

STATUTE OF THE OCEANS NETWORK

TITLE I: NAME

Article 1: NAME

§1 The name of the Organisation is Erasmus+ Organisation for Cooperation, Exchange and Networking: Student & Alumni network of international exchange programmes, abbreviated as E+ OCEANS.

TITLE II: VISION AND MISSION

Article 2: VISION

§1 E+ OCEANS unites people with diverse academic backgrounds between the EU countries and countries outside of Europe. E+ OCEANS does not only benefit from the community, but is also willing to shape it.

§2 The core values of E+ OCEANS incorporate: equality, mutual understanding, tolerance and progressiveness. The aim of E+ OCEANS is to bring people together in the context of these values.

Article 3: MISSION

§1 The mission of E+ OCEANS is to serve the interests of its members by providing a forum for networking, communication and collaboration and by promoting intercontinental exchange.

TITLE III: DEFINITIONS

Article 4: List of Definitions

Name	Abbreviation	Definition
Annual General Meeting	AGM	The annual meeting of E+ OCEANS. The core network group and other team members of the network can participate. The AGM can be designed as part of an ESAA annual meeting.
Board		The Board represents the executive power of the Network. It is comprised of the President, the Vice-President(s), and the Heads of Teams.
Core Network Group		The core network group is comprised of the Board and active team members. Each team can set its own rules to determine who is an active member. Each team maintains a list of active team members.

Name	Abbreviation	Definition
Country Representatives		E+ OCEANS selected representative who provide members located in their country of representation and potential members with information about the network from the perspective of an experienced student or alumnus and who coordinates national initiatives and activities.
Credit Mobility Strand	CMS	Erasmus+ Student and Alumni Association is divided in two strands (degree mobility and credit mobility). The Credit Mobility Strand includes three student and alumni organizations: Erasmus Student Network (ESN), E+ OCEANS and garagErasmus.
Credit Mobility Strand Board	CMBSB	The Board represents the executive power of the Credit Mobility Strand in Erasmus+ Student and Alumni Association
Deputy-Head of Team		Member of a Team with the responsibility of assisting the Head of Team and substitute him or her in case of absence.
Erasmus+	E+	EU programme 2014-2020 for Education, Training, Youth and Sport.
Erasmus+ Students and Alumni Association	ESAA	The Erasmus+ Student and Alumni Association integrates four higher education student and alumni associations: Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA), Erasmus Students Network (ESN), E+ OCEANS and garagErasmus (gE). ESAA aims to promote cooperation and mutual understanding among students, who participated in EU funded higher education programs in different countries.
Head of Team		The Team leader. Team Heads are members of the Board and act as the nexus between the Board and the different Teams. They are elected internally by each Team.
Horizontal Board	HB	The Horizontal Board represents the executive power of both Credit Mobility and Degree Mobility Strand
President		The elected representative of E+ OCEANS responsible for all relations with third parties and the leader of the Board.
Service Provider		The Service Provider is contracted by the European Commission. It is responsible for providing support to ESAA and consequently to E+ OCEANS.

Name	Abbreviation	Definition
Team		A group of E+ OCEANS members, focused on a pre-assigned activity, which undergo voluntary work on issues of relevance for the Network.
Team Members		E+ OCEANS members who undergo voluntary work on issues of relevance for the Network.
Vice-president/s	VP	Member/s of the Board with the responsibility of assisting in a variety of Presidential tasks, and who has/have both the privilege and obligation to temporarily replace the President in the case of her or his absence.

TITLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Article 5: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

§1 All members of the former E+ OCEANS Network are automatically members of E+ OCEANS and ESAA.

§2 Students and alumni of Erasmus+ exchange programmes between EU member countries and countries outside of the EU are eligible to become members of E+ OCEANS and ESAA, upon request.

§3 E+ OCEANS holds the right to grant Honorary Membership to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the organisation regardless participation in an exchange. Honorary Membership is granted by the Board unanimously. Honorary Membership implies similar rights and responsibilities as regular membership, withholding the voting right during the Annual General Meeting and any internal representative elections, or run themselves for such positions.

§4 The Board may grant membership, under exceptional circumstances, to ineligible applicants, including prospective exchange students.

§5 E+ OCEANS reserves the right to cancel a membership at any time by a unanimous decision of the Board, provided indisputable evidence is presented that the individual has grossly violated in speech, or action, the spirit of the Organisation (as defined in Article 2 and 3) or has severely damaged the reputation or interests of the Organisation. The member in question has to be informed about this before the decision.

