

# **ERG Statutes**

**Version of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

## **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 the Conference of Representatives of Reiki National Associations (RNAs).

### **2. Duration, domiciliation, and language**

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

### **3. Positioning**

- 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 Decisions within ERG are taken in a humanistic, democratic, integrative, neutral spirit 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.
- 4.2 By method, we mean here a body of knowledge, procedures, and principles. Interpretations of a subjective nature related to Reiki are not part of the core of the method but belong to the personal understanding of the practitioners.

## **B. AIMS**

### **5. Vision**

- 5.1 The vision of ERG is to create a European Reiki community based on sharing Reiki with respect and harmony and to lead to the better acknowledgement of Reiki.

### **6. Values**

- 6.1 ERG creates bridges between Reiki organizations and Reiki practitioners.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 ERG cares for the integrity and the good reputation of the Reiki method. ERG is future-oriented.
- 6.4 ERG is inspired by Mikao Usui's statement that the goal of the Reiki method is to have a peaceful and happy life. ERG is also inspired by the five precepts of the Reiki method.

### **7. Goals**

- 7.1 Projects, studies 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.
- 7.2 ERG provides a platform for Reiki associations and individuals to keep each other informed across national boundaries about current endeavours, projects, local regulations, in order to develop the recognition of the Reiki method by the society, by education and health institutions and by local authorities.
- 7.3 ERG supports Reiki associations in their endeavour. ERG does not compete with national associations in their country.
- 7.4 The goals of the national associations are shared within ERG as long as they are consistent with ERG's vision and values.
- 7.5 ERG contributes within its possibilities to coordinate the Reiki community in Europe in a respectful and harmonious way.

## **C. MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS**

### **8. Terminology**

- 8.1 In this document, "member" or "full member" means a Reiki national association that has been regularly elected as a full member of ERG.
- 8.2 A "Reiki National Association" (RNA) refers to an organisation who is based in a European country (geographical Europe) and which may have ramifications elsewhere in Europe or in the world. Its activity is based only on the Reiki Method.
- 8.3 An "inclusive" association refers to an organisation which is open to several form or style of Reiki method according to Mikao Usui.
- 8.4 An "exclusive" association refers to an organisation which is restricted to one form or style of Reiki practice and training.
- 8.5 A "project" or "goal-oriented" association or group refers to an organisation which carries out projects for specific purposes.

### **9. Organisation members and participants**

- 9.1 The members of ERG are associations engaged in the field of the Reiki method. The members have to be in accordance with the goals of ERG.
- 9.2 ERG recognizes the existence of other Reiki groups and may invite delegates from these associations. ERG may invite also individuals engaged in the field of the Reiki method. However, this recognition does not grant them membership or voting rights at the assembly. ERG calls them Participants. (Point 10)
- 9.3 The members and the participants accept the present statutes.
- 9.4 The Representative of an association, or his/her nominated proxy, is its main official representative within ERG.
- 9.5 The members of ERG must:
  - 1. Be established as a Reiki association in a country of geographical Europe.
  - 2. Be engaged in the field of the Reiki method.
  - 3. Have the goal to represent the Reiki practitioners in its country.
  - 4. Be open to an inclusive approach.

- 9.6 There is no limit to the number of RNAs from the same country within the Conference.

However, any new candidate must be unanimously approved by all the members of the Conference. The RNAs may create a network of Reiki Associations and be its representative within ERG.

## **10. Participants**

- 10.1 The participants may be:
1. European associations.
  2. Non-European associations.
  3. Exclusive associations.
  4. Goal oriented groups.
  5. Individuals.
- 10.2 They should accept the present statutes.
- 10.3 They should exclude all non-ethical practice.
- 10.4 They can participate on invitation by the Conference and have no voting rights.
- 10.5 They may participate in projects, have an advisory role, share their specific resources.
- 10.6 They will not pay any membership fee, but they are invited to make a donation to ERG at the suggestion of the Conference.
- 10.7 Participants are invited by members of the Conference or ERG project leaders. They send an application form to ERG Secretary, they are presented to the Conference and agreed unanimously by the Conference.
- 10.8 The project leader or the Conference fixes the rules for the participant or the working group. They do not participate to ERG meetings unless they are invited.

