



International Students of History Association



Statutes

Preamble

In 1989, out of the rubble of the falling Iron Curtain, the International Students of History Association (ISHA) emerged. In this climate of rapid and unpredictable political change a group of Hungarian students of Humanities took the initiative and started forging links with their colleagues in different countries. They wanted to establish an association that would allow students of history and related sciences to interact, cooperate and exchange ideas on an international level, something that had not been possible in a divided Europe.

On May 9, 1990 ISHA was founded in Budapest at the first of the association's annual conferences. As the association has grown in size and scope, additional events have been added to ISHA's calendar, including smaller seminars, regional activities and projects. In 1999 the first issue of ISHA's academic journal, *Carnival* was published.

Since the foundation of ISHA, the location of its headquarters has changed several times from Budapest, later established a double-headquarter together with Vienna, Austria, to Helsinki, Finland, to Leuven, Belgium, and later to Zürich, Switzerland. After almost three decades of existence, ISHA has continued to grow and now boasts members from all around the world. The foundation of ISHA in Berlin is rooted in the tradition of its former seats in these cities.

Section One: The Organisation

Article 1: Name

The Organisation is an international, independent, academic, non-profit Organisation. The name of the Organisation is "International Students of History Association". Its official abbreviation is "ISHA". "ISHA International" may be used to distinguish the Organisation from its members.

Article 2: Seat

The seat of the Organisation is in Berlin, Germany. It is an association (eingetragener Verein) as specified by Articles 21-79 of the Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (BGB), registered in the Vereinsregister Berlin. The GA is entitled to move the seat of the Organisation if it desires to do so and announces this in the minutes and statutes of the Organisation. A two-thirds majority is required to carry out this action.

Article 3: Language

The official language as well as the working language of the Organisation is English. Other languages may be used as working languages if necessary and appropriate.

Article 4: Aims and Activities



(1) The principal aims of the Organisation are:

- a) To promote international co-operation and understanding,
- b) To encourage the exchange of ideas across geographical and intellectual borders,
- c) To improve and complement the ways and means of historical educations.

(2) Its activities are:

- a) to uphold and expand a network of current and former students of historical science and those students from other academic disciplines who share an academic interest in historical science or wish to contribute to it via expertise in their own field on an international level,
- b) To encourage its members to organise activities which further the Organisation's aims, as stated above, and to assist them throughout the whole organisational process,
- c) To develop and perform such activities as specified above on its own,
- d) To issue an international, periodically appearing Journal and other publications in which students can have their academic contributions published,
- e) To establish and maintain contact and co-operation with other organisations and entities and to establish links with other students' organisations in order to strengthen international student representation and the achievement of common goals and entities.

Article 5: Principles

The Organisation is guided by the following principles:

- a) it is a non-profit organisation,
- b) it is independent of political, ideological, commercial, or any other kind of influence,
- c) it emphasises and promotes the equality of all people, anywhere and at any point in time.

Article 6: Official Year

The Official Year of the Organisation starts on the first day of January each year and ends on the thirty-first day of December, the following year.

Section Two: Forms of Membership and Affiliation

Article 7: Active ISHA Membership

- (1) Active membership of ISHA is open to any individual student of historical science, related academic disciplines and those who wish to contribute to the advancement of historical science via expertise in their own field of study,
- (2) Active membership is dependent on the payment of an annual membership fee to ISHA International. Membership is applied for by submitting a completed membership form to the secretary and is activated as soon the person attends an international event (as defined in the Standing Orders).The membership fee is obligatory for all participants of ISHA international events, to be eligible for the 100 Euro participation fee cap, excluding first-time participants. A list of active members is maintained by the secretary of ISHA International and is updated after each international event.
- (3) Membership can be terminated if requested by the member in writing or after the termination of one's student status.



- (4) Active membership entitles the individual the opportunity to elect or be elected as a delegate for their local section to represent the majority of the active members of their section in all General Assemblies of ISHA International subject to the payment of the aforementioned membership fee. If an active member fails to attend any international event for two consecutive years, the membership becomes passive (see Article 8). As soon as the member takes part in an international event the membership is reactivated, if the fee was paid.

Article 8: Passive ISHA Membership

- (1) Passive membership of ISHA is open to any individual student of historical science, related academic disciplines and those who wish to contribute to the advancement of historical science via expertise in their own field of study,
- (2) Passive membership is applied for through the submission of a completed membership form to the secretary. Passive membership is not dependent on the payment of an annual membership fee to ISHA International.
- (3) Passive membership does not entitle the individual a vote in all General Assemblies of ISHA International.
- (4) Membership can be terminated if requested by the member in a written statement addressed to the secretary.

