European Route of Ceramics
Association

STATUTE

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Art. 1
CONSTITUTION, NAME

1. A European non-profit Association is constituted under the name of European Route of Ceramics.

Art. 2
PREMISES AND PRINCIPLES

1. Historically, the development of ceramic tradition, art and industry in Europe not only has marked the economic and cultural development of the territories, but has also determined the basis for a historical and cultural heritage which still today identifies their image, name and identity in a particularly strong way.
Sharing this tradition and the activities developed in connection with this cultural heritage can contribute to the creation of a common European identity and become an important resource for the development of the local communities, even more so if managed and valued within a Cultural Route.
Based on these assumptions, this association is constituted, also with the intention to continue the activities of the European Cultural Route of Ceramics, a cultural itinerary recognized by the Council of Europe, of which it may take ownership.

2. The activity of the Association aims at the promotion of ceramics, the common value thanks to which transnational relations are established and maintained with the purpose of mutual information and sharing of common strategies, in order to better enhance ceramics as a value, as well as for the realization of projects, activities and initiatives focusing in particular, at maintaining and developing the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe called the European Route of Ceramics, an itinerary formally certified on May 16th, 2012.

Art. 3
PURPOSE

1. The Association pursues the following goals:

a) to spread the knowledge of, protect and enhance the European cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, linked to ceramics;

b) to coordinate and create synergies between the most important European entities connected to ceramics in the frame of the shared transnational route called the European Route of Ceramics, Cultural Itinerary of the Council of Europe;

c) to carry out initiatives to promote the study, knowledge and enhancement of the ceramics culture and tradition as well as the places and cultural itineraries of the Route;

d) to collaborate with Universities and Research Centres to investigate the issues related to ceramics;

e) to promote, among European young people and especially in the educational system, the research, the cultural and educational exchange focused on the subject of the European Itinerary;

f) to promote the dialogue and the exchange of best practices, with regards to the enhancement of the Route, with other European Cultural Routes;

g) to host in the associative structure other "local itineraries" to enrich the original itinerary, increasing its value as a promoter of the common European identity;

h) to establish and promote initiatives to strengthen the knowledge of ceramics in citizens by ascribing local identities within the consolidation of the common European identity;

i) to harmonize the ceramics promotion activities, enhancing the cultural and tourist vocation and promoting the commercialization of ceramics;

j) to ensure the development of a sustainable and ethical tourism by promoting, within the relevant territorial bodies, the creation of adequate infrastructures and services for a better use of the routes, with a view to a sustainable tourism;

k) to pursue the qualitative improvement of the activities of the Association, through constant monitoring and the promotion of profitable relations with the European Institutions (Council of Europe and European Union), the international organizations, the European Institute of Cultural Routes in Luxembourg;

l) to collaborate with Bodies, Universities and Associations that, in any way, operate for the development and enhancement of ceramics, through the communications of the European Cultural Route of Ceramics;

m) to build relations and realize projects for a cultural, touristic, economic and educational fruitful exchange with akin non-European entities and, in particular, with the internationally and globally renowned leading ceramics realities such as the Chinese city of Jingdezhen, the Korean city of Icheon and others.

2. In order to pursue its goals, the Association considers a matter of particular importance the continuity of the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe called the European Route of Ceramics. Therefore, the Association will ensure the necessary actions for the maintenance of such recognition, if necessary also by taking its ownership hereinafter and carrying out the necessary actions to provide a concrete contribution to the promotion, enhancement and management of the itinerary.

3. The Association is a non-profit association. It may carry out any related and similar activities to those listed above as well as perform all the actions and conclude all the commercial, financial, tangible and intangible nature operations necessary or useful for the achievement of its social purposes.

4. The Association may join other associations, bodies and companies that carry out activities related to the European Route of Ceramics that fall within its social purpose, subject to prior deliberation of the General Assembly referred to in art. 11.

