



CONSTITUTION

“European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres”

Article 1

Denomination

The Association is formed according to the provisions of this constitution, governed by the Italian law n. 383/2000. The Association’s name is “**European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres**”. It may be known by the acronym “ECHIC”. The Association pursues the aim of promoting the value of the humanities and facilitating the dialogue between humanities centres, institutes, departments or universities and the institutions of the European Union.

Article 2

Headquarters

The registered address of the Association is Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Corso Cavour 2, 62100 Macerata. It can be transferred by a decision of the Assembly, after consulting the Executive Council. The activities of the Association carried out by its members are non-remunerated. The Association adopts the procedures set out in the current legislation in order to obtain legal personality. Should the headquarters of the Association be transferred to a different country in Europe, the present Constitution will be adjusted to comply with the legislation of the host country.

Article 3

Duration

The Association is established for an indefinite period.

Article 4

Purposes

ECHIC is non-profit and non-partisan Association; it pursues only cultural and social aims. The Association complies with the democratic principle of appointment by election, with due regard given to gender equality. The aims of the Association are:

- To promote the importance and value of the humanities as a resource for Europe and the world;
- To contribute to the development of humanities research in Europe
- To provide a contact point for national and European humanities research centres, institutes, departments, and relevant policy- and decision-makers.
- To serve as an arena for the discussion of all matters germane to the various disciplinary and cross-disciplinary fields of research within the humanities remit.
- To provide a network for the circulation of information and best practices related to the organization and management of research institutes and centres.
- To promote and maintain relations with analogous international associations.

The Association is open to all the representatives of research centres, institutes, departments and universities in Europe that share its principles and aims.

Article 5

Members

Research centres, institutes, departments and universities can become members of the Association by applying in writing to the Executive Council. The Council is under no obligation to provide a motivation for accepting or rejecting a request for membership. Members are required to comply with the provisions of this constitution and to collaborate for the attainment of the Association's purposes. Participation in the activities of the Association ought to be continuous.

Article 6

Duties of members

Members are required to comply with the rules and provisions governing the life of the Association, and to accept the deliberations enacted by the organs of the Association. In the initial implementation phase, membership of ECHIC is free of charge, without prejudice to the possibility for the Executive Council to charge an annual fee at a later stage.

Article 7

Organs

The organs of the Association are:

- The General Assembly
- The Executive Council
- The President.

All appointments are non-remunerated.

Article 8

General Assembly

The General Assembly consists of all members of the Association. Its deliberations, to be enacted in compliance with the law and the present constitution, are binding for all members. Meetings of the General Assembly can be ordinary or extraordinary. The Assembly has the power to appoint the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer for a three-year term, which can be extended. The Assembly can also appoint up to four members-at-large of the Executive Council, for a three-year term that can be extended.

Article 9

The Functioning of the Assembly

The General Assembly meets at least once a year, in the same location where the annual ECHIC conference is being held. All members of the Association can participate in the Assembly. Decisions shall be taken by simple majority. The General Assembly may decide on the amendment of the constitution and the dissolution of the Association only by a qualified majority. Decisions of the General Assembly requiring a qualified majority must be passed by 75% of the members present, after consulting the Executive Council.

The General Assembly is convened and chaired by the President. In the absence of the President, the General Assembly will be chaired by a member of the Executive Council. The Secretary of the Association shall provide the Secretariat of the meeting. The discussions, decisions and votes taken in the General Assembly shall be recorded in the minutes of the General Assembly. The minutes are signed as a true and accurate record by the President and Secretary, following approval by the General Assembly.

Article 10

Executive Council

The Executive Council is made up of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven members, appointed by the Assembly, for a three-year term which can be extended. The President, the Treasury and the Secretary are members by right. The Executive Council shall adopt all decisions required for the sound administration of the association, subject to the authority of the General

Assembly. The Executive Council is responsible for ratifying the policy of the Association and for promoting initiatives that support its aims. The Executive Council prepares the documents to be submitted to the General Assembly for approval: the Annual Report of the Association and the Annual Financial Report of the Association; it has the power to decide whether to introduce an annual membership fee. If one or more members of the Executive Council step down before the end of the term, the Council replaces them with the members who were included in the list ratified by the General Assembly. If more than half of the Council members in holding office step down before the end of the term, the President must convene the General Assembly to appoint new members.

Art. 11 Functioning of the Executive Council

The Executive Council shall be convened by its President, as necessary no less than once a year. Additional meetings may be requested by at least two members of the Council. Notices of meetings must be issued, via email, at least three (3) days in advance and include the agenda of the meeting. Meetings can be convened via Skype or other similar online platforms. The presence of the majority of the Council members in holding office is necessary for the validity of the meeting. The meeting is chaired by the President. In the absence of the President, the meeting is chaired by the Secretary; or by a Council member if the Secretary too is absent. Decisions of the Executive Council shall be passed by a majority of members present. In case of an equality of votes, the President shall have the casting vote. Decisions of the Executive Council are recorded in the minutes containing the summary of the discussion, the text of the decisions and the results of voting. They are signed by the President and the Secretary.

Article 12 Advisory Board

The Advisory Board is made up of members appointed by the Executive Council for a four-year term, which can be extended twice. The Board will offer advice on various ways in which the Association might serve the interests of its members, on the goals and procedures of the Association, and on such specific issues as conference sites and ways in which the annual conference can best be made to reflect the concerns of the Association. Members of the Advisory Board will remain in communication with the Executive Council throughout the year as necessary, and will meet at the annual conference with members of the Executive Council. The Advisory Board can be convened whenever the members deem it necessary.

Article 13 Annual Conference

The Association organizes an annual conference open to all registered members and to new potential ones. The conference is organized by a local committee, selected by the centre, institute or department in charge of running a given year's ECHIC conference. The conference committee will be established by the conference host institution and can be flexible in the number and status of committee members. The conference committee should remain in close contact with the Executive Council and Advisory Board and should consult them about that year's plenary speakers. The Conference Committee is also in charge of setting up three meetings for the Association at the annual conference: 1) the General Assembly; 2) a meeting of the Advisory Board and Executive Council; 2) a meeting of future conference committees, which can also be attended by the Advisory Board, Executive Council, and current year's Conference Committee.

Article 14 Dissolution

The dissolution of the Association shall come into effect upon a decision by a qualified majority, i.e. 75% of the members.

Article 15

Referrals

All matters not expressly regulated in this constitution are governed by the norms and principles of the Italian Civil Code, law n. 338/2000, and by its application.