**Summer Academy Statute**

(as adopted by the AER General Assembly 23 May 2018 in Lillehammer (NO))

Appellation and terms

The AER Summer Academy is an annual forum for exchange of experience in the area of regional development in Europe.

**Article 1 – Mission and objectives**

* 1. **The programme aims:**
     1. To facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices between regions on issues of common interest.
     2. To facilitate exchanges between policy makers and young people
     3. To support mutual learning
     4. To promote regional democracy in Europe & implementation of the principle of subsidiarity.
     5. To provide an opportunity for regional representatives to build networks with their peers across wider Europe.
     6. To foster interregional co-operation.
     7. To highlight regional good practices and promote the host region
     8. To promote European construction, European identity, meeting between young people
  2. **The mission and objectives are met by:**
     1. Organising the AER Summer academy as a forum for mutual learning
     2. Enabling young people nominated by their region, politicians and civil servants to participate in the Summer Academy
     3. Facilitating the exchange of experiences through plenary sessions, workshops, study visits, recreational and cultural activities
  3. **The AER Summer academy adheres to the Statute and governing principles of AER** 
     1. The Summer Academy contributes to the AER mission and objectives:
* Promoting regional interests in Europe and beyond;
* Fostering interregional cooperation to promote the exchange of experience and the development of regional policy
  + 1. The Summer Academy embraces globalisation, beyond Europe, and acknowledges the need of diversity, inclusion and a multi-cultural approach in search of solutions.
    2. The Assembly of European Regions’ perspective of regional policy making is grounded in the territories, cultures, histories and lives of the citizens. It works to support and improve political place-based policy making.
    3. The Summer Academy is a non-profit programme
    4. The working language of the AER Summer Academy is English

**Article 2 – The Summer Academy Organising Committee**

* 1. **The Summer Academy Organising Committee (SAOC) is a group of AER member regions which collaboratively coordinate and organise the Summer Academy**
     1. SAOC members collaboratively research, select and promote a host for the Summer Academy, this choice is then validated by the AER Executive Board (*see art 3, Relations with AER*)
     2. SAOC members help define the theme of the Summer Academy according to the proposition of the host region
     3. SAOC members participate in the development of the programme of the Summer Academy
     4. SAOC members contribute financially to the organisation of the Summer Academy (*see art 5, Fees*)
     5. SAOC members can organise and facilitate a workshop at the Summer Academy, which is an opportunity to showcase their region’s experience
     6. To organise these workshops SAOC members invite stakeholders from their region
  2. **Membership of the Summer Academy Organising Committee (SAOC)**
     1. Membership of the SAOC is open to all AER member regions
     2. To become a new member of the SAOC, regions should get in touch with the SAOC President
     3. Regions which have been part of the SAOC for one Summer Academy are automatically a member of the SAOC for the following edition of the Summer Academy unless they have specified their will to leave the SAOC at least 6 months before the start of the Summer Academy.
     4. Membership of the SAOC provides regions with extensive visibility via the AER website, social media and other communication material before, during, and after the Summer Academy.
  3. **The President of the Summer Academy Organising Committee**
     1. The president of the Summer Academy Organising Committee is an elected politician from one of the member regions of the SAOC
     2. The President of the Summer Academy Organising Committee is elected by the members of the Summer Academy Organising Committee for a 2 year mandate, with possible extention for 2 years.
     3. The president of the Summer Academy Organising Committee has a seconded officer who is in charge of organizing the meetings of the SAOC, liaising with SAOC members for the organization of the Summer Academy, taking minutes of preparatory meetings
     4. The President of the SAOC is an adjunct member of the AER Executive Board (*AER Statute, art 6 The Executive Board*)

**Article 3 – Relations with AER**

* 1. **The AER Executive Board is responsible for the structural relations between AER and AER Summer Academy**
  2. **The AER Executive Board ratifies the Organising Committee’s decision concerning the host region of the Summer Academy**
  3. **The AER Executive Board ratifies any change to the present Statute, which have then to be validated by the General Assembly**

