

CONSTITUTION

REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION – IRISH SECTION

1. Definition

In these rules, the words in the first column below shall bear the meanings set out in the second column, if not inconsistent with the subject or context.

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| The Association: | The Regional Studies Association |
| The Section: | The Irish Section of the Association, having its offices at: c/o The Department of Geography, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. |
| The Committee: | The Committee of the Section. |
| The Chair: | Chairperson |

2. Legal Status

The Section, as an unincorporated independent body, is affiliated to the Regional Studies Association, an organisation established to provide a forum to discuss regional issues, and to publish results of related research. The Section subscribes to the Association's aims and objectives. This means that an elected Section Committee member is a trustee for the purposes of the Section, and that the trustees may be responsible for liabilities incurred by the Section.

3. Aims and Objects

- a) The aim of the Section is to stimulate regional awareness, and to assess and advise on regional issues and policies affecting the public and private sectors and local communities.
- b) The Section sees the goal of regional policy in Ireland, as the promotion of balanced social, economic, cultural, environmental and physical development within a European framework.
- c) The Section recognises the need for a comprehensive national policy, integrated both sectorally and geographically, in order to promote urban, rural and regional development.
- d) The Section believes that local resources are central to new economic development. The Section will encourage the mobilisation of these resources.
- e) The Section believes that local initiatives and public participation should be central to the planning and execution of development policies and resource management.

4. Region

The geographical are of the Section shall be the Republic of Ireland

5. Membership

Membership of the Section shall be:

- a. Any member of the Association may attend a meeting of the Section, and take part in its proceedings, but the right to vote is limited to members of the Section.
- b. The Committee should meet normally not less than once a year.
- c. In the absence of the Section Chair, the Trustees present shall choose one among them to preside at that meeting

6. Committee

- a) The Section shall be managed by the Committee which shall consist of the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 12 members
- b) The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and shall hold office until the following Annual General Meeting.
- c) The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting from the members.
- d) The Chair and Secretary shall not hold office for more than five terms consecutively. The Treasurer can hold office for three years with an option of extension for a further three years.

7. Co-option

The Committee may co-opt up to two members of the Section. Casual vacancies among the elected members of the Committee may be filled by co-option, from among the members of the Section for the unexpired term of the vacancy. Co-opted members shall have the right to vote

8. Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the Committee and General Meetings shall be three members having voting rights

9. General Meeting

A General Meeting shall be held in every calendar year at such a date, not being held more than sixteen months after the holding of the last preceding General Meeting. At least 14 days notice, specifying the day, place and time of the General Meeting shall be given to all members of the Section. The agenda shall include the presentation of an annual report by the Chair, a financial report by the Treasurer and the election of the Committee for the

ensuing year. Notices of motion should be furnished to the Section Secretary, at least 7 days prior to the General Meeting

10. Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened if requested by the Committee, or by request in writing of at least five members. The resolutions to be moved at such a meeting are to be specified by the convenors, and set out in the notice of the meeting. At least 14 days notice of every EGM shall be sent to members of the Section. No business shall be brought forward to any EGM other than that specified in the notice of the meeting, and postal votes on these resolutions, reaching the Secretary before the opening of the meeting, shall be valid. The quorum at an EGM shall be five members having voting rights.

11. Finance

- a) The Committee will give regular financial reports as and when requested by the Executive Committee of the Association, or by the Section.
- b) The Section Trustees are responsible for the finances. The Association and its Trustees are not responsible for any debts or other commitments incurred by the Section.
- c) The Section Committee shall appoint three or four of its members to sign cheques. Cheques shall always be signed by an authorised signatory
- d) Members of the Committee may be entitled to recover reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by them in connection with their duties for the Section.
- e) In the event of the dissolution of the Section, any funds shall revert to the Association.
- f) Auditors may be appointed each year at the General Meeting.

12. Publications

The Section may from time to time publish literature in its sole name, provided such literature shall not contain any statement contrary to the objects or the policy of the Association or the Section. Such publications, copies of all Section rules, all other publications, press releases and notice of forthcoming events, shall be forwarded to the Association. The copyright of such publications shall remain the joint property of the author/authors and the Section.

13. Amendments to Rules

- a) Proposals by any member of the Section for amendments to the above rules, shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Section at least 14 days prior to the holding of a General Meeting.
- b) If proposals for the amendment of the above rules, are themselves amended or rejected by the General Meeting, the proposer shall be informed immediately, and if

the General Meeting's decision is not acceptable to him/her, the member may ask for an Extraordinary General Meeting under Rule 11.

- c) Amendments to the Rules shall be notified to all members of the Section, as soon as reasonably possible after approval by the Section.

Dublin, 08 January 2008