

# **Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ)**

## **STATUTE**

### **1. NAME – HEADQUARTERS - DURATION**

1. A not-for-profit Association has been established named the “Society for the Study of Economic Inequality”, briefly “ECINEQ”.
2. The Association’s headquarters are in Italy.
3. The headquarters of the Society shall be situated wherever the Executive Committee may determine.
4. The Association has indefinite duration and can be dissolved by approval of the General Assembly of members.
5. The Association is based on this Statutes and on the existing rules of the Law on the specific matter.

### **2. AIMS**

1. The Association is a non-profit organization and promotes study in the field of economic inequality and related research topics.

It aims at providing an international forum for all researchers interested in the analysis of economic inequality and related fields, bringing together a diversity of perspectives, involving the interaction between researchers, policy makers and all the actors interested in understanding the determinants and the implications of economic inequality and its measurement.

In particular, the Association aims to:

- (a) advance theoretical and empirical research and to propagate knowledge about economic inequality and related fields;
- (b) facilitate and support contacts between scholars, scientists, and institutions engaged in the analysis of economic inequality and related fields, by the circulation of documents and other bibliographical material by printed or electronic media, through any journal of the Society, by the arrangement of conferences from time to time, by cooperation with other organizations, and by other appropriate means.

To reach its goals the Association can:

- collect, by means of campaigns and public events aimed at promoting the aims of the Association, public and private economic resources to finance the activities of the

Association, through donations, rents from institutional activities, public or private contributions;

- stipulate acts, contracts, or agreements with public or private institutions that are beneficial to the Association's goals;
- carry out every kind of activity that is adequate or represent support to the pursuit of the Association's activities. The Association can also carry out, as a less important and non-prevailing activity, chattel, real estate, commercial and guarantee operations that are beneficial to the Association's goals, as long as they are not forbidden by the Law and respect the limits imposed by the existing rules.

If the above activities are such that the Association can realize profits or collect funds, these will be exclusively used to fulfil the institutional aims.

### **3. MEMBERS – RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS – REQUIREMENTS – CATEGORIES**

1. A member can be either a natural person or a legal person or an institution that shares the principles and aims listed in this Statute and wants to take part to the Association's activities giving his/her moral and material contribution.

2. Members can be:

- founding: all those who undersigned the deed of incorporation of the Association and attended the inaugural meeting on July 22 2005.
- effective: all those who, after approval of the Executive Committee and payment of the membership fees, obtain the rights to be informed on the life of the Association and to participate to it.

In addition, there can be two types of members:

- **individual member:** all natural persons that participate individually and with their own capacities. A natural person becomes member by paying an individual membership fee of such amount as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time. The Executive Committee shall have the power to set individual membership fees that vary according to characteristics of members such as their country of domicile, professional status or student status, for example.
- **Institutional member:** all legal persons and institutions that become members by making contributions to the society that further its aims, subject to a minimum contribution as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time. Institutional members are nonvoting members.

3. Member status is not transferrable. The membership fee cannot be re-evaluated.

4. All those who want to become members shall submit an application form to the Executive Committee, which will decide by majority, and pay the membership fee. The Executive Committee can reject the membership request without need to provide a reason. The application form will contain a declaration of acceptance of the Statutes.

Being a member is an independent and voluntary act, it gives the right to take part to the activities of the Association, to attend the assemblies with right to vote in case of individual members that have regularly paid the membership fees. Members shall respect and conform to the Statutes, to internal rules and to the decisions of the bodies of the Association. Members shall behave correctly with other members, in matters involving internal relations, and with external subjects that are involved in a relationship with the Association.

The number of members is not fixed.

The member status ends in case of death, withdrawal, forfeiture.

Withdrawal can be carried out any time and must be communicated to the secretariat of the Association through a written declaration.

A forfeiture takes place if a member does not regularly pay the membership fee. It is approved by the Executive Committee following a decision of resignation or because of expulsion due to the member's behaviour conflicting with the aims of the Association, or due to the member's behaviour that morally and materially damages the Association, instigates tensions, offends the decorum and reputation of other members or of the members of the Executive Committee, that hamper the fulfilment of the aims of the Association, or because of non-fulfilment or lack of interest with respect to the aims of the Association.