## **11. Membership fees**

- 11.1 Each member will pay a yearly membership fee. In the case where several RNAs from the same country are represented, each of them will have to pay the corresponding amount of their membership fee, which is determined yearly by the Conference. Participants will make donations (contributions) recommended by the Conference.
- 11.2 Membership fees will be due on demand for payment and shall be paid within 30 days.

- 11.3 A member may request the adjustment of its membership fee for one civil year.

## **12. Beginning and end of membership**

- 12.1 Requests to become a member must be addressed to the Board.
- 12.2 The request to become a member of ERG is presented to the Conference. The Conference examines the request, invites the association to present itself and votes. The admission needs to be the result of a unanimous vote of the Conference.

If a unanimous vote is not obtained, it would then be the responsibility of the President to recall the voting members and advise whether a majority vote would be acceptable in the circumstances and on what basis.

- 12.3 Membership ceases:
1. By dissolution of the association member; by written resignation after the Member has fulfilled all its obligations towards ERG, at least two months in advance.
  2. by exclusion, for well-founded cause, with a right of appeal to the Conference, which must be lodged within 30 days of the decision being notified.
  3. for non-payment of dues for more than one year unless requested by the Member and agreed differently by the Conference.
  4. 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.

## **D. CORPORATE BODIES**

### **13. Corporate bodies**

The corporate bodies of ERG are:

- 13.1 The General Assembly is the Conference. It is the decision-making and management body of ERG. It is the Organisation's supreme authority.
- 13.2 The Board is the administrative body of the Organisation.
- 13.3 The Auditors.

## **E. CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

### **14. Constitution**

- 14.1 The Conference of National Representatives is composed of two Representatives from each country nominated by the board of that RNA, including preferably the Chairperson. In the case where several RNAs originate from the same country, the same rule is applied. A substitute may be provided.
- 14.2 Each RNA shall choose its own Representatives according to its own statutes and accordingly with point 13.1.
- 14.3 The President is elected from among 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.
- 14.4 The legal office remains in Switzerland unless the Conference decides otherwise.
- 14.5 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 RNA represented.  
The members may also decide to jointly make available the resources of their secretariat to provide a common Secretariat for ERG.
- 14.6 The Treasurer is appointed by the Conference for a minimum of one-year term, indefinitely renewable from year to year. The Treasurer (Financial team) has to be a member of an RNA represented.

### **15. Regular meetings**

- 15.1 The Conference meetings are held at minimum six times a year and can be called anytime when needed by the President or a minimum of three members.
- 15.2 Regular meetings are usually held by conference call or video.
- 15.3 The dates of the meetings are set by the Conference well in advance. The President jointly with the Secretary propose the detailed agenda of a meeting to the Conference. They announce it well enough in advance by specifying the important decisions to be taken so as to allow the Associations to define their position through internal consultation if necessary.
- 15.4 The Conference defines its objectives at the beginning of the new term.
- 15.5 The Conference decides if the regular meeting is open or not to a participant.

- 15.6 Minutes must be taken of the proceedings at each meeting by a person designated by the Inner communication and agreed by the Conference. The minutes are adopted and signed by the President and the Secretary and archived as PDF.

## **16. Voting rights**

- 16.1 The decisions within the Conference are taken in a consensual way and if not can be taken by a voting process. In case of a tie, the decision must be submitted to a new circle of discussion.

- 16.2 In the event of a vote, each European country represented shall have one vote.

A delegate may mandate another delegate to vote in his/her place by written message to the President before the meeting. A delegate can only be mandated by one person at a time.

If several RNAs from the same country are represented, they must first agree on a common position.

- 16.3 Consensus decisions are shown by a gesture of hands. Votes are made by written message in the chat when the meetings are online. When the meeting is in presence the votes are made hands up or by secret ballot.

- 16.4 The representative of a RNA (or his/her proxy) 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 RNA beforehand, despite Article 16.3.

The maximum period of postponement is two months for a consultation of the Board. For a postponement of more than three months, the Representative shall justify his/her request to the Conference invoking his/her RNA'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.

