

ERG Statutes

A. CONSTITUTION

1 Name and purpose

- 1.1 The European Reiki Group (ERG) is a non-profit association governed by the present statutes and by Articles 60 to 79 of the Swiss Civil Code. The Association is an independent legal entity with legal capacity. It is governed by Swiss law.
- 1.2 ERG is neutral politically and non-denominational.
- 1.3 ERG is both an umbrella organisation for Reiki associations and a forum for representatives of Reiki associations.

2 Duration, domiciliation, and language

- 2.1 ERG shall be of unlimited duration.
- 2.2 ERG is domiciled in the State of Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2.3 The official language of ERG is English.

3 Positioning and vision

- 3.1 ERG does not constitute a supranational control structure. By taking part in ERG, associations retain their full rights and their authority in their country.
- 3.2 The vision of ERG is to enhance coherence within the Reiki community on all levels.
- 3.3 Decisions within ERG are taken in the spirit of Switzerland's humanistic, democratic, federalist, and neutral tradition and for the highest good of the Reiki method.

4 Reiki method

- 4.1 The expression "Reiki method" refers to the discipline founded by Mikao Usui in 1922 under the name "Shin Shin Kaizen Reiki Usui Ryoho" (Usui Reiki healing method for improving the heart-mind and body). It should not be confused with the term "reiki", whose many translations include "universal vital energy", "mysterious energy", "spiritual energy", "superior immaterial flow", etc.
- 4.2 By method, we mean here a body of knowledge, procedures, and principles. Interpretations of a subjective nature related to the phenomena of Reiki are not part of the core of the method but belong to the personal understanding of the practitioners.

B. AIMS

5 Values

- 5.1 The spirit of ERG is inclusive and does not discriminate between different forms of practice and training as long as they are ethical and represent the Reiki method.
- 5.2 ERG cares for the integrity and the good reputation of the Reiki method.
- 5.3 ERG is future-oriented.
- 5.4 ERG is inspired by Mikao Usui's statement that the goal of the Reiki method is to improve happiness, to heal oneself and to help others to heal themselves on all levels. ERG is also inspired by the five precepts of the Reiki method.

6 Goals

- 6.1 Projects and set goals aim to serve ERG's vision and are in the spirit of ERG's values. ERG may engage in all activities and take all actions necessary and appropriate to carry out its goal.
- 6.2 ERG provides a way for Reiki associations to keep each other informed across national boundaries about current endeavours, projects, local regulations, difficulties in relation to the recognition of the Reiki method by the society, by education and health institutions and by local authorities.
- 6.3 ERG supports Reiki associations in their endeavour. ERG does not compete with national associations in their country.
- 6.4 The goals of the national associations are shared within ERG as long as they are consistent with ERG's vision and values.
- 6.5 ERG contributes within its possibilities to coordinate the Reiki community in Europe in a clear and harmonious way.

C. MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS

7 Terminology

- 7.1 An "inclusive" association refers to an organisation which is open to any form or style of Reiki practice and training, within the guideline of point 9.1.
- 7.2 An "exclusive" association refers to an organisation which is restricted to one form or style of Reiki practice and training.
- 7.3 A "project" or "goal-oriented" association or group refers to an organisation which carries out projects for specific purposes.
- 7.4 A "nonconforming" form of Reiki practice or training refers either to an immoral form or a form contrary to the identity and the principles of the method.
- 7.5 An "irregular" form of Reiki practice or training refers to a form that only partially conforms to the rules of the art.

8 Organisation members

- 8.1 The members of ERG are associations engaged in the field of the Reiki method.
- 8.2 The members have to demonstrate their dedication to the goals of ERG through their commitments or actions.

8.3 The members accept the present statutes.

8.4 ERG has two types of members:

- full members,
- associate members.

8.5 The Chairperson of an organisation, or his/her nominated proxy, is its main official representative within ERG.

9 Full members

9.1 The full members are European "Inclusive National Associations" (INAs). An INA must:

- a) be established as an association in a country of geographical Europe;
- b) be engaged only in the field of the Reiki method to the exclusion of other methods;
- c) have the goal to represent the Reiki practitioners in its country;
- d) demonstrate an inclusive approach;
- e) exclude nonconforming forms;
- f) accepts irregular forms to some extent and within certain limits.

9.2 In the case where several INAs from the same country are represented, they will have to share the membership or form a national umbrella association.

10 Associated members

10.1 The associate members shall also be called "Specific Groups" (SGs). They may be:

- non-European associations,
- exclusive associations,
- goal oriented groups.