A member who ceases his/her status, for whatever reason, has neither the right to the return of membership fees nor any claim on the assets of the Association.

#### **4. CORPORATE BODIES**

1. The corporate bodies of the Association are:

- a. The Executive Committee composed by the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer.
- b. The Council that supports the Executive Committee and is composed by the former President and twelve members that are elected among the individual members of the Association.
- c. The General Assembly of members that is the supreme body of the Association.

## **5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

(a) The Association is managed by an Executive Committee composed of the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

(b) The Executive Committee has all the powers for the ordinary and extraordinary administration.

(c) The Executive Committee has the power to do all that is necessary and useful for the proper administration of the Society within the bounds of the means available to it.

(d) The Executive Committee is in charge of:

- Preparing motions to be presented to the Assembly;
- Executing the decisions of the Assembly;
- Preparing the annual balance sheet of the Association to be presented to the General Assembly together with a report on the activities of the society;
- Drafting the programmes of the social activities based on the lines approved by the Assembly
- Defining the membership fees;
- Preparing expenditure forecasts;
- Evaluating members' requests;
- Deciding on the admission of new members and on the forfeiture causes;
- Determining the place and time of the meetings of the Assembly;
- Drafting internal guidelines, compliance with which is mandatory for all members;
- Deciding on the admission of new institutional members;
- Calling the Assembly whenever needed and at least once per year.

A meeting of the Executive Committee can take place whenever necessary. The call for the meeting is issued by the President at least 24 hours before the date of the meeting. In case of urgent matters, the call can be issued with less than 24 hours in advance. In the event that the President is absent or incapacitated, the meeting can be called by the Secretary following the same timing.

The Executive Committee meetings are called with a notification containing the agenda and sent by email, mail, telegram, telefax.

The members of the executive committee are appointed for two years and following the content of the 2382 of the Italian Civil Code is applied

(e) The President-Elect, the Secretary, and the Treasurer are elected by ballot by Society members from among their membership. If there is more than one candidate for each post, the person receiving the most votes shall be declared elected to that post. In the case of two candidates for the same post receiving an equal number of votes, the ballot is to be repeated.

(f) The terms of office of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer are two years each. After the expiry of the President's term of office, the President-Elect shall become President. Re-election for additional consecutive terms of office is permitted only in the case of the Secretary and the Treasurer.

(g) A Nomination Committee of three Council members selects the candidates for the election of the President-Elect, the Secretary and the Treasurer, after canvassing the members of the Society. Additional candidates for each post may be added to the ballot if proposed, in writing, by at least two individual members of the Society and the agreement of the person or persons so proposed is also secured in writing.

(h) After completion of the President's term of office, the President becomes a member of the Council for two further years, unless elected as Secretary, Treasurer, or elected Council member in which case the rules governing those positions apply.

(i) If a post on the Executive Committee falls vacant before the term of office has expired, the vacancy will be filled until the next due election by a member of Council elected by Council members.

(j) The Executive Committee shall draw up standing orders governing the conduct of its business.

## **6. THE PRESIDENT**

The President is the legal representative of the Association and is in charge of signing and representing the Association in front of others, on the base of what is established by the Civil Code (art. 36 co. 2).

The President chairs the Executive Committee and the Members' Assemblies. In case of absence or impediment, he/she is replaced by the Secretary.

The President is appointed for two years. At the end of his mandate, the President-Elect becomes President.

After the two-year appointment, the President becomes member of the Council for two years except if he/she is elected as Secretary or treasurer or member of the Council, in which case the rules regulating these positions are applied.