Article 9: Local Chapters and/or Sections

- (1) Local chapters (hereafter called as sections) of ISHA must be comprised of active and/or passive members of the Association. Sections are established with the intention of encouraging local and regional cooperation amongst active and passive members and organize international events. Local sections are run in accordance with the statutes of ISHA International and are governed in accordance to democratic principles. Every local section is entitled to one vote at the General Assemblies and shall be represented by a single delegate elected by the active members by that local sections.
- (2) A section is founded through the agreement of members of ISHA and has to be reported to the secretary in writing. This report must be accompanied by statement by which the new section agrees to accept these statutes. Sections don't pay fees to ISHA.
- (3) A section ceases to exist once there are no ISHA members left in the city. It can also be disbanded by a written statement composed by the majority of its members.
- (4) ISHA allows only one section per city. Students are encouraged to work together to form one section in the event that ISHA members attend more than one university in a city.

Article 10: Delegates and Voting

- (1) Active membership of ISHA International entitles the individual to elect a delegate and an optional vice-delegate to represent their local section at the General Assembly.
- (2) Delegates have to be elected at least two weeks before the GA. There is no limit on how often a person can be elected as a delegate.
- (3) A delegate is defined as:
 - a) An active member of ISHA International who has been accepted to the international event where the GA in question is held,
 - b) Involved in a local section of ISHA,



- c) Elected by active members of his/her section of ISHA. Delegates must obtain a minimum of 50 % of the vote of the active members of their section to be recognized by the International Board.

(4) The duties of the delegate are as follows

- a) To vote at General Assemblies in the majority interest of their local ISHA section,
- b) To represent their local ISHA section internationally,
- c) To report on the activities of their local ISHA section to the General Assembly,
- d) To report the proceedings of the GA back to their local section.

Article 11: Partners

National representative bodies of history students and international organisations of other disciplines, which do not qualify for membership but share the aims, goals, and interests of ISHA and provide academic help and/or student exchange and representation may become “Partners” upon approval by the General Assembly.

The beginning and end of each cooperation, as well as any payments required of either party, are stipulated in separately drawn-up contracts.

Article 12: Associate Partners

National or international organisations, which do not qualify for membership but share the aims, goals, and interests of ISHA may become “Associate Partners” upon approval by the General Assembly.

The beginning and end of any association, as well as any payments required of either party, are stipulated in separately drawn-up contracts.

Article 13: Board of Patrons

The organisation has a Board of Patrons, consisting of persons who wish to support the organisation and its mission. Details will be specified in the Standing Orders.

Patrons are not members of ISHA and are therefore exempt from membership payments.

Section Three: Organs

Article 14: Principal Organs

The principal Organs of the Organisation are the General Assembly (GA), the International Board (IB), the Council, the Treasury Supervision (TS), and the Editorial Board (EB).

Article 15: Officials

(1) The different positions within the organs of the Organisation and their respective holders are called “Officials”.



(2) Any individual active or passive member is eligible for election as Official, unless stated otherwise. All Officials are elected by the GA by a simple majority of vote by secret ballot.

(3) Officials can be re-elected to the same position or to another position within the Organisation but should not serve more than three terms within the same Organ of the Organisation or four consecutive terms in positions within different Organs. In case there should be no other candidates for a position, the GA may decide an exception from this rule.

(4) The Officials' term of office coincides with the Official Year of ISHA as set in Article 6 above.

Article 16: The General Assembly

(1) The General Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of ISHA, the decisions of which are binding to the entire organisation. Its official abbreviation is "GA".

(2) The GA holds the exclusive power to

- a) alter these Statutes and the Standing Orders,
- b) approve the budget of the Organisation,
- c) approve the minutes of previous GAs and other meetings,
- d) elect all Officials,
- e) create positions for further Officials if necessary,
- f) discharge the International Board,
- g) decide the amount of the annual membership fee,
- h) establish and dissolve official partnerships with other Associations and Organisations,
- i) exclude Active and Passive ISHA Members who are in violation of the Association's Code of Conduct,
- j) dismiss Officials who neglected their duties, violated these Statutes, the Standing Orders, or otherwise the interests of ISHA,
- k) dissolve the Organisation.

(3) The GA must be held at least once per year. Additional sessions can be convened by the International Board, the Council, or by written request of at least one third of the members.

(4) The sessions of the GA are open to non-members unless the GA decides otherwise.

(5) Every elected Delegate of ISHA sections has the right to vote in the GA and holds one vote. Should the delegate represent a section with more than 50 members an additional vote is added for every 50 members whose votes the delegate holds. Every active member has the right to bring any relevant business before the GA. The GA can vote to accept the proposal.