They should exclude all nonconforming forms.

10.2 Associate members shall have no right to vote or to take part in elections.

10.3 Associate members have a very important advisory role within ERG.

11 Membership fees

11.1 Each full member and associate member will pay a yearly membership fee. In the case where several INAs from the same country are represented, each of them will have to pay the full amount of the membership fee.

11.2 Membership fees will be due on demand for payment and shall be paid within 30 days.

12 Beginning and end of membership

12.1 Requests to become a member must be addressed to the Secretary of ERG.

12.2 Membership ceases:

- by dissolution of the association member;
- by written resignation at least six months before the end of the financial year;

- by exclusion, for just cause, with a right of appeal, which must be lodged within 30 days of the decision being notified;
- for non-payment of dues for more than one year.

12.3 In all cases the membership fee for the current year remains due. Members who have resigned or who are excluded have no rights to any part of the Association's assets.

13 Individual participants

13.1 As a forum, ERG is composed of the members of its organisation members, preferably members of their Board or other managing structures. These shall be called "Participants".

13.2 Each organisation has the responsibility to decide at any time who amongst its own members takes part or not to ERG.

13.3 As such Participants have no voting right within ERG.

D. CORPORATE BODIES

14 Corporate bodies

14.1 The corporate bodies of ERG are:

- the Conference of National Representatives,
- the Inter-Associative Forum of Participants,
- the Reference Groups,
- the Auditors.

The first two shall simply be called "the Conference" and "the Forum" respectively.

14.2 The Conference is the decision-making and management body of ERG. It is the Association's supreme authority. It plays both the role of a General Assembly and a Board in the conventional sense.

14.3 The Conference is composed of all the full members, but not of the associated members.

E. CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

15 Constitution

15.1 The Conference of National Representatives is composed of two Representatives from each INA, including its Chairperson. In the case where several INAs originate from the same country, the same rule is applied. A substitute may be provided.

15.2 Each INA shall choose its own Representatives according to its own statutes and accordingly with point 13.1.

15.3 The President is elected from among the current or former National Representatives for a renewable term of one year. However, in order to manifest its collegiality and plurality, the Conference will favour a rotating presidency.

- 15.4 The Secretary is appointed by the Conference for a minimum of one-year term, indefinitely renewable from year to year. The Secretary has to be a member of an INA represented. The full members may also decide to jointly make available the resources of their secretariat to provide a common Secretariat for ERG.
- 15.5 The Treasurer is appointed by the Conference for a minimum of one-year term, indefinitely renewable from year to year. The Treasurer has to be a member of an INA represented.

16 Regular meetings

- 16.1 The Conference meetings are held at minimum three times a year.
- 16.2 Regular meetings are usually by conference call or video.
- 16.3 The President is in charge of setting the date and the detailed agenda of a meeting. It announces it well enough in advance (at least one month) by specifying the important decisions to be taken so as to allow the Associations to define their position through internal consultation if necessary.
- 16.4 The President presents the program to the Conference at the beginning of his/her term for discussion and adoption by the Conference.
- 16.5 Former National Representatives and Founders are always allowed to assist to the regular Conference meetings on demand.
- 16.6 The President decides if the regular meeting is open or not to Participants.
- 16.7 Minutes must be taken of the proceedings at each meeting by a person designated by the Conference. The minutes are adopted and signed by the President and the Secretary.

17 Voting rights

- 17.1 The decisions within the Conference are taken in a consensual way and if not can be taken by a voting process. The President casts a deciding vote in case of a tie.
- 17.2 In the event of a vote, each European country represented shall have one vote. Votes are not transferable to another full member, associated member or a third person. If several INAs from the same country are represented, they must first agree on a common position.
- 17.3 Votes are by a show of hands. Voting can also take place by secret ballot, if at least two Representatives request it.
- 17.4 The Chairperson of an INA (or his/her substitute) has the right to demand that a vote be postponed, in order to be able to consult the Board or the General Assembly of his/her INA beforehand, despite Article 16.3. The maximum period of postponement is three months for a consultation of the Board and 12 months for that of the General Assembly. For a postponement of more than three months, the Chairperson shall justify his/her request to the Conference invoking his/her INA's statutes or the obvious and significant potential repercussions of the decision on the Reiki community in his/her country, in the spirit of Article 3.1. The right to postponement must of course not be abused.
- 17.5 Decisions shall be taken by a majority vote of the members present, except if specified otherwise.