## **7. THE SECRETARY**

The Secretary is responsible for all the operations of the Secretariat of the Association. He/she applies the decisions of the Council and assists the President according to his/her competencies. In the event that the President is absent or incapacitated, the Secretary replaces him/her in all his/her competences. The Secretary is in charge of dealing with other institutions in order to promote the activities and the goals of the Association. He/she is also in charge of dealing with the fiscal aspects of the association and takes care of the relations with the Revenue Agency, the Social Security Institutions and the banks, carrying out every activity of ordinary administration that is concerned, such as, for instance, opening new bank accounts and raising cheques. The Secretary is in charge of countersigning the fiscal documentations that are elaborated on the base of the approved balance sheets.

The Secretary is appointed for two years.

## **8. THE TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall be responsible for supervising the receipt and disbursement of moneys on behalf of the Society, and for the preparation of an annual statement of accounts, and estimates of future expenditures, to be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee.

The treasurer is appointed for two years.

## **9. THE COUNCIL**

(a) In the execution of its duties, especially during the preparation of scientific conferences and publications of the Society, the Executive Committee is supported by a Council.

(b) In addition to the past President, the Council shall consist of twelve members elected from among the individual members of the Society. The Council may also occasionally co-opt up to three additional individual members of the Society in order to assist the efficient functioning of Council or to ensure that Council is representative of the Society's membership. Co-opted members of Council do not have voting rights at Council meetings.

(c) All elections for Council members shall be carried out by a secret ballot of the individual members of the Society, and in accordance with the procedures set out in the standing orders of the Society.

(d) Candidates for election to Council are nominated by a Nomination Committee, after canvassing the members of the Society. The Nomination Committee consists of the Executive Committee and three Council members chosen by the Council from among their membership. Additional

candidates may be added to the ballot if proposed, in writing, by at least five individual members of the Society, and the agreement of the person or persons so proposed is also secured in writing.

(e) Each member of Council is elected for six years and is limited to two consecutive terms of office as an elected member. They can be re-elected but not immediately after the end of the second mandate as a member of the council.

(f) Council meetings are chaired by the President or another member of the Executive Committee.

(g) The Council, or individual members of the Council, may be asked to attend meetings of the Executive Committee in an advisory role. A joint meeting of the Executive Committee and the Council shall be held at least once every two years, either face-to-face or by conference call. The location of any face-to-face meeting shall be determined by Council.

(h) Every second year, the membership of at least one third of the elected members of Council shall be renewed. If not enough elected members are at the end of their full term of office, the Executive Committee shall use a lottery to determine which elected members shall be replaced.

(i) If a post on Council falls vacant before the term of office has expired, the vacancy will be filled until the next due election by a Society member co-opted by the remaining Council members. Service in this manner will not be taken into account for the purposes of the restrictions on terms of office indicated in Article 9(e).

(j) The Council shall draw up standing orders governing the conduct of its business.

## **10. THE GENERAL ASSAMBLY**

(a) The General Assembly of Members is the sovereign body of the Association and can make all decisions that are necessary for the operation of the Association's life with the exception of the decisions that are in the sphere of competency of the Executive Committee. The assembly is called by the President.

Each member, that has regularly paid the membership fee, has one vote. Replacement of absent members is forbidden: proxy voting is not allowed.

(b) Resolutions on amendments concerning the Statute, the election of members of the Executive Committee or the Council, the potential nomination of an Auditor or of an Audit Committee, the approval of reports of the Executive Committee and the Society's financial accounts are incumbent upon the General Assembly and cannot be withdrawn.

The election of members of the Executive Committee and the Council are undertaken by ballot, according to the rules of this Statute.

The assembly's decisions are mandatory for all members, even for those who were absent or dissenting.

(c) An ordinary General Assembly shall normally be held at least once a year. Notification of the date, time, venue and agenda of such meetings shall be provided by the Executive Committee at least four weeks prior to the date set for the meeting.

Individual members of the Society may propose items for the agenda of each General Assembly. Such proposals should be made to the Executive Committee in advance of the circulation of the agenda by the Executive Committee or, with the consent of the chairperson of the General Assembly, may be considered as an 'Any Other Business' agenda item.