**Article 4 – The Summer Academy Host Region**

* 1. **To be able to host the Summer Academy a region needs to be a member of the Summer Academy Organising Committee**
  2. **In order to ensure the transfer of knowledge and smooth running of the programme the host region commits to be a member of the SAOC at least 3 years in a row:**

-1 year before hosting the Summer Academy

-the year the region hosts the Summer Academy

-1 year after hosting the Summer Academy

* 1. **The MoU (Memorandum of understanding) sets out the responsibilities of the host region of the AER Summer Academy**   
     1. The MoU covers all aspects of the region's tasks, including its logistical responsibilities and its financial obligations
     2. The MoU sets out the host region's relationship with the AER Secretariat and the Organising Committee

**Article 5 – Fees**

* 1. **Membership of the AER Summer Academy Organising Committee is dependent upon the payment of an annual fee**
     1. Members of the SAOC receive an invoice for the payment of the yearly fee
     2. The fee is fully dedicated to the organisation of the Summer Academy
     3. The fee is either payed directly into the bank account the host region opened for the Summer Academy or to AER which then pays it into the bank account opened for the Summer Academy
     4. SAOC members all pay 5000€/ year to support the organisation of the event
     5. The host region pays 12000€ the year it hosts the Summer Academy
  2. **The participation fees for participation at the AER Summer Academy are decided by the AER Summer Academy Organising Committee for each event**
     1. Participation fees generally have different categories: special youth price/ regular price and a distinction between old EU member States, Norway & Switzerland, and new EU member States, to ensure the event is accessible to all AER members.
     2. All participants pay a registration fee to attend the event, which covers meals, hotel, visits and activities.
     3. Members of the SAOC don’t pay any registration fee for 1 delegate per region.
     4. Regions pay for the participation of their youth
     5. Speakers do not pay for 1 or 2 nights depending on their speaking slot and the possibility to travel to and from the Summer Academy host region.
     6. Speakers who wish to stay longer should pay a registration fee.

**Article 6 – Participation**

* 1. **Participation to the Summer Academy is open to all AER member regions**
  2. **Delegates should be regional politicians or civil servants working in a regional administration**
     1. Delegates should have specific responsibility and/or experience in relation to the theme of the Summer Academy or have a strong personal background and commitment to the topic.
  3. **Regions can send up to 2 young people**
     1. To participate in the AER Summer Academy, youth participants must be nominated by their regional authority
     2. Youth participants should be aged between 18 and 30 years and should be active in regional youth bodies, e.g. youth councils, political parties, regional associations etc
     3. Any deviations from the maximum number of youth participants must be approved by SAOC

**Article 7 – Rules of procedure**

* 1. **Meetings of the SAOC**
     1. Invitations and draft agendas should be sent to SAOC members at least four weeks and working documents at least two weeks before the meetings
     2. Minutes shall be taken of all proceedings. They shall be signed by the chair of the SAOC, adopted at the following meeting and should be at the disposal of all members
  2. **Votes**
     1. All votes are by simple majority, defined as a majority of the members present and voting, unless otherwise specified in the present statute
     2. All elections are carried out by secret ballot, unless a unanimous decision to the contrary is made by the SAOC members
     3. Other decisions are taken through a vote by show of hands, unless a member requests otherwise
     4. In the event of a tied vote, on issues other than elections, the President of the SAOC has the casting vote
  3. **Decision making**
     1. Common practice of political assemblies shall be applied to all Summer Academy Organising Committee meetings
     2. Decisions are, in principle and whenever possible, adopted by consensus.
     3. The consensus should be understood as being the absence of any objection formulated and submitted by a member which may constitute an obstacle to the decision in question.

**Article 8 – Amendement of the Statute**

* 1. **The present Statute can be amended by the SAOC. Any amendment should be validated by the Executive Boad and ratified by the General Assembly**

**Article 9 – Dissolution and liquidation**

**9.1. The dissolution can only be proposed to the Executive Board by an SAOC meeting with a 2/3 majority defined by 2/3 of those present and voting**