- 17.6 Important decisions shall be taken by a two-third majority of all the full members. The President decides if the decision is important or not.
- 17.7 The President may take minor decisions at any time to ensure the smooth running of the Association.
- 17.8 The President can decide to adopt resolutions outside a meeting by e-voting. The resolution is adopted (or rejected) as soon as the minimum required number of positive (or negative) votes is exceeded.
- 17.9 A full member may notify to the Secretary of its position by e-mail prior to a meeting if none of its Representatives are able to attend. Its position should be simply stated.

18 Functions

- 18.1 The function of the Conference shall be:
- to embody the vision and the values of ERG;
 - to take the appropriate measures to achieve the goals of ERG;
 - to manage the Association's day-to-day affairs.
- 18.2 The Conference shall take decisions on matters:
- on a European level, without committing the national associations in their country, in accordance with point 1.3;
 - on the functioning of ERG;
 - on managing the joint projects.
- 18.3 The Conference shall also have the following powers:
- a) to ensure that Statutes are applied;
 - b) to adopt and amend the Articles of Association;
 - c) to administer the assets of the Association;
 - d) to draft rules of procedure if necessary;
 - e) to appoint new full members and new associate members;
 - f) to elect and dismiss the President from amongst its full members;
 - g) to elect the Group of Mission Keepers;
 - h) to elect and dismiss the Auditors;
 - i) to appoint the Treasurer and the Secretary;
 - j) to grant the right of signature on behalf of ERG on various matters;
 - k) to fix the annual membership fees;
 - l) to approve the annual budget;
 - m) to approve the annual report issued by the Auditors;
 - n) to create, dissolve and organise advisory Working Groups and other groups;
 - o) to convene the regular and annual meetings of the Conference and of the Forum;
 - p) to decide on the dissolution of the Association.

19 Amendments

19.1 Decisions concerning the amendment of the Statutes must be approved by a two-third majority of all the full members.

20 Memberships

20.1 The Conference precisely defines the concepts of

- inclusiveness,
- nonconforming forms of Reiki practice and training,
- irregular forms of Reiki practice and training.

20.2 The Conference takes decisions with regard to admission of new organisations as member as well as the resignation and possible expulsion of members. These must be ratified by two-thirds of the votes of all the full members.

21 Spokespersons

21.1 The Conference may appoint Spokespersons to represent ERG in external instances, generally European or international instances, by a two-thirds majority vote of all the full members, within the framework of mandates set by the Conference, specifying their duration, their scope for action and decision-making. The Spokespersons report to the Conference.

22 Publications

22.1 The Conference may produce documents as the results of Working Groups, for example standards. These may to be made public on ERG Web site with the names of the associations supporting them, without committing the others.

22.2 An association that disagrees with a document to be made public shall make this known by making its case so that a compromise can be reached, if possible, in a constructive and positive spirit.

23 Annual meetings

23.1 Annual meetings of the Conference are usually meetings in person during the General Meeting of the Forum.

23.2 Usually all Participants may assist to the annual meetings of the Conference.

23.3 The agenda of the annual meeting of the Conference must include:

- elections for the main functions of the association (President, Secretary, Spokespersons and Mission Keepers),
- approval of the Conference's annual activity,
- setting of membership fees.

F. INTER-ASSOCIATIVE FORUM OF PARTICIPANTS

24 Participants

24.1 ERG provides a Web platform (including forum) that serves as a meeting point for its Participants and Associations at all times.

- 24.2 Participants may be consulted by the Conference on all matters.
- 24.3 All Participants are welcome by the Conference to take part to ERG projects and Working Groups.
- 24.4 A General Meeting in person of the Forum is usually organised once a year by the Conference.

25 Groups

- 25.1 Groups of Participants may be formed and managed by the Conference, including
- Working Groups,
 - Groups of Competency.
- 25.2 Working Groups are focused on collaborative projects.
- 25.3 Groups of Competency contain individuals who share a common type of skill that is useful for the completion of ERG projects. Competency groups have a consulting role. They do not have to be part of an association.

G. REFERENCE GROUPS

26 Constitution

- 26.1 The Reference Groups for the Conference are
- the Group of Founders,
 - the Group of Former Representatives,
 - the Group of Mission Keepers.
- 26.2 The **Group of Founders** consists of the attendees to the first ERG meeting in Geneva 31st August – 1st September 2018, see Appendix for the list (not to be confused with the attendees of the Constituent Assembly).
- 26.3 Former National Representatives of full members are entitled to stay in ERG as Participants, even after their possible resignation from their national association. They form the **Group of Former Representatives**.
- 26.4 The **Group of Mission Keepers** is elected by the Conference for a period of 4 years. It contains 1 to 3 persons elected among the National Representatives, the Founders, and the Former Representatives.