(6) Active members whose section is not represented by a delegate at the General Assembly may delegate their voting rights to another Delegate. The International Board must be informed in writing about this before the convening of the GA. One Delegate cannot hold more than two such proxy votes.

(7) Unless stated otherwise, all decisions of the GA are taken with a simple majority of votes.

Article 17: The International Board

(1) The International Board is responsible for the administration of the Organisation and for the co-ordination of the ISHA network. Its official abbreviation is "IB".



(2) The IB's principal responsibilities are

- a) to administer the Organisation internally,
- b) to oversee the financial administration of ISHA and develop new sources of income,
- c) to manage internal communication,
- d) to induce and coordinate most of ISHA's activities,
- e) to assist all sections of ISHA in organising their activities,
- f) to represent ISHA towards other organisations and entities and to promote the Organisation externally,
- g) to enforce these Statutes, the Standing Orders, and all decisions taken by the GA.

(3) The IB is answerable to the GA. It may provisionally suspend elected Officials but must convene a GA within three months, for the GA to approve or disapprove this decision.

(4) The IB shall consist of a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. A maximum of two further Officials may be elected to the IB if the GA decides so. The Officials of the IB should come from at least two different local sections.

(5) Within the IB, every Official is equal. Decisions should be taken based on consensus. In the event of disagreement, decisions are to be taken by a simple majority of votes. If a decision cannot be made by vote, the President decides.

(6) If required, the IB functions as the plaintiff or defendant in any lawsuits issued by or against the organisation, and is represented in court proceedings by an Official appointed specifically by the IB for this purpose. Every member of the IB has the right to individual representation.

Article 18: The Council

(1) The Council is the advisory body of the Organisation. It assists the IB and works under its responsibility, but also ensures that the IB is properly functioning.

(2) The Council's responsibilities are

(3) to assist the IB in its tasks,

- a) to advise the IB at request or independently,
- b) to convene a GA if the IB should prove incapable of action.
- c) The Council shall consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of seven active members. Passive members cannot outnumber active members

(4) Within the Council, every Official is equal. Decisions should be taken based on consensus. In the event of disagreement, decisions are to be taken by a simple majority of votes.

Article 19: The Treasury Supervision

(1) The Treasury Supervision reviews the financial administration of the previous IB and supervises the financial administration of the current IB. Its official abbreviation is "TC".

(2) The TC is answerable to the GA and advises the GA on the discharge of the IB.

(3) The TC shall be composed of two Officials from different local sections. No official of the TC may be from the same section as any Official of the IB which that TC will be viewing.

(4) Each IB must provide the TC that has been assigned to review its financial administration with all required information and is obliged to show all documents, possessions, and financial means which are required for its supervision in due time.



Article 20: The Editorial Board

- (1) The Editorial Board is responsible for the whole process of publishing the Organisation's Journal. Its official abbreviation is "EB".
- (2) The EB shall consist of one Official who will be named "Editor-in-Chief" and a group of volunteers.
- (3) The Editor-in-Chief is elected by the GA, presides over the EB and takes full responsibility for the whole process of publication of the Journal.
- (4) The Editor-in-Chief shall remain responsible for the finalisation and publication of all editions of the Journal that have been planned for his or her term of office.

Article 21: The Webmaster

- (1) The Webmaster is an Official outside of the Organs of ISHA and takes care of ISHA's presence on the Internet.
- (2) The Webmaster's tasks are
 - a) maintaining and updating the website of ISHA,
 - b) assisting other Officials and Representatives of ISHA members in working with the website.
- (3) In case no person with the necessary qualifications is available, the tasks of the Webmaster will be the responsibility of the IB until a new Webmaster has been found.

Article 22: The Archivist

- (1) The Archivist is like the Webmaster an Official outside of the Organs of ISHA and takes care of ISHA's archival documents.
- (2) The Archivist's tasks are
 - a) collecting and preparing potential sources from the IB, Council, EB, TC and member and observer sections
 - b) staying in contact with the Archive in Leuven and sending prepared archival documents.
- (3) In case no person with the necessary qualifications is available, the tasks of the Archivist will be the responsibility of the IB until a new Archivist is found.

Article 23: Committees

- (1) Committees are a body of at least two persons. They can have different functions and the type of work each committee does depends on its purpose.
- (2) The members of a committee are no Officials of ISHA. They are not elected by the GA.
- (3) The foundation of a Committee must be approved by the GA. Its existence must be approved by the GA at the Annual Conference.



