

The InASEA Constitution

Art. 1 Name. An International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (Association internationale d'anthropologie du sud-est européen, Internationale Gesellschaft für die Anthropologie Südosteuropas) is hereby established. The term "anthropology" is taken to include ethnology, cultural and social anthropology, folklore, ethnography, historical anthropology and cognate fields and disciplines. It is taken to mean the study of social and cultural processes manifest in the practices and beliefs of the peoples of south-eastern Europe.

Art. 2 Aims and activities. The aims of the Association are (a) to form a professional body of scholars in the above fields and disciplines engaged in the study of southeast European cultures, and (b) to encourage the understanding and development of this field of scholarship through professional communication and co-operation. The activities of the Association shall include (1) conferences, seminars, workshops and pedagogical activities, (2) publication of a journal and other Association-related publications and (3) others appropriate to the aims of the Association.

Art. 3 Seat and languages of the Association. The official seat of the Association will be the office of the current president. The language of communication will be English; languages of conferences and publications will be English, French, and German.

Art. 4 Membership. The Association will include five categories of members: (a) founding members; (b) ordinary members; (c) honorary members; (d) associate members; and (e) supporting members, individual and institutional. Founding members (a) are the members of the constitutional committee listed below. Ordinary members (b) are scholars of the above and related fields and disciplines who have been admitted to membership by decision of the executive committee. An applicant for ordinary membership may be nominated by any two ordinary members of the Association. Nominations should be communicated to the secretary via the application form, and must be signed by the candidate and sponsors. A decision regarding membership is taken by the executive committee. Honorary members (c) are distinguished scholars who are designated honorary members by decision of the executive committee. The executive committee may confer honorary membership upon distinguished scholars in the above or in closely related fields and disciplines. Any ordinary member of the Association may nominate a candidate for honorary membership by writing to the secretary. Associate members (d) are students or scholars of the above and related fields and disciplines who do not qualify for ordinary membership of the Association, but who wish to participate in some of its activities. Nominations by two ordinary members should be communicated to the secretary, and must be signed by the candidate and the sponsors. A decision on the application will be made by the executive committee. Supporting members (e) are individuals or institutions not directly involved in the above fields and disciplines but who nonetheless wish to support the Association's activities **by donations**. The procedure for membership is the same as for associate members.

Art. 5 Eligibility for membership. Eligibility for ordinary membership of the Association shall be based on one of the following criteria: (a) possession of an appropriate doctoral degree or Master of Arts (or equivalent); or (b) possession of a teaching or research post in fields and disciplines recognised as appropriate by the Association at a university or institution of equivalent standing. Associate membership should be open to students and

independent scholars of the above and related fields and disciplines. Potential supporting members should make their case for eligibility to the Executive Committee.

Art. 6 Rights and duties of members. By accepting membership, members commit themselves to accepting and furthering the aims of the Association. All members have the right to receive publications and information regarding the activities of the Association, and to attend conferences. **All dues-paying members** and honorary members have the right to speak and vote at meetings of the forum of members, to participate in elections to the executive committee. Members (except for honorary **and supporting** members) will be required to pay the annual dues. **Associate members pay reduced dues.** Dues will be set by the executive committee with the support of the forum. Any member who does not pay dues for two consecutive years shall, after enquiry by the secretary and with the approval of the executive committee, be regarded as having terminated membership. The executive committee reserves the right to reconsider the status of any member who it views as working against the aims of the Association and to propose expulsion to a vote of the forum of members.

Art. 7 The organs of the Association:

1. the forum of members (general assembly)
2. the executive committee
3. the electoral committee
4. the advisory board
5. the editorial board of the journal
6. special committees.

Art. 8 Forum of members. There will be a forum of members (general assembly) which will debate the general direction of activities of the Association. Attendance at the forum will be open to all members of the Association, but supporting members will not have the right to vote at meetings of the forum. It will meet at least once every two years, or more frequently as determined by the executive committee. Its quorum is to consist of twenty percent (20%) of the **dues-paying** and honorary membership.

Art. 9 The executive committee.

1. The members will elect an executive committee of seven persons at the general assembly, by postal ballot or by electronic mail. The **composition** of the committee will be balanced in terms of region and gender. Members of the executive committee should be elected for two years renewable by general election to a maximum of six (6) years. Associate and supporting members may not be members of the executive committee. Nominations for elections to the executive committee will be invited by the electoral committee whenever a vacancy may occur and otherwise every two years. Nominations may be submitted by any dues-paying or honorary member and should be directed to the electoral committee and must be agreed by the candidate.