27 Roles

- 27.1 In the event of important decisions relevant to the future of ERG, the Conference take advise from the Groups of Founders and Former Representatives, which role is that of "Vision Keepers."
- 27.2 The role of the Group of Mission Keepers is to ensure that the decisions taken by the Conference are consistent with ERG's mission and values. As a group, it shall thus have a veto right against decisions taken by the Conference. This shall be used wisely and sparingly.

H. FINANCE

28 Resources

28.1 ERG's resources are derived from

- membership fees;
- sponsorship;
- public subsidies;
- donations and legacies;
- any other resources authorized by the law.

The funds shall be used in accordance with ERG's aims.

29 Accounts

29.1 The accounts of the Association will be established on December 31 each year, and for the first time on 31st December 2021.

29.2 The agenda of first Conference's regular meeting of the year, preferably in January, includes:

- approval of the report of the Treasurer and of the Auditors,
- approval of the budget,
- appointment of Auditors.

30 Expenses

30.1 The Representatives and Participants work on a volunteer basis. For activities beyond the usual function, each Representative or Participant is eligible for appropriate compensation.

30.2 ERG will not reimburse Representatives for their actual expenses and travel costs which should be taken in charge according to the conditions of their organization. An exception to this rule concerns Spokespersons (Representatives mandated to represent ERG before European bodies or organisations).

31 Auditors

31.1 Each year the Conference appoints two Auditors. It may also entrust this task to a fiduciary company.

31.2 The Auditors shall check the operating and annual accounts prepared by the Treasurer and present a written and detailed report to the Conference's annual meeting.

I. LEGAL ASPECTS

32 Liability

32.1 The Association's financial obligations can be satisfied only from its assets.

32.2 The full members and the associate members of the Association shall not be liable for the obligations or debts of the Association.

32.3 The Representatives of the Conference and the Participants of ERG shall not be personally liable for the obligations or debts of the Association.

32.4 ERG endeavours to provide Web services to its participants. All members are collectively responsible for this service.

33 Representation and signature

33.1 A Chairperson of a member of ERG is the official representant of ERG in its country. If several members represent the same country within ERG, then their Chairpersons must coordinate to represent ERG in their country.

33.2 Full members are jointly responsible for ERG.

33.3 The Conference decides who can legally bound the Association by his/her signature and in what areas he/she may do so. The right to sign can be granted or withdrawn at any time by the Conference. As general rules:

- for statutory matters, the signature of the Chairpersons of the INAs is required;
- for European matters, the signature of the President of ERG is required;
- for a country-specific matters involving ERG, the signature of the Chairperson of the specific INA is required;
- for treasury matters, the signature of the Treasurer is required;
- for matters of correspondence, the signature of the Secretary is required.

J. EXCEPTIONAL PROVISIONS

34 Crisis management

34.1 In the event of major malfunctioning of the Conference and of the Group of Mission Keepers, the matter shall be referred to the Groups of Founders and Former Representatives, which shall temporarily resume their function or take the appropriate decisions.

35 Dissolution and liquidation

35.1 The dissolution of the Association must be approved by a two-third majority of all the full members.

35.2 In case of dissolution of the Association, the Conference must proceed to its liquidation. The Conference shall distribute the assets of the Association, after payment of all debts of the Association, to the full members, but not to its associate members.

36 Entry into force

36.1 The ERG statutes came into force on 15 August 2020.

Appendix: List of ERG Founders

Berthy Cambier (Japan 2022, Netherlands)

John Curtin (Spanish Reiki Federation, Spain)

Annie Harrington (UK Reiki Federation, UK)

Erna Janisch (ÖBRT, Austria)

Jojan Jonker (Japan 2022, Netherlands)

Christiane Krempf (ÖBRT, Austria)

João Magalhães (Portuguese Reiki Association, Portugal)

Marie Marin (LFRU, France)

Sílvia Oliveira (ARCJ Reiki Association for Children and Youth, Portugal)

Helma Rader (The Reiki Alliance, Netherlands)

Niek Rader (technical support, Netherlands)

Leopold Spindelberger (ÖBRT, Austria)

Barbara Chinta Strübin (SwissReiki, Switzerland)

Francis Vendrell (SwissReiki, Switzerland)

René Vögtli (reiki-conciliation, Switzerland)

Angela Zellner (ProReiki, Germany)
