The General Meeting is deemed to possess a quorum if the members have been invited within the deadline stipulated in 7b.
- m. Minutes of the General Meetings shall be kept by the Chair or a person nominated by the Board. The minutes shall be sent to the members of the Association within 28 days after the meeting. The minutes shall also include a breakdown of the votes present at the meeting and the votes cast for elections and decisions.

## **8: The Executive Board**

- a. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the overall management of the Association and for achieving its objectives.
- b. The Executive Board shall consist of seven persons elected by members of the General Meeting. Elected Board members have to be members of the Association.
- c. The members of the Executive Board shall be elected for a four-year term. Half of the members should be elected every two years. Members of the Executive Board can be re-elected once. If a member of the Executive Board resigns within the first two years of a four-year term in office, a replacement should be elected for a two-year term.
- d. The Executive Board shall elect from its elected members the chairperson, the vice-chairperson, the Treasurer and the Secretary.
- e. A representative of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute shall be an ex officio member of the Board without voting rights.
- f. The Executive Board shall have the right of co-option. Co-opted Board members do not have voting rights.
- g. The Executive Board shall meet at least once every calendar year, but its business may be conducted by correspondence.
- h. For the purposes of taking decisions, the meetings of the Executive Board must have a quorum of more than half of the elected members. The Chair shall have a casting vote.
- i. Minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the Executive Board shall be kept by the Chair or a person

nominated by the Board. The minutes shall be available for inspection by all members.

j. The Executive Board will have the power to accept new members of the Association, appoint committees, receive and expend monies, enter into contracts and any other form of activity consistent with achieving the aims of the Association subject to any decisions or policy made by the General Meeting and in accordance with the Consortium's status as a not for profit organization.

k. The accounts shall be kept by the Treasurer and scrutinised annually according to the standard contained within the relevant legislation. The accounts will be presented to the Executive Board and to the General Meeting. The accounts shall be available for inspection by all members.

## **9: Modification of the Statutes**

- a. These Statutes may be modified by a two-thirds majority of the votes present at a General Meeting.
- b. No proposal for modification of the Statutes will be considered unless at least three months' notice has been given to the Executive Board.
- c. The Executive Board will be authorized to undertake changes or amendments of the Statutes if, during the period of registering the Association, a register court or fiscal authority demands such changes as preconditions for registration or approval of the Association as a non-profit organization respectively, as long as such changes do not change the purpose of the Association. The members will have to be informed about such changes in the Statutes in writing without delay.

## **10: Dissolution of the Association**

- a. The Association can be dissolved by a decision of the General Meeting, acting on a proposal of the Board and in accordance with herein before mentioned conditions concerning the modification of the Statutes.
- b. In the case of the dissolution of the Association, the Board shall take charge of its liquidation. Any assets remaining after all debts and liabilities have been satisfied shall be applied to or for some other not for profit purpose or purposes, preferably a purpose connected with the objectives of the Association. In no circumstances shall any of the surplus assets be returned to the members as individuals.

## **11: Entry into force**

- a. The Statutes as laid down in this version were adopted by the formative meeting on 26 August 2011. The Statutes shall take effect on this day.