§6 If eligibility cannot be determined by these rules the Board has the right to decide if a person is eligible.

TITLE V: STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Article 7: OVERVIEW OF ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS AND POSITIONS

§1 The Association shall conduct its affairs by means of the organizational units and associated positions as listed below:

- A. The Annual General Meeting
- B. The Board - composed of:
 - a. The President
 - b. The Vice-President(s)
 - c. Head of Teams
- C. Teams - each composed of:
 - a. Head of Team
 - b. Deputy-Head of Team
 - c. Team members

Article 8: TIMELINE DEFINITIONS

§1 For the purpose of this Statute, “one year” is defined as the time period between two consecutive Annual General Meetings, which may be shorter or longer than twelve months, but shall not be less than six months or longer than eighteen months.

Article 9: OCEANS ELECTIONS

§1 By participating in the elections, the candidate agrees to work towards fulfilling the tasks, as described in the mandate (see rules of procedure for details).

§2 Each representative of E+ OCEANS is elected or nominated for a mandate of one year. One person cannot serve on the Board for more than 2 mandates in a row in the same position, and for not more than 3 mandates in total.

§3 E+ OCEANS elected position holders can hold only one position across the Organisation. This doesn't concern positions within ESAA and Country Representatives. An exception to this rule may be made if a position cannot be filled otherwise.

§4 Specifications for mandates and election procedures are defined in a separate “rules of procedure” document.

Article 10: PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

§1 President and Vice-President(s) of the Board are elected by the members of the network through direct elections. If the position of President or Vice-President remains vacant after the first round of elections for network elected positions, the Board should launch a second round of elections.

TITLE VI: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Article 11: CONVENING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

§1 Once every year an AGM will take place. The AGM can be part of a bigger ESAA event. The Board announces the AGM and communicates specifics to E+ OCEANS members.

Article 12: DELEGATE PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS

§1 AGM delegates are required to participate in the entire AGM. The AGM delegates have the power to vote on amendments to the statute during the AGM.

Article 13: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

§1 The Board shall cooperate with the Service Provider to select AGM delegates. The selection procedure has to be transparent for applicants. New members shall have an advantage in the selection.

Article 14: VOTING RIGHTS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

§1 Every member of the network that participates at the AGM has the right to vote. The Board can decide to invite observing participants, which are not allowed to vote.

Article 15: EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

§1 An Extraordinary General Meeting, abbreviates as EGM, shall be organised if the Board decides so or if at least ten OCEANS members request it.

§2 The EGM shall be organised within 30 days from the moment the Board has taken the decision or from when the request by the members has been submitted to the Board.

§3 The EGM is fully equivalent to the AGM, including all the rights and responsibilities assigned by these Statute to the Board and the members. All provisions related to the AGM in this Statute shall therefore also apply to the EGM.

TITLE VII: THE BOARD

Article 16: THE BOARD COMPOSITION

§1 The Board is composed of the President, the Vice-President/s and the Heads of Teams. Within the Board, the responsibility of the Heads is shared with the Deputy-Heads of Teams. The Deputy-Head substitutes the Head of Team when the latter is not available.

Article 17: BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

§1 The Board is the executive decision-making body of the E+ OCEANS Network. Details on the decision-making process are included in the Rules of Procedure.

Article 18: THE PRESIDENT

§1 The President is the primary representative of the Network in external affairs, in particular regarding the cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture and the Service Provider.

§2 The President has the responsibility to ensure the overall performance and regular operation of the Network with the assistance of the Board. Details on tasks and requirements of the President are contained in the Rules of Procedure document.

Article 19: THE VICE-PRESIDENT/S

§1 The Vice-President/s support/s the work of the President.

§2 The number of Vice-Presidents positions are based on E+ OCEANS' needs and workload, as determined by the Board, with a minimum of one E+ OCEANS member holding this position for each year.

§3 In case of the President's absence, the Vice-President/s have/has the right and obligation to temporarily replace the President. Details on tasks and requirements of the Vice-President are contained in the Rules of Procedure document.

Article 20: HEADS OF TEAMS AND BOARD MEMBERS

§1 Heads of Teams are the Team leaders who have the responsibility to ensure the overall performance of the Team and act as the nexus between the Board and each Team. Head of Teams are automatically appointed as Board Members. Details on the election process and monitoring procedures of the Heads of Teams are contained in the Rules of Procedure document.