Art. 4
REGISTERED OFFICE, LOGO AND DURATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The registered office of the transnational Association European Route of Ceramics is in Faenza, Italy, with premises at the Municipality of Faenza, Piazza del Popolo, n.31.

2. The managerial and operational structure of the Association is provided, in general, by the Municipality of Faenza, through the activity –not in the major proportion of time- of the personnel working for the Municipality and whom the Municipality ensures to identify by means of appropriate provision. To ensure the activity of the Association, the Municipality of Faenza makes its premises available, with non-exclusive use of the spaces necessary for the development of the activities of the Association. The human resources assigned to additional functions and to specific transnational work, if necessary, will be guaranteed though the Association's financial resources, further to the specific approval of the Assembly or the Executive Committee, if appointed.

3. The logo of the Association is the distinguishing feature of the Association and can be used by the members, and is represented in the annex to the present Statute.

4. The logo is property of the Association. The use of the logo is protected and regulated.

5. The duration of the Association is indefinite.

Art. 5

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The European Route of Ceramics Association consists of:
   - Founding members
   - Ordinary members

2. The founding members are the authorities that have joined the European Route of Ceramics Association since the date of its establishment.

3. The ordinary members are the authorities whose application for membership has been accepted following the establishment of the Association, according to the procedures stated in art. 7 of the present Statute.

4. The members of the Association may include public territorial bodies of municipal, inter-municipal, provincial (departmental), regional (cantonal) and country dimensions, hereinafter referred to as Bodies, which may feature significant examples of ceramics entities on the respective territories and acknowledge the principles and purposes referred to in art. 3 of the present Statute, working for this purpose, or the public institutions that represent their interests in the specific field of ceramics and which:

- are located within the boundaries of the Council of Europe;
- hold a significant ancient ceramics tradition or whose territories hold a significant activity in the ceramics industry.

5. The following entities could also be members of the Association: public or private non-profit organizations, whose mission and activities are coherent with the purposes indicated in art.3 of this Statute, and active in significantly spreading, representing and enhancing the ceramics cultural heritage, by way of example, but not limited to: associations, committees, foundations, non-profit sector entities, etc.[1]

Art. 6
ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

1. The European Route of Ceramics Association is regulated by the present Statute.

2. Any further internal regulations, if deemed necessary, may be approved by the General Assembly in order to regulate, in accordance with the present Statute, further aspects related to the organization and activity of the Association.

[1] Text amended with deliberation of the General Assembly 2/2022 of 1/9/2022

Art. 7
ASSOCIATION'S ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND TERMS FOR ADMISSION

1. The subjects with the characteristics referred to in the previous art. 5.4 and 5.5 can join the European Route of Ceramics Association.

2. The membership of the Association entails the obligation to sign the "Membership Charter" of the European Route of Ceramics Association referred to in the following art. 20 of the present Statute which defines the obligations that the members undertake to fulfil. The membership of the Association will take effect upon signing said charter.

3. To be admitted, applicants shall submit a specific application to the Association, along with appropriate documentation, presenting the authorities to include for the enhancement the European Route and demonstrating the possession of the specific requirements indicated in art. 5.4 and 5.5, according to the indications that will be defined for this purpose by the Scientific Committee referred to in following art. 17.
The scientific validity of the presented documentation will be validated by the Scientific Committee.
The application and the relevant documents for the evaluation shall be submitted in English.
The authorities that were already part of the UNIC Association - Urban Network for Innovation in Ceramics, and whose scientific value has therefore been previously established, will not be required to present any further scientific documentation and shall be immediately admitted.

4. The authorities who wish to join the Association shall apply for membership, once their competent bodies have deliberated to approve the present Statute.

5. The General Assembly, having obtained the opinion of the Scientific Committee and having assessed the applications and the documentation provided, expresses its opinion.

6. The registration is effective and generates effects only upon payment of the registration fee, which must be paid within 90 days from the notification of acceptance by the Assembly.

7. The duration of the membership of the Association is indefinite, without prejudice to the right of withdrawal, as well as exclusion in the cases and conditions established in art. 10.

