

CHARTER FOR THE EUROPEAN URBAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Article 1: Aims

The aims of the European Urban Research Association are

- a. To provide a forum for people from different disciplines and policy backgrounds to exchange information about findings from research on towns and cities as the basis for closer co-operation
- b. To encourage interdisciplinary and cross-national approaches to research in and education for urban and regional studies as a professional and academic field
- c. To bridge the gap between academic, professional and policy interests, inform public debate and improve the quality of urban policy

Article 2: Membership

Membership is open to individual researchers, research students and research institutions active in the field of urban research and institutions, agencies and associations of practitioners, active in the field of urban affairs and to individuals employed by such organisations who join the association by direct application.

There are three categories of members:

- individual members (not research students)
- individual members; being research students (either masters students or PhD students)
- institutional members

The Governing Board will take final decisions concerning the acceptance of membership applications.

Article 3: General Assembly

There will be a regular General Assembly meeting of the Association every two years in as far as possible in connection with the bi-annual EURA General Conference. The Assembly meeting (stating the place, date, and hour of the meeting) will be announced in the EURA Newsletter or a written notice to each member of the Association no less than thirty days before the Assembly.

The Assembly reviews the general policy of the Association and elects the Board.

All members have a right to attend the General Assembly and participate in its decisions, which are reached by a majority of those voting. The right to vote in the Association is dependent on the payment of the membership fee and is based on a system of "one person-one vote". The right to vote of an institutional member is to be exercised by the official representative of the institution or his deputy.

Article 4: Board and Elections

The Association is administered by the Board, consisting of no less than seven (7) nor more than twenty-nine (29) members. The membership of this Board should constitute a fair representation of the diversity of countries of EURA's membership. All members of the Board are elected by the General Assembly for a period of four (4) years.

Elections of the Governing Board, the President and the Vice-President will normally be held at regular General Assemblies but, if in certain years this is not practical, an election using postal ballots may be held. Voting is based on a system of "one person – one vote" (see Article 3). Whenever, an elected office is contested, an election should be conducted by a secret written ballot. In the case of a postal ballot or a secret written ballot, the Board will appoint an Election Committee comprising of Official Representatives of institutional members to supervise the elections and count the votes.

After each election of the Board, the Board itself elects, from its membership, a President, a Vice-President, and a Core Group that will assist the President in running the daily business of the association.

A group of members of the Governing Board representing no less than 1/3 of membership and no less than five (5) European countries shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At any meeting at which there is a quorum present the Board may act upon the affirmative vote of a majority of its members present. In all decisions of the Board the President has the casting vote.

Any action, which is required to be taken, or which may be taken at a meeting of the Board, may be taken without a meeting if consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by two thirds of the members of the Board.

The Board must meet at least once a year. Special meetings of the Board shall be convened upon the request of the President or a majority of the Board.

It is the duty of the Board to promote the Association and its purposes as specified in Article I. This includes taking part in Board meetings. In cases of resignation or unavoidable lapses of membership between General Assemblies, new members are appointed by a vote of the remaining Board members. This decision needs to be re-confirmed by the nearest General Assembly. If an elected member of the Board has valid reason not to attend a Board meeting, he/she is allowed to propose the President to send a deputy. The Board member should generally make such a proposal (that includes the name of the deputy) no later than five work days before the Board's meeting. The President has the right to decide on such a proposal. The President in exceptional cases also has the right to deviate from the rules regarding deputies.

Article 5: Membership Fees

The Governing Board decides the membership fees to be paid by each membership category and also has the right to further differentiate fees for different categories of members within these categories. One of the member organisations (normally the treasurer) shall establish a separate bank or project account for the collection of fees and disbursement of costs. Fees are paid annually in advance to the EURA Secretariat.

Article 6: Financial Management

The EURA secretariat in consultation with the President is responsible for supervising the receipt and disbursement of money on behalf of the Association and for preparing an Annual Statement of accounts to be submitted for information of the Board. The secretariat is responsible for the management of the fees and expenditure within the limits of funds available to the association. The board members of the association shall not place the Association in a risk or debt situation.

Article 7: Financial Position Report and Accounts

The Governing Board submits to the General Assembly a bi-annual Financial Position report, including an audited statement of accounts.

Article 8: Changing the Charter

Amendments to the EURA Charter should first be announced in the EURA Newsletter and then voted upon in the next General Assembly. A simple majority is required to change an article in the Charter.