Statute of The European Research Institute for Social Work (ERIS)

Article 1
Aims and Objectives

1. The European Research Institute for Social Work (hereinafter referred to as *"ERIS"*) focuses on support of international scientific-research and educational cooperation in the field of social work. Approaches based on the co-production of knowledge and multidisciplinary cooperation, which will develop and apply the results of social work research into policy and practice are the basic principles of the work of ERIS.
2. The objectives of the institute are as follows:
   a) To develop and popularize the international scientific-research cooperation.
   b) To develop multidisciplinary cooperation and co-production of knowledge.
   c) To support the professional growth of scientific workers from among students and academic staff.
   d) To support international cooperation and the latest approaches in the field of education of social workers.
   e) To apply the results of social work research to policy and practice.
   f) To implement publishing activities.

Article 2
Membership within ERIS

1. There are three types of Membership within ERIS:
   a) Full Membership.
   b) Associate Membership.
   c) Honorary Membership.
2. Every person (legal) who is interested in Full Membership within ERIS has to submit an application for membership.
3. Every person (either legal or natural) who is interested in Associate Membership within ERIS has to submit an application for membership together with written recommendation provided by any Full Member.
4. Every application for membership shall be decided upon by the ERIS Committee.
5. The Director of ERIS is entitled to propose Honorary Membership to any natural person.
6. Every such proposal of the Director of ERIS shall be decided upon by the ERIS Committee.

7. Every membership is established by the decision of the ERIS Committee.
8. Every membership is effective on the date specified by the ERIS Committee. If the ERIS Committee do not specify the date, the membership will be effective on the date when the ERIS Committee has made its decision.
9. Every membership could be terminated by any of these means:
   a) Death or dissolution of Member. In that case, membership terminates on the date when death took place or dissolution became effective.
   b) Written request by Member who is willing to terminate his/her own membership addressed to and received by the Director of ERIS. In that case, membership terminates on the 1st of January in the next calendar year.
   c) Expulsion of Member upon decision of the ERIS Committee. In that case, membership terminates on the date specified in the decision of the ERIS Committee. Expulsion is permissible after serious or grave breach of any of the Obligations of the Members (as specified in Article 4) has occurred.

Article 3
Rights of the Members

1. Every Member (Full, Associate, Honorary) has these rights within ERIS:
   a) Participation in activities and events of ERIS.
   b) Participation in meetings of the ERIS Committee (right to be heard).
   c) Participation in decision making within the ERIS Committee (to the extent defined by the specific type of membership).
   d) Submitting questions, suggestions or proposals to ERIS or to the ERIS Committee or to the Director of ERIS.

Article 4
Obligations of the Members

1. Every Member (Full, Associate, Honorary) has these obligations within ERIS:
   a) Adherence to the laws and public order of the Czech Republic and respective country of origin or seat of the respective Member.
   b) Adherence to this Statute of ERIS.
   c) Adherence to the decisions made by the ERIS Committee.
   d) Protection of good name of ERIS and of all its Members.
   e) Active and due execution of the rights of the Member, especially active participation in activities of ERIS.
   f) Regularly updating of contact information and addresses.

g) Paying membership fee in full and in due time (applicable only to the Members with the duty of paying the membership fee).

2. Serious or grave breach of Obligations of Members has occurred whenever any of these situations had taken place:
   a) Member failed to pay his/her membership fee either in full or in due time even after the second written request or reminder had been sent to him/her.
   b) Member failed to attend at least three consecutive meetings of the ERIS Committee without prior excuse.
   c) Member committed an act pertaining to ERIS which is considered as criminal or administrative offence or as other breach of public order by laws of the country of origin or seat of the Member.
   d) Member committed an act pertaining to ERIS which defy or diminish basic principles of ERIS.

Article 5
Full Membership

1. Full Membership is open exclusively to legal persons (e. g. universities, organizations, institutions, research facilities, etc.).
2. Every Full Member shall appoint exactly one natural person as the representative acting on behalf of this Full Member within the ERIS Committee.
3. University of Ostrava as a Full Member shall be represented by the Director of ERIS.
4. Every Full Member can be subjected to membership fee.
5. Every Full Member has vote within the ERIS Committee.