Art. 8
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE AND COSTS RELATED TO THE PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. Association members will pay an annual membership fee, established by the General Assembly.

2. The annual membership fee shall be paid by the month of March every year or within 30 days from the approval of the budget by the General Assembly.

3. Each member covers the costs related to the participation of its representative in the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, if appointed.

Art. 9
TERMINATION AND EXCLUSION

1. Loss of membership may occur due to:
   a) voluntary withdrawal with notice to the President of the Association by registered letter by October 31st of the year prior to the withdrawal;
   b) exclusion for non-payment of the annual membership fee. If non-payment persists, after at least 2 (two) written reminders by the President, the latter will propose the exclusion of the member, upon communication to the interested member and to the Executive Committee, if appointed, which will be decided by the General Assembly at the first available session;
   c) exclusion if the member:

1) does not comply with the provisions of this Statute, the social regulations, the resolutions legally adopted by the corporate bodies;
2) performs activities in competition or against the principles and interests of the Association;
3) loses the requirements for admission determined in art. 5 of this regulation.

2. The exclusion referred to in paragraph c) above is determined by the General Assembly, further to the proposal suggested by the Executive Committee, if appointed, after written claim of the charges transmitted by registered mail with return receipt and granting the member the right to reply. Regarding specifically the exclusion referred to in the previous paragraph c) point 3), the General Assembly shall have previously acquired the opinion of the Scientific Committee.

3. The members who have withdrawn or have been excluded, lose all rights to the Association's assets and are not entitled to the reimbursement of the fees paid.

Art. 10
ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

The administrative and management bodies of the Association are:
- The General Assembly of the Members
- The Executive Committee (if appointed)
- The President.

The technical bodies of the Association are:
- The Scientific Committee
- The management and technical-operative body.

Art. 11
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The General Assembly is the sovereign body of the Association. It defines the strategic directions and takes the fundamental decisions of the Association. It is composed by 1 representative for each member authority.

2. It will meet at least once a year in one of the countries represented, within six months of closure of the fiscal year, and is chaired by the President of the Association or, in their absence, by the Vice President.

3. The General Assembly is convened by the President via registered letter or e-mail, sent at least 15 days prior to the date set for the General Assembly, containing the agenda as well as the date, time and place.
The second call may also be convened on the same day of the first call.

4. Each member has the right to vote on matters concerning General Assembly.

5. The General Assembly deliberates on:

a) the general policies and guidelines of the Association;
b) the approval and modification of the Statute and regulations;
c) the appointment and dismissal of the President and Vice-President;
d) the number, appointment and dismissal of the members of the Executive Committee;
e) the appointment and dismissal of the members of the Scientific Committee;
f) the admission of new members;
g) the exclusion of a member, in accordance with art. 9: in this case, the member whose exclusion shall be decided, participates in the General Assembly but does not have the right to vote on the matter;
h) the approval of the final balance and provisional budget;
i) the approval of the Association's annual work plan and the related budget;
j) the membership of the Association to other associations, bodies and companies which carry out activities relevant to the Association's social purpose (upon proposal of the Executive Committee if appointed);
k) the policies and guidelines for the local work plans of the Association;
l) the acceptance of the applications to become "Friends of the Route", as stated in following art. 18;
m) the determination of the possible remuneration, at the expense of the Association, of the personnel assigned to the management of the transnational Route, if the Executive Committee is not appointed;
n) the annual membership fee;
o) all the matters attributed to it by the present Statute.

6. The General Assembly may also be convened upon the request of the majority of the members of the Executive Committee, if appointed, or of one-fifth of the members.

7. The General Assembly is valid on the first call with the presence of half of the members plus one. To reach the legal number, the members represented by proxy are also counted. Each member cannot have more than 2 proxies.
On the second call the General Assembly is valid with the presence of at least 1/3 (one third) of the members present in person or by proxy.

