

Statutes and Rules of Procedure (as of 1 October 2013)

Group of the European Members of ICSU

Article 1: Establishment

The group of the European Members of ICSU, hereafter referred to as the Group, is a cooperation body created by the European member organizations of the International Council for Science, ICSU.

Article 2: Objectives

- 2.1 Foster the participation of European Members and relevant national bodies in ICSU's global activities and programmes with mutual benefit;
- 2.2 Ensure the inclusion of the interests and priorities of the European science community in ICSU's strategic planning;
- 2.3 Facilitate communication between the ICSU Secretariat and the European Members and their relevant national bodies;
- 2.4 Co-ordinate activities of European Members of ICSU and their relevant national bodies.

Article 3: Membership

All European member organizations are entitled to be members of the European Group. In its definition of European countries the group follows the practices of UNESCO about European countries.

Article 4: Annual meeting

- 4.1 As the highest decision-making body of the Group, the annual meeting of the European members of ICSU shall be empowered to make decisions on all matters affecting the activities of the Group.
- 4.2 The Annual meeting, shall in particular, make the following decisions:
 - a. Approve the Group's activities
 - b. Elect the member organization that is responsible for coordinating the activities of the Group
 - c. Elect the members of the Executive Committee
 - d. Amend these Statutes and Rules of Procedure.
- 4.3. Representatives of ICSU headquarters can be invited to attend the Annual meeting as observers.
- 4.4 The Annual meeting shall meet in regular meeting at least once a year.
- 4.5 Decisions of the Annual meeting may be arrived at entirely or in part by electronic means.
- 4.6 The Annual meeting is hosted by one of the member organizations. The host will organize the meeting in close collaboration with the Secretariat. The host is responsible for practical arrangements considering the meeting.

Article 5: Coordinating organization

- 5.1 The Annual meeting shall elect one member organization to be responsible for coordinating the activities of the European Group.
- 5.2. The coordinating organization is elected for a term of three years.
- 5.3 The representative of the coordinating organization chairs the Management Group.

Article 6: Management Group

- 6.1 Subject to the provisions of these Statutes and the decision of the Annual meeting, the Management Group shall take such initiatives and actions as are necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Group
- 6.2 The Management Group shall in particular be responsible for:
 - a. Preparing the agenda of the Annual Meetings.
 - b. Implementing the decisions taken by the Annual meeting.
- 6.3 The Management Group consists of:
 - a. one (1) representative from the coordinating organization
 - b. one (1) representative from the organization that precedes in coordinating the group
 - c. representatives from other five (5) member organizations
 - d. a representative of the Secretariat
- 6.4 The Management Group is chaired by the representative of the coordinating organization.
- 6.5 The Management Group may set up such working groups, as it deems necessary for the discharge of its tasks and responsibilities.
- 6.6 The coordinating organization designates a secretary for the Management Group. The secretary is an ex-officio non-voting member of the Management Group. Other officers from the Secretariat may attend the meetings of the Management Group as observers.
- 6.7 The Management Group shall meet as often as necessary and at least once a year in addition to the annual meetings of the Group.
- 6.8 In sessions of the Management Group a quorum shall consist of a minimum of 50 percent of the total number of voting members.
- 6.9 Decisions of the Management Group may be arrived at entirely or in part by electronic means, provided that a quorum is attained.

Article 7: Secretariat

- 7.1 Under the guidance of the Chair of the Management Group the Secretariat shall support the Annual meeting and the Management Group in the discharge of their tasks and activities.
- 7.2 The Secretariat shall, in particular, be responsible for:
 - a. Preparing and organizing all the meetings of the Management Group,
 - b. Disseminating the relevant materials to member organizations;
 - c. Maintaining working relations with relevant other organizations.
- 7.3 The Secretariat of the European members of ICSU shall be hosted by the member organization that is responsible for coordinating the activities of the group. The term is three years.
- 7.4. The staff of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the host organization.

Article 8: External relations

- 8.1 The European Group shall collaborate closely with all related organizations, on European level in particular.

Article 9: Funding

- 9.1 Unless explicitly arranged otherwise, member organisations shall bear their own costs of participating in the Annual meetings and the meetings of the Management Group.
- 9.2 The coordinating organization shall bear all costs of the Secretariat, including salaries, office space, travel and communication.
- 9.3 The organization hosting the annual meeting shall bear all the cost related meeting facilities.
- 9.4 Any decisions taken by the Secretariat or the Management Group shall have no financial bearings on the Member Organisations.