- 16.5 Decisions shall be taken by a majority vote of the members present, except if specified otherwise.
- 16.6 Important decisions shall be taken by a two-third majority of all members.
- 16.7 The President may ensure the smooth running of the Association.
- 16.8 The Board can decide to adopt resolutions outside a meeting by e-voting addressed to all members. The resolution is adopted (or rejected) as soon as the minimum required number of positive (or negative) votes is exceeded.
- 16.9 A 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.
- 16.10 Paused members can't vote during their suspension.

## **17. Functions**

17.1 The function of the Conference shall be:

1. To embody the vision and the values of ERG.
2. To take the appropriate measures to achieve the goals of ERG.
3. To manage the Association's day-to-day affairs.

17.2 The Conference shall take decisions on matters:

1. On a European level, without committing the national associations in their country, in accordance with point 1.3.
2. On the functioning of ERG.
3. On managing the joint projects.

17.3 The Conference shall also have the following powers:

1. To ensure that Statutes are applied.
2. To adopt and amend the Statutes.
3. To administer the assets of the Association.
4. To draft rules of procedures and inner regulations.
5. To validate the candidature of new members and participants.
6. To elect and dismiss the President (outer communication) from amongst its members.
7. To elect and dismiss the Auditors.
8. To elect the Treasurer and the Secretary (inner communication).
9. To grant the right of signature on behalf of ERG on various matters.
10. To fix the annual membership fees.
11. To approve the annual budget.
12. To approve the annual report issued by the Auditors.
13. To create, dissolve and organise advisory Working Groups and other groups.
14. To convene the regular and annual meetings of the Conference.
15. To decide on the dissolution of the Association.



## **18. Amendments**

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

## **19. Memberships**

- 19.1 The Conference takes decisions with regard to admission of new organisations as member and participants as well as the resignation and possible expulsion of members and participants. These must be approved by a two-third majority of all the members.

- 19.2 The Conference defines the concepts of:

1. Nonconforming forms of Reiki practice and training.
2. Irregular forms of Reiki practice and training.

## **20. Spokespersons**

- 20.1 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 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.

## **21. Publications**

- 21.1 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.
- 21.2 An association that disagrees with a document to be made public - whatever the written, video or audio media - shall make this known by making its case so that a compromise can be reached, if possible, in a constructive and positive spirit.

## **22. Annual meetings**

- 22.1 Annual meetings of the Conference are usually meetings in person.
- 22.2 Usually, all Members and Participants may assist to the annual meetings of the Conference.
- 22.3 The agenda of the annual meeting of the Conference must include:
1. Elections for the main functions of the association (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditors and eventually Spokespersons).
  2. Approval of the Conference's annual activity, moral report and financial report.

3. Setting of membership fees.
4. Approval or confirmation of the roles and functions for which members are responsible.
5. annual conferences are preferably organised in rotation by the members.

## **F. REFERENCE GROUPS**

### **23. Groups**

- 23.1 Groups may be formed and managed by the Conference, they are formed by members and/or participants with common goals and/or collaborative projects useful for the completion of ERG projects. For instance, working groups, groups of competencies.
- 23.2 The founding groups of ERG are:
  1. 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.
  2. The Group of the Constituent Assembly who adopted the first version of the statutes of ERG on 15th August 2020.
  3. In the event of important decisions relevant to the future of ERG, the Conference may take advise from the Groups of Founders and the group of the Constituent Assembly, whose role is that of “Vision Keepers”. See Appendix.

## **G. FINANCE**

### **24. Resources**

- 24.1 ERG's resources are derived from
  1. Membership fees.
  2. Sponsorship.
  3. Public subsidies.
  4. Donations and legacies.
  5. Any other resources authorized by the law.
- 24.2 The funds shall be used in accordance with ERG's aims.

## **25. Accounts**

- 25.1 The accounts of the Association will be established on December 31 each year, and for the first time on 31st December 2021.
- 25.2 The agenda of first Conference's regular meeting of the year, preferably in January, includes:
  1. Approval of the report of the Treasurer and of the Auditors.
  2. Approval of the budget.
  3. Appointment of Auditors.