8. The resolutions are normally taken by open ballot with the favourable vote of the absolute majority of those present in person or represented by proxy, except as provided in paragraph 9. The deliberations concerning people are taken by secret ballot.
The minutes of all the resolutions taken are undersigned by the President and the minutes taker.

9. For the deliberations regarding modifications to the Statute, dismissal of the President and of the Vice-President, exclusion of a member in the cases appointed in art. 9 paragraph 1 letter c), the dissolution of the Association and the devolution of the assets, the General Assembly is valid with the presence of at least half of the members plus one, present in person or by proxy. The resolutions are validly accepted with the favourable vote of two thirds the members present in person or represented by proxy.

10. The exercise of the tasks referred to in this article is performed free of charge.

Art. 12
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee, if appointed, is elected by the General Assembly internally, by secret ballot.

2. First of all, the General Assembly establishes the number of the members of the Executive Committee for the next three years. Subsequently, the members submit the candidates to the President of the Assembly. Each candidate is valid only if it is supported by at least 3 (three) members.
The candidates who obtain the majority of the votes are elected. Each member is entitled to a number of votes equal to the number of councillors to be elected.

3. The Executive Committee shall remain in office for three years and is composed by a number of 3 or 5 members.

4. The Executive Committee is entrusted the following functions:

a) to implement the policies approved by the Assembly and prepare the annual transnational work plan;
b) to prepare the annual provisional budget and final balance;
c) to calculate the adjustment of the membership fees;
d) to determine the possible remuneration, at the expense of the Association, of the personnel assigned to the management of the transnational Route;
e) to propose the exclusion in the cases referred to in art. 9 paragraph 1 lett.c) in particular acquiring the prior opinion of the Scientific Committee in the cases referred to in lett. c.3) of the same paragraph;
f) to propose to the General Assembly the admission of new members, after obtaining the opinion of the Scientific Committee;
g) to propose to the General Assembly the membership of the Association to other associations, bodies and companies whose activities are relevant to the Association's social purpose;
h) all the matters attributed to it by this Statute.

5. The Executive Committee meets at least once a year. It can also meet upon the request of at least one third of the members.

6. The Executive Committee is convened by the President with a written notification sent by e-mail to the members at least 20 days prior to the date of the meeting.
The session is valid at the first call with the presence of at least 2/3 of the members, preferably present in person or represented exceptionally by proxy, to guarantee continuity in the assignment. The accumulation of proxies is not

permitted. At the second call the session is valid with the presence of half plus one of the members present in person or by proxy.

7. The decisions are approved with the absolute majority of the present members and are recorded into minutes by the management and operating body.
The members of the Executive Committee unable to attend in person, may also participate by video-conference.

8. The exercise of the tasks referred to in this article is performed free of charge.

Art. 13
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

1. The President is the legal representative of the Association and the representative of the achievement of the purpose of the Association and of the compliance with the Statute.

2. The President is elected by the General Assembly among the members of the Executive Committee, if appointed, or among the members who have presented themselves as a candidate for president. The candidate who obtains the highest number of votes is elected. Each member has the right to one vote. The rotation principle is deemed preferable.

3. The President remains in office for three years and may be re-elected. At the end of the mandate, they remain in office for ordinary administration until the new President is appointed. The role automatically expires as a result of withdrawal from the Association of the Body they represent.

4. The General Assembly elects and dismisses the President according to the procedures indicated in art. 11.

5. The President is entrusted with the following tasks:
   a) to officially represent the Association on a national and international level;
   b) to convene the General Assembly and the Executive Committee;
   c) to identify the functions to assign to the management and operating body

as well as its structure, based on the financial resources of the Association;
d) to monitor the compliance with the Association's Statute and regulations;
e) to chair the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, if appointed, and sign the minutes;
f) to propose the exclusion of members as indicated in art. 9 par.1 lett.b) and notify it;
g) to authorize the use of the logo of the Route to external parties who have requested it;
h) all the other functions of competence of the Executive Committee, if not appointed, with the exception of the provisions of art. 12, paragraph 4, lett.d), which is competence of the Assembly;
i) all the matters attributed to the President by this Statute.

