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 Association

Article 1: Name

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

Article 2: Seat

The seat of the Association 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 General Assembly (GA) is entitled to move the seat of the Association if it desires to do so and announces this in the minutes and statutes of the Association. 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 Association 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 Association are the support of education, science and youth trough:
   a) charitable purposes according to the “Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke” der Abgabenordnung,
   b) to promote international cooperation and understanding,
   c) to encourage the exchange of ideas across geographical and intellectual borders,
   d) to improve and complement the ways and means of historical education.

(2) These aims will be realized through its activities, which are:
   a) to uphold and expand a network of current and former students of history and those
      students from other academic disciplines who share an academic interest in history 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 Association 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 cooperation with other Associations and entities
      and to establish links with other students’ Associations, in order to strengthen international
      student representation and the achievement of common goals and entities.

Article 5: Principles

The Association is guided by the following principles:

   a) it is a non-profit Association and it is charitable; ISHA does not pursue commercial goals,
   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 Association starts on the first day of January each year and ends on the
thirty-first day of December of the same year.

Section Two: Forms of Membership and Affiliation

Article 7: Active ISHA Membership

(1) Active membership of ISHA International is open to any individual student of history,
related academic disciplines and those students who wish to contribute to the advancement
of history, via expertise in their own field of study. A list of active members is maintained by
the secretary of ISHA International and is updated after each international event.

(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) of ISHA. The membership fee is obligatory for all participants of ISHA international events, to be eligible for the 100 euro participation fee cap. An exception is made for participants who attend an international event for the first time: they can choose to become an active member (upon payment of the membership fee) and they are automatically eligible for the 100 euro participation fee cap.

3) 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 any General Assembly of ISHA International. If an active member fails to attend any international event for two consecutive years, or if the active member does not pay the annual membership fee, the membership automatically 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.

4) Active membership can be terminated if requested by the member in a written statement addressed to the secretary, or after the termination of one's student status.

Article 8: Passive ISHA Membership

1) Passive membership of ISHA International is open to any individual student of history, related academic disciplines and those students who wish to contribute to the advancement of history via expertise in their own field of study. A list of passive members is maintained by the secretary of ISHA International and is updated regularly.

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. If Passive Members want to participate in international events (as defined in the Standing Orders) of ISHA, they will have to pay the membership fee to become an active member, except if they participate for the first time.

3) Passive membership does not entitle the individual a vote in any General Assembly of ISHA International. Passive members cannot elect or be elected as a delegate for a local section.

4) Passive 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. Sections can also organize international events (as defined in the Standing Orders) of ISHA. Local sections are run in accordance with the statutes of ISHA International and are governed in accordance to democratic principles.

a) Each local section consisting of only passive members is considered as a "passive section". Passive sections have no voting rights on the General Assemblies, since they cannot represent any active member of their own section nor elect any delegate. If passive sections want to
organize an international event, at least one Official of ISHA needs to have an active role in the Association of that event.

b) Every local section with at least one active member is considered as an "active section". Active sections are entitled to one vote at the General Assemblies and shall be represented by a single delegate, who is elected by a simple majority of the active members of that local section.

(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) 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.

(4) If a section is found to violate the statutes or standing orders of ISHA, or if a section acts against the principles stated in article 5 of those statutes, the GA can vote to revoke this sections’ use of the name ISHA and their status as a local section of ISHA. This can only be reversed by another vote by the GA."

(5) 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.

**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 simple majority of the votes 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 student 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 Association has a Board of Patrons, consisting of individuals who wish to support the Association 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 Association 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 Association and their respective holders are called “Officials”.

2. Any individual active 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 Association but should not serve more than three terms within the same Organ of the Association 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 Association,
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 Association.

(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 active members an additional vote is added for every 50 active 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 Association and for the coordination of the ISHA network. Its official abbreviation is “IB”.

(2) The IB’s principal responsibilities are

a) to administer the Association 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 Associations and entities and to promote the Association 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 acts as the plaintiff or defendant in any lawsuits issued by or against the Association, 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 Association. 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.

(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 shall be from the same section as any Official of the IB which that TC will be viewing, except if there are no other candidates.

(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 Association'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 the local sections
   b) staying in contact with the ISHA 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 members. 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 Association and its activities are to be funded by
   a) membership fees,
   b) contributions and subsidies from private and public bodies and Associations,
   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 Association as stated in Articles 4 and 5 above, or if they are otherwise not in its interests.
(3) Resources of ISHA should only be used for statutory purposes. The single member will not receive any grant by the resources of ISHA.
(4) No person shall be favoured by expenses which are not statutory, or by inappropriate high payment.

**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 Association extends exclusively over its own activities. The Association is not responsible for any misappropriation of funds or other act on the part of its active and passive members, nor can the Association be held responsible for any misappropriation of funds which the Association 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 Association was created in Budapest on the 9th of May 1990 for an undefined period of time and may be disbanded by the GA. The Association can be dissolved by a majority of three fourths within the GA.

(2) Upon dissolving the Association, the GA shall appoint a Liquidator. This Liquidator must make an account of all assets, property, creditors and debtors of the Association in order to claim outstanding debts and pay debts due. The Liquidator must thereafter give the net assets and property to a charitable association chosen by the last GA, or to an association which supports science and education, or to another student organisation.

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 11th, 2019 in Marburg. They have been signed by the ISHA International Board, and come into force with the registration of ISHA in Berlin.

The International Board 2019

Anselm Logghe, president Yordana Nikolova, vice-president
Raphael Päbst, vice-president Valentina Cola, secretary Nicole Hanisch, treasurer

www.isha-international.org