## **26. Expenses**

- 26.1 The Representatives and Participants work on a volunteer basis. For activities beyond the usual function, each Representative or Participant is eligible for appropriate compensation.
- 26.2 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).

## **27. Auditors**

- 27.1 Each year the Conference appoints two Auditors. It may also entrust this task to a fiduciary company.
- 27.2 The Auditors shall check the operating and annual accounts prepared by the Treasurer. The treasurer presents a written and detailed report to the Conference's annual meeting.

## **H. LEGAL ASPECTS**

### **28. Liability**

- 28.1 The Association's financial obligations can be satisfied only from its assets.
- 28.2 The RNAs shall not be liable for the obligations or debts of ERG.
- 28.3 The Representatives of the Conference and the Participants of ERG shall not be personally liable for the obligations or debts of ERG.
- 28.4 ERG endeavours to provide Web services to its participants. All members are collectively responsible for this service.

## **29. Representation and signature**

- 29.1 The first delegate of a member of ERG is the official representative of ERG in its country. If several members represent the same country within ERG, then their first delegate must coordinate to represent ERG in their country.
- 29.2 Full members are jointly responsible for ERG.
- 29.3 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:
1. For statutory matters, the signature of the first delegate of the RNA is required.
  2. For European matters, the signature of the President of ERG is required.
  3. For a country-specific matters involving ERG, the signature of the first delegate of the specific RNA is required.
  4. For treasury matters, the signature of the Treasurer is required.
  5. For matters of correspondence, the signature of the Secretary is required.

## **I. EXCEPTIONAL PROVISIONS**

### **30. Crisis management**

- 30.1 In the event of major malfunctioning of the Conference, the Conference endeavours to find a solution on the basis of the statutes and internal regulations.
- 30.2 If the solution can't be found on the basis of the statutes and internal regulations, the matter shall be referred to the Groups of Founders and the Group of the Constituent Assembly. (Appendix a. and b)

Steps of the procedure:

1. The conference sends out a call to all members of the founding groups, they will have two full weeks to announce their availability. They are called Vision keepers.
2. The conference agrees two or more vision keepers to represent each of the parties in conflict plus a vision keeper to represent the rest of the conference.
3. If the solution can't be found within one month, the procedure moves to point 30.3.

- 30.3 If the solution can't be found according to points 30.1 and 30.2, the matter shall be referred to an external conciliator depending on the matter. The Conference appoints the external conciliator.

Steps of the procedure:

1. The conference invites its members to propose a neutral conciliator,
2. The conference and the parties concerned examine the proposals,
3. The conference unanimously appoints a conciliator and defines its mission,
4. The conference ensures that the conflict is resolved as quickly as possible in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Group as set out in Articles: 6. Values and 7. Goals, of the Statutes of ERG.

### **31. Dissolution and liquidation**

- 31.1 The association shall be dissolved by operation of law if it is insolvent or if the management cannot be constituted under the statutes.
- 31.2 The Association may decide to dissolve itself at any time.
- 31.3 The dissolution of the Association must be approved by a two-third majority of all members.
- 31.4 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 members.

### **32. Entry into force**

- 32.1 The ERG statutes came into force on 24th September 2023. They have been revised and approved by the Conference on 24th September 2023.



## Appendix - Founding groups

### a. The Group of Founders consists of the attendees to the firstERG meeting in Geneva 31st August – 1st September 2018.

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)

### b. The Group of the Constituent Assembly 31st August 2020 per Zoom meeting.

Austria	ÖBRT	Erna Janisch	Christiane Krempf
Belgium	Reiki Belgium Association	Afra Kortram	Yannick Pots
Bulgaria	Reiki Federation Bulgaria	Stefan Kanev	
Deutschland	ProReiki	Angela Zellner	Veit Wilhelmy
France	LFRU	Gilbert Palabaud	
Portugal	Associação Portuguesa de Reiki	João Magalhães	
Romania	Asociația Reiki Usui	Eniko Simon	Eugen Bibo
Spain	Federación Española de Reiki	John Curtin	
Switzerland	SwissReiki	Francisco Vendrell	Chinta B. Strubin
United Kingdom	The UK Reiki Federation		Wendy Hick

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