6. The Vice President, elected among the members of the Executive Committee, if appointed, or with the same procedures defined for the election of the President and immediately thereafter, assists the President and replaces them in case of absence or impediment.

7. In the event of resignations or impediments to the exercise of the office of the President or the Vice President, the replacements are decided during the first available General Assembly.

8. For the performance of the Association's activities and the implementation of the decisions taken by the competent bodies, as well as for the management of the international activities of the Route, the President avails themselves of the management and operating body mentioned in art. 14.

9. The exercise of the tasks referred to in this article is performed free of charge.

Art. 14
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATING BODY

1. The management and operating body, necessary to the ordinary activity of the Association, established in accordance with art. 4, paragraph 2, is based at the transnational registered office of the Association.

2. The management and operating body consists of:
- 1 director, also acting as the treasurer, appointed by the President
- the technical secretarial office, consisting in one or more units of personnel appointed by the President, normally operating at the registered office as stated in art. 4, paragraph 1.

The aforementioned resources are usually identified among the employees and/or collaborators of the member bodies or of the bodies the same join for such function; otherwise they are covered by subjects considered suitable based on their *curricula* and expertise, who will receive *ad hoc* collaboration assignments, at the expense of the Association.

Art. 15
TRANSNATIONAL WORK TOOLS

1. In order to achieve the purposes indicated in the art. 3 of the present Statute, the Association considers particularly important to develop the relations and the connections between the partners as a consistent operational way for the best enhancement of the European cultural heritage in the field of ceramics and for the implementation of innovative policies for cultural, economic, industrial and tourist development related to it. The common coordinated action at European level can guarantee further effectiveness and incisiveness for the growth of the territories and within the global network of ceramics. To this purpose, the Association acknowledges the importance of the following transnational work tools:

a) the promotion of common initiatives for the realization of the purposes of the present Statute as, above all, the development of the activities of the transnational Route called the European Route of Ceramics, Cultural Itinerary of the Council of Europe;
b) the participation in European and international projects;
c) the creation and constant updating of a website in English, including descriptions in the national languages realized by each member, for the dissemination of information and the promotion of the activities and programs of the Association and of the single members;
d) the participation in fairs, exhibitions, seminars, researches, for the promotion of the peculiarities and excellences of the individual members as

well as the brand and the activities of the Association;
e) the management of digital cultural tools for the virtual Route;
f) the activation of specific educational and training projects;
g) the activation of specific projects related to tourism and marketing;
h) The activation of specific research and innovation projects.

2. The activities referred to in the previous paragraph are decided by the General Assembly of the Members.

Art. 16
AUDIT AND SUPERVISORY BODY

1. The auditing body is composed by 1 (one) member appointed by the General Assembly, usually among the members' personnel.

2. The auditing and supervisory body:
a) oversees the correct use of the Association resources on a financial and accounting level;
b) examines the provisional budget and the final balance and draws up specific accompanying reports;
c) participates, if convened, in meetings of the office of the President and in the General Assembly.

3. The exercise of the audit and control functions, if not performed by the employees of the members, may be performed with appropriate remuneration, at the expense of the Association.

ART. 17
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

1. A Scientific Committee is established for the exercise of the following functions:
a) to examine the documentation of the new applications for membership, to express an opinion and endorse the scientific value of the documentation on the basis of the dispositions of art. 7;

b) to submit proposals;
c) to express, if requested, an opinion on the activities proposed in the work plan of the Association;
d) to express, if requested, an opinion on the scientific quality of the transnational and local promotional materials;
e) to monitor the scientific quality of the activities carried out and to express opinions on the permanence of the eligibility requirements described in art. 7.

2. The Scientific Committee is appointed by the General Assembly and is composed of a number of members ranging from 3 to 7, preferably selected among the experts who already collaborate with the individual members. The Committee remains in office for the duration of 6 years; any substitutions will cover the remaining period.