The Assembly:

- Approves the Statutes' amendments
- Approves the balance sheet of the previous year and the provisional balance sheet of the current year
- Nominates the members of the Executive Committee and the Council and potentially the Auditor or the Audit Committee
- Approves any other business that is presented to the Executive Committee

(d) The Executive Committee shall convene an extraordinary General Assembly if at least one quarter of the membership requests such a meeting and presents an agenda.

(e) The General Assembly is chaired by the President of the Society or, in the President's absence, by another member of the Executive Committee.

(f) A General Assembly is quorate if at least fifteen individual members of the Society are present. If the quorum is not reached, another meeting shall be convened, with at least four weeks' notice of the meeting being given, which shall have a quorum regardless of the number of members present.

(g) In the interval between General Assemblies, urgent resolutions may be passed by ballot.

(h) The General Assembly passes resolutions by a simple majority of votes cast, except in the cases explicitly mentioned in the statutes.

(i) Resolutions of the General Assembly are passed by a show of hands, except in the cases explicitly mentioned in the statutes. At the request of at least one quarter of the members present, a secret ballot may be used with regard to specific items on the agenda of the General Assembly.



## **11. ASSETS, PROPERTY AND FUNDS**

- (a) The Society has been founded without any initial endowment.
- (b) All income and property of the Society from whatever source derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the aims of the Society as set out in these Statutes.
- (c) This is a non-profit organization and its assets are represented by the membership fees, self-financing, contributions and subsidies received by the Italian Government, the Regions, the EU, the Local Administrations, any public or private institutions, any international and national financial institutions, citizens, members' or other people' donations, in the respect, where needed, of the provisions of Law about acceptance.
- (d) It is forbidden to distribute, directly or indirectly, profits, operating surpluses, funds, reserves, capital, during the Society's life, except if imposed by the Law. Annual operating surpluses are used to cover losses of previous years or to improve the institutional activities or to buy instrumental goods or to increase and improve the Society's activities.
- (e) Members' contributions and the goods bought with these contributions, according to what is prescribed in the art 37c.c, constitute the mutual fund of the association. During the life of the society, members cannot pretend neither the division of this fund nor their share in case of withdrawal.

## **12. ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET AND DOCUMENTARY OBLIGATIONS AND ACCOUNTS**

- (a) The financial year starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December each year.
- (b) Every year the Executive Committee will present the balance sheet to be approved by the Assembly. Fifteen days before the approval, the balance sheet will be filed at the headquarters of the Society to be checked by each member, upon agreement with the Secretary.
- (c) True accounts shall be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Society and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place and of the assets, credits, and liabilities of the Society. At least once a year the accounts shall be examined and the correctness of the Statement and Balance Sheet ascertained by one or more properly qualified auditor or auditors.

### **13. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE**

- (a) Amendments to these statutes require a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast by the membership of the Society.
- (b) Proposals to change the statutes may emanate from the Executive Committee or from one third of the membership of the Society.
- (c) Notice of a General Assembly with the item 'Amendments to the Statutes' on the agenda shall be given at least two months in advance of the meeting, and shall provide details of the proposed amendment. If the quorum of this General Assembly is not reached, a second General Assembly is empowered to pass a resolution with a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast by the membership of the Society.

### **14. DISSOLUTION, WINDING UP AND ASSET BEQUEATHAL**

- (a) The Society's dissolution and asset bequeathal are deliberated by the General Assembly and approved with the vote of at least three-quarters of the members.
- (b) If dissolution is determined by the General Assembly, the General Assembly can also nominate a liquidator or a committee of liquidators with the majority of votes indicated in art 21 c.c. Members of the Executive Committee can be nominated liquidators.
- (c) In the event of dissolution, the residual assets, once all liabilities are covered, will be bequeathed by liquidators - with the exception of reimbursement to members - to other associations with similar aims, to Universities, or for other public purposes, according to the deliberations of the General Assembly, unless a different disposal is required by law.

### **15. REFERENCE STANDARDS**

1. For every matter that is not expressly regulated by this Statute, the rules applied to associations contained in the Civil Code, D.p.r. 917/1986 and in particular art.148, and other laws on the matter are to apply.