Article 24: ISHA Representative(s)

(1) The ISHA Representatives are similar to Committee members, they are not Officials of ISHA, rather, they are outside of the Organs of ISHA. They are not elected by the GA, but appointed by the International Board for a set period to represent ISHA officially on a certain occasion. The need of having an ISHA Representative must be collegially decided by voting between the IB members.

(2) The ISHA Representatives' tasks are:

- a) agreed on between IB and the ISHA Representative and approved by the IB on a case to case basis by signing a contract
- b) acting on local and national levels in order to guarantee the stability of sections in the area
- c) representing ISHA externally
- d) support the International Board and the work of the Association when it is needed

(3) The ISHA Representatives are answerable to the IB and are obliged to show all documents, which are required for its supervision.

(4) The ISHA Representatives are appointed or approved in the following ways:

- a) ISHA members can request to become ISHA Representative on a certain occasion (subject to the approval of the IB)
- b) The IB can see the necessity for ISHA to be represented officially in a certain country or at a certain event and can appoint an individual as a temporary ISHA Representative on their jurisdiction.

(4) In both cases the IB and the ISHA Representative agree on a set period of time in which the Representative fulfils his/her duties.

(5) There can be several ISHA Representatives at the same time and there is no limit of how often one individual can become a Representative.

(6) In case there is more than one candidate for the ISHA Representative position on a certain case, the IB takes the decision of choosing the Representative.

Section Four: Finances

Article 25: Funding

(1) The costs of running the Organisation and its activities are to be funded by

- a) membership fees,
- b) contributions and subsidies from private and public bodies and organisations,
- c) donations, gifts, and inheritances,
- d) all other incomes and profits.

(2) Funds may not be accepted if they are tied to conditions contrary to the aims and principles of the Organisation as stated in Articles 4 and 5 above, or if they are otherwise not in its



interests.

Article 26: Budget and Budget Report

- (1) The IB shall submit a draft budget to the first GA held during its term of office.
- (2) The IB must maintain complete records of all its financial transactions and present a report including income statement and balance sheet to every GA.
- (3) The IB shall submit a financial report of its term of office to the first GA held after its term of office has expired.

Article 27: Financial Responsibility

The financial responsibility of the Organisation extends exclusively over its own activities. The Organisation is not responsible for any misappropriation of funds or other act on the part of its active and passive members, nor can the Organisation be held responsible for any misappropriation of funds which the Organisation has contributed to a third party.

Section Five: Statutes and Standing Orders

Article 28: Standing Orders

In addition to these Statutes, further regulations will be specified in the Standing Orders. In the event of conflict, these Statutes shall take precedence over the Standing Orders.

Article 29: Amendments

- (1) Members and Officials are allowed to propose amendments to these Statutes and the Standing Orders.
- (2) For amendments to these Statutes, a majority of two thirds within the GA is needed. Proposed amendments must reach the IB six weeks before the GA. The IB must inform all active and passive members about proposals for amendments at least four weeks before the opening of the respective GA. Members who propose such amendments must communicate this to the IB in due time.
- (3) For amendments of the Standing Orders, a simple majority of votes within the GA suffices. The IB should inform all active and passive members about such proposals four weeks before the opening of the respective GA.

Article 30: Entry into Force

These Statutes shall come into force upon the registration of the association. Any amendments made to them shall come into force at the closure of the GA that accepts or alters them or on a day specified by that GA.

Section Six: Dissolution and Final Clause

Article 31: Dissolution



(1) The Organisation was created in Budapest on the 9th of May 1990 for an undefined period of time and may be disbanded by the GA. The Organisation can be dissolved by a majority of three fourths within the GA.

(2) Upon dissolving the Organisation, the GA shall appoint a Liquidator. This Liquidator must make an account of all assets, property, creditors and debtors of the Organisation in order to claim outstanding debts and pay debts due. The Liquidator must thereafter divide the net assets and property equally between the active members of the Organisation unless the GA decides otherwise.

Article 32: Final Clause

In cases where neither these Statutes nor the Standing Orders provide a solution, the GA shall decide. If this is not possible due to pressure of time, the IB shall decide provisionally, subject to subsequent approval by the GA.

These Statutes, originally in force since 2002, have been revised and their current form has been adopted by the General Assembly on January 12th, 2018 in Zagreb.. They have been signed by the ISHA International Board, and come into force with the registration of ISHA in Berlin.

The International Board 2017-2018

Lucija Balikić, president

Miriam Eisleb, vice-president

Dániel Molnár, vice-president Tamara Pataki, secretary

Natascha Rieke, treasurer