3. The members of the Scientific Committee are experts in disciplines concerning the aims and objectives of the Association. Interdisciplinarity and territorial plurality are guaranteed.

4. The Scientific Committee internally appoints a President, who coordinates the work of the Scientific Committee. The President of the Scientific Committee may be convened to participate in the meetings of the General Assembly and/or of the Executive Committee with consultative functions.

5. The members of the Scientific Committee perform their role free of charge. The costs related to the reimbursements for the participation in the meetings of the Scientific Committee are at the expense of the member who presented the candidate for the Committee, otherwise they are at the expense of the Association.

Art. 18
FRIENDS OF THE EUROPEAN ROUTE OF CERAMICS ASSOCIATION

1. The Friends of the European Route of Ceramics Association, called for short "Friends of the Route" are institutions, public and private, non-profit associations

or entities with commercial purpose, which, by giving financial contributions or operating in favour of the Association, carry out activities in support of the project for the enhancement of the transnational Route called the European Route of Ceramics, Cultural Itinerary of the Council of Europe.

2. These subjects, in order to be listed among the "Friends of the Route" are required to sign an "Ethical Commitment Charter of the European Route of Ceramics" described in art. 19 and to comply with its provisions; the application is accepted with a specific resolution of the General Assembly.

3. The Friends of the Route can use the logo of the Association or other necessary utilities as decided by the Assembly, forwarding a specific request each time and further to the authorization of the President.

4. The Association may establish relations with other specialized networks for the development of the Association's activities and the promotion of the Route.

Art. 19
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CHARTER AND ETHICAL COMMITMENT STATEMENTS

1. The Association adopts a Membership Charter defining the obligations deriving from the membership of the Association, among which the obligation for members to:

a) promote the European Cultural Route of Ceramics;
b) raise awareness in the educational system and promote school exchanges and training events;
c) identify and maintain a constant reference person for the activities of the association and the Route.

2. In order to guarantee a development of the Route, consistent with the principles that inspired it and to ensure the correct use of the logo of the Route and of any activities related to it, the Association may adopt one or more "Ethical Charters" of the European Cultural Route.

3. The Ethical Charters outline in general terms the conditions of the relations of the European Rote of Ceramics with the external subjects referred to in art. 18 and with economic subjects.

Art. 20
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

1. The administrative and accounting documentation held in the archives at the registered office are in Italian and it are translated into English upon the members' request.

2. Official communications and operational documents are written and sent in English.

ART. 21
FINANCES AND PROPERTY

1. In order to pursue its aims, the Association has the following income available:
   a) annual membership fees;
   b) income related to the activity or participation in projects;
   c) contributions and sponsorships of public and private bodies;
   d) refunds from specific agreements;
   e) other income contributing to increase of the assets of the Association.

2. The property of the Association consists in:
   a) movable and immovable property which may be given to the Association in any form (donations, contributions, etc.) by individuals or Bodies or directly purchased;
   b) any reserve funds deriving from budget surpluses.

Art. 22
PROVISIONAL BUDGET AND FINAL BALANCE

1. The Association's financial year begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st.

2. The General Assembly for the approval of the final balance and provisional budget is convened each year by June 30th.

Art. 23
DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. In case of dissolution of the Association for any reason, the property will be transferred to other associations pursuing similar purposes.

Art. 24
APPLICABLE LAW

1. For any matters not provided for in this Statute, the current laws and provisions in force in Italy, as well as the general principles of the Italian legal system will apply.

2. Any controversy arising from or connected to this document and any relations between members dependent on it will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts in Ravenna, Italy, with the application of the Italian law.

Art. 25
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. The first General Assembly is held on the occasion of the constitution of the Association. The Assembly is chaired by the representative of the Municipality of Faenza and will elect the corporate bodies. Members who have signed the Deed of Incorporation can participate in the first General Assembly.

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