2. The executive committee will elect from their number a **president** and **vice-president**, one of whom will be from Southeast Europe. The executive committee will also elect a **treasurer**. The president should act for a period of two years renewable to a maximum of six years. The president may appoint a secretary to assist in the day to day running of the Association, who may attend meetings of the executive committee but not take part in its decisions. The editor-in-chief of the journal should be made member of the executive committee but may not be president or vice-president of the Association.

3. If a member of the executive committee resigns, the remaining members of the committee have the right to **co-opt** another full member, in observance of the rules regarding gender

and regional balance. The co-opted member has to be confirmed by the next general assembly (by more than half of the valid votes). There must be no more than two co-opted members serving on the executive committee at any time.

Art. 10 The electoral committee. The members will elect an electoral committee of five or seven persons at the general assembly, by postal ballot or by electronic mail. The composition of the committee will be balanced in terms of region and gender. The electoral committee is responsible for collecting nominations of candidates to the executive committee and other committees and for election procedures. A member of the electoral committee may not simultaneously be member of the executive committee. Members of the electoral committee should be elected for two years renewable by general election to a maximum of six (6) years. The electoral committee will elect from their number a co-ordinator.

Art. 11 The advisory board. The advisory board is constituted of no more than 20 **dues-paying and honorary members**, who cannot simultaneously be members of the executive committee. The advisory board is chosen by general election. The advisory board is made up of representatives from Southeast Europe who will coordinate communications between the executive committee and their respective countries/regions. The functions of the representatives of the advisory board are:

- 1) to advise the executive committee on matters arising concerning their respective regions,
- 2) to assist in administrative matters such as distributing publications and collecting Association dues.

Art. 12 The editorial board of the journal. The journal of the Association, *Ethnologia Balkanica*, will be edited by an editor-in-chief and a co-editor, at least one of whom will be from Southeast Europe. They will be advised and supported by an editorial board of scholars. The members of the editorial board are nominated and elected by the executive committee. They in turn will elect an editor-in-chief and co-editor, whose tenure will be four (4) years, with another four (4) years extendable.

Art. 13 Special committees. Committees to undertake special tasks or to study special problems in the defined field of the Association may be appointed by the forum of members. They will elect their own chairperson and must be guided by the terms of reference laid down for them by the forum of members.

Art. 14 Duties of the president.

The president shall be responsible for convening meetings of the executive committee and forum of members (general assembly), and between such meetings for the day-to-day administration of the Association, with the assistance of the treasurer. The president will be empowered to act on behalf of the Association. The president can confer this power temporarily for special tasks to the vice-president. The president can be replaced by the executive committee, if deemed necessary, by an extraordinary vote of at least five (5) of its members.

Art. 15 Procedure of executive committee. The executive committee will meet at least once a year, and will decide its own rules of procedure (règlement interieur).

Art. 16 Property of the Association. The Association is a professional non-profit organisation. It raises its funds from membership dues or subscriptions and from the sponsorship of individuals or legal entities. The funds will be managed by the treasurer and must be used for the aims of the Association. The treasurer is accountable to the executive committee and the forum of members.

Art. 17 Constitutional changes. Constitutional changes may be proposed by any **dues-paying and honorary member** of the Association. The proposals should be communicated to the executive committee. If at least five (5) ordinary members of the Association signify their support for a proposed change, the president will circulate the proposal to the members for a postal vote. Changes in the constitution must be approved by a numerical majority of the **dues-paying and honorary membership**.

Art. 18 Dissolution of the Association. The Association may be dissolved at the request of the majority of all ordinary members. In this case such assets as there may be are to be placed at the disposal of an international scholarly society of similar character to be determined by the executive committee. In no case may the assets of the Association be distributed among members.

Bucharest, Dec. 12, 1999

The founding committee:

Milena Benovska-Sabkova, Sofia

Glenn Bowman, Canterbury

Christian Giordano, Fribourg

Deema Kaneff, Halle

Karl Kaser, Graz

Vintila Mihailescu, Bucharest

Slobodan Naumovic, Belgrade

Karin Norman, Stockholm

Klaus Roth, Munich.

Amended by the General Assembly, Graz, Feb. 22, 2003.