Article 6
Associate Membership

1. Associate Membership is open to both legal persons (e. g. universities, organizations, institutions, research facilities, etc.) and natural persons (e. g. individual people).
2. Every Associate Member who is legal person shall appoint exactly one natural person as the representative acting on behalf of this Associate Member within the ERIS Committee.
3. Associate Member can be subjected to membership fee.
4. Associate Member has not any vote within the ERIS Committee.

Article 7
Honorary Membership

1. Honorary Membership is open exclusively to natural persons (e. g. individual people).

2. Honorary Membership is usually awarded to natural persons who have made substantial contribution either to ERIS or to social work or related research in general.
3. Associate Member cannot be subjected to membership fee.
4. Associate Member has not any vote within the ERIS Committee.

Article 8
The ERIS Committee

1. Members establish an executive body of ERIS called *"The ERIS Committee"*.
2. The ERIS Committee consists of all Members.
3. The ERIS Committee has authority over these particular matters:
   a) Election of two deputies to the Director of ERIS.
   b) Appointment of persons responsible for the performance of new tasks.
   c) Acknowledgement of the annual management report proposed by the Director of ERIS.
   d) Acknowledgement of the annual budget of ERIS proposed by the Director of ERIS.
   e) Decision on the project plan presented by the Director of ERIS.
   f) Decision on work and research priorities in the next year.
   g) Decision on admission of new Members.
   h) Decision on amendments to this Statute.
   i) Decision on the name and the functions of ERIS.
   j) Decision on dissolution of ERIS.
   k) Decision on matters pertaining to membership fees.

Article 9
The Rules of Procedure of The ERIS Committee

1. The ERIS Committee expresses its will through making decisions.
2. The ERIS Committee may make its decisions either within (e.g., during) its meetings (sessions) or outside (e.g., after) them.
3. Every meeting (session) shall be convened by University of Ostrava.
4. Every Member is entitled to request University of Ostrava to convene a meeting (session).
5. Every meeting (session) shall be presided over by University of Ostrava.
6. Every Full Member has exactly one vote.
7. Every Full Member is entitled to cast his/her vote during voting procedure.
8. Every voting procedure is governed by these general rules (norms):
   a) Every decision requires at least more than a half of all votes.
   b) Every voting procedure that is carried out outside meeting (session) of the ERIS Committee, especially voting procedure taking place through exchange of e-mails,

requires ten days. The first day of the voting procedure shall be the first day after the day of announcement (notification) of voting. Every Full Member is entitled to cast his/her vote at any time within (or during) the mentioned period of time. The date and the time of sending an e-mail (encompassing the vote cast) is conclusive for determining whether the vote has been cast within the mentioned period of time.

1. University of Ostrava is entitled to set out or determine longer period of time than the default value as set out in letter b).
2. All Full Members together are entitled to set out (determine) other period of time (therefore shorter or longer) than the default value as set out in letter b).

c) Every vote named, labelled, or designed as *"no"*, *"nay"*, *"dissent"*, *"withheld"* or with other expression of disagreement/disapproval shall be regarded as a vote not cast and therefore the respective Full Member is considered as the Full Member who did not cast his/her vote.

9. Every decision made together with precise number of votes cast shall be reduced to writing (through proceedings from meeting/session or via exchange of e-mails outside meeting/session). Without the said reduction to writing every decision is considered as not made and therefore null and void.
10. University of Ostrava serves as a registrar and an archive of all decisions of the ERIS Committee reduced to writing.

Article 10
Dissolution of ERIS

1. ERIS can be dissolved at any time by any of these means:
   a) Decision of the ERIS Committee.
   b) Decision of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Social Studies of University of Ostrava.
2. Members of ERIS are entitled to transfer the name and function of ERIS to another legal person only after the dissolution of ERIS via a specific mean of dissolution as set out in letter b) of paragraph 1.

Article 11
Validity and Effects of this Statute

1. This Statute is valid upon approval of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Social Studies of University of Ostrava.
2. This Statute is effective immediately.
3. This Statute was approved by the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Social Studies of University of Ostrava on the date of: 14.04.2025