Article 21: DEPUTY-HEADS OF TEAMS

§1 Deputy-Head are Team members with the responsibility of assisting the Head of the Team. In case of the Head of Team absence, the Deputy Head has the right and obligation to temporarily replace him/her. In case of attending a Board meeting in replacement for Head of Team, voting rights are automatically transferred to the Deputy Head. Details on the election process and monitoring procedures of the Heads of Teams are contained in the Rules of Procedure document.

TITLE VIII: TEAMS

Article 22: NUMBER OF TEAMS

§1 The number of Teams is established by the Board, as considered necessary for the well functioning of the Organisation.

Article 23: PARTICIPATION IN TEAMS

§1 All E+ OCEANS Members can request to join E+ OCEANS' Teams by sending a motivation letter to the relevant Head of Team or Deputy-Head of Team.

§2 Heads of Teams and Deputy-Heads of Teams reserve the right to place a Team member under probation, with possibility for revocation from the position in case of uniformed absence or poor results.

Article 24: THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

§1 All E+ OCEANS Country Representatives are members of the International Development Team.

§2 The International Development Team shall internally determine the most reasonable form for regional representation through an internal simple majority vote.

TITLE IX: OCEANS IN ESAA

Article 25: REPRESENTATIVES TO ESAA BOARDS

§1 Representatives to ESAA Boards represent the Network to the Horizontal Board and Credit Mobility Strand Board. Representatives are selected among members on the ground of their competence, experience and commitment to the Network. The selection procedure and decision is made by the Board.

§2 The Board decide the length and detailed scope of Representatives' mandate prior to Representative engagement and upon his/her consent. The Board, acting as executive decision making body of E+ OCEANS Network, reserves the right to reevaluate Representatives' mandate during the engagement. In the case of disagreement between the opinion of the Board and the Representatives, Board opinion prevails.

Article 26: REPRESENTATIVES TO HORIZONTAL BOARD WORKING GROUPS

§1 E+ OCEANS' Teams are responsible for sending E+ OCEANS' representatives to Horizontal Board working groups. The representatives are chosen by the active team members by an internal vote. Either the Head or the Deputy Head of the Team is the first representative. A second representative has to be chosen from the remaining active team members. The Board can allow a Team to divert from this distribution.

TITLE X: RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Article 27: RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION

§1 E+ OCEANS recognises the role and support played by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture, in particular the facilitation of services provided via a contracted Service Provider.

§2 The Board reserves the right to invite representatives from the Service Provider to participate in Board meetings and other E+ OCEANS events and meetings whenever it deems necessary.

§3 While representatives from the Service Provider are welcome to attend any meeting of an organizational unit within E+ OCEANS and to participate in discussions of relevance to the Service Provider, they do not hold any voting rights within E+ OCEANS.

TITLE VIII: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 28: STATUTE MODIFICATIONS AND ADOPTION

§1 Any member has the right to propose amendments to the present Statute by writing an email to the Board, and by formulating a concrete and specific proposal for amendments. In addition to the proposed change, reasons for the change should be given. The proposal should have the support, beyond the main promoter, of 2 other members (the name and contacts of the supporters should be specified in the email, and they should be in carbon copy in the email). Once the Board receives the proposal, it should submit it to voting of:

- a. The Annual General Meeting, for non-urgent matters (as the Annual General Meeting gathers only once per year). To be approved, it should receive a positive vote of a 2/3 majority of present members. Proposals voted upon the Annual General Meeting have to be made available to delegates 2 weeks before the meeting. As an exemption to this rule proposals can be submitted later and even at the Annual General Meeting itself, if they have the support of at least 5 delegates.
- b. The EGM for urgent matters. The Network should be notified about the EGM and the proposed Statute changes at least 2 weeks in advance. To be approved, it should receive a positive vote of a 2/3 majority of votes.

Article 29: MISCELLANEOUS

§1 In the case that this statute does not cover an urgent matter that needs to be dealt with, the Board can decide with an executive action with a 2/3 majority but it has the obligation to propose an amendment to the E+ OCEANS statute, as soon as possible, under the rules specified in Article 27.

§2 The tasks of different roles, the working mechanisms of the Board, voting procedures and similar points are defined in an additional "Rules of Procedure" document. This document can be modified following the same procedures as the statute (see article 27 of title XI for details).