

ASSOCIAZIONE LONGOBARDIA
Regione Virtuale Europea – Virtual European Region

STATUTE

TITLE 1 – NAME, TERRITORIES, PURPOSES, LOGO-BRAND, HEADQUARTERS, DURATION

Article 1 - CONSTITUTION

A non-profit cultural association called “LONGOBARDIA” is hereby established with the attributions in Italian of “Regione Virtuale Europea” and in English of “Virtual European Region”.

The Association:

- is democratic, non-partisan, without any prejudice of race, sex, opinion or religion;
- respects the principles of social and economic promotion;
- adheres to the functions of tourism development as a means for the growth of the human person, without exception, and of the communities and pursues the principles of the UNWTO as well as the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe;
- adheres to the guidelines of the <Faro Convention> considering the overall Value of the Longobard Culture as a substantial and shareable part of the European cultural heritage;
- respects the logic of sustainability and eco-compatibility;
- is founded on the best practices of non-violence.

Article 2 - TERRITORIES OF REFERENCE

The areas of direct territorial reference of the Longobardia Association are both the early medieval routes of the historical migration of the Longobard peoples from the seas of Northern Europe, to Central-Eastern Europe, to the Mediterranean, and the routes of faith determined by the places:

- of the European diffusion of the cult of the Archangel Michael (religious "symbol" of the Longobards) which starts from Monte Sant'Angelo and which allows an effective collaboration with the existing "Via Micaelica" already known by the Council of Europe;
- of the veneration for Queen Theodolinda, who contributed to determining the conditions of the fundamental passage of the Longobards from the Germanic religious traditions and from Arianism to Roman Catholicism;
- of the development of the monasteries founded or supported by the Longobard aristocracy;
- of the development of monasticism originating from the presence of San Colombano on the peninsula and from the development of the abbey of Bobbio founded by him.

The countries identified for shared historical-cultural and mythological reasons, in addition to Italy, are: Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, in addition to Switzerland. Variants of large areas referable to road routes and/or significant historically documented cultural contaminations may be merged.

Article 3 – PURPOSES

The Association intends to establish, organize, coordinate and enhance the tourist-cultural Route called “*Longobard Ways across Europe*” - extending from the Northern seas to Central-Eastern Europe, to the Mediterranean and designed on the basis of the places of archaeological finds scientifically attributed to the Longobard people, documentary sources and consolidated traditions. Route of which it assumes full and exclusive representation towards all public institutions, government bodies, universities, research centers, institutions and training bodies, economic organizations of category and companies of the European countries crossed, having the following primary purposes:

- To favor and promote a widespread tourist-cultural and socio-economic development of the <European geocultural corridor> in which the Values expressed by the Longobard Culture at its peak

- have progressively matured, recognized in 2011 by UNESCO with the qualifying specification of *<primary root of European Culture, then developed by the Carolingians>*.
- Contribute – in line with the main EU and Council of Europe directives – to making today's European citizens more aware of some identity references that favor the consolidation of the shared sense of belonging and *<European citizenship>*, with a view to both a greater integration between Western and Eastern Europe and a more extensive Mediterranean culture that contributes to the deepening of the causes and effects of the epochal, as well as cyclical, migratory waves that are a substantial part of European history.
 - Encourage cultural tourism in its various specialized declinations - and in particular school, environmental and religious tourism - both to promote the spread of knowledge, awareness and sharing of the Values expressed by Longobard culture as an element of European cultural heritage, and to consolidate the sense of "common belonging" among today's "citizens of Europe", thus also corresponding to the more general purposes of the *<Faro Convention>*;
 - Contribute to orienting, also for the purposes of cultural-tourist development, the organizational and dissemination activity of Museums and Historical Archives, custodians of the finds of the material culture of the Longobard Peoples and of period documents, constituting a specialized network as a whole defined as *<Sources of European Culture>* with the additional specification of *<Primary Longobard root>* and interconnected to the orientation and organizational lines of the Association.
 - Promote relationships and collaborations with the relevant international, European, national and regional institutions, with the MIC, with the Properties of the UNESCO serial site "*The Longobards in Italy. The centers of power (568-774 AD)*", with other Properties of assets referable to the Longobard History and Culture and with other entities representing European Itineraries and Paths whose directions - in compliance with historical priorities - have relevance or coincidence with the Longobard Route.
 - Design, manage and/or participate in initiatives aimed at:
 - promoting and managing - in agreement and collaboration with the ecclesiastical authorities and their dedicated institutions - specialized tourist flows, especially cultural, social, youth and religious tourism, exhibitions and thematic events related to religiosity and cults promoted in the Longobard era.
 - promoting and encouraging intercultural and interreligious dialogue and the construction of a shared European "hereditary identity".
 - Contribute to promoting at university level the creation of specialized training courses, research and scientific re-readings of the early medieval period, strongly characterized by decisive phases of European and Mediterranean culture in which the evolutionary contribution of Longobard culture - a synthesis of multiple cultures and traditions - played a leading role.
 - Promote and/or support - in the context of multi-year cycles of primary and secondary school education - complementary teaching activities for in-depth study of the Values of Longobard history and culture, also with regard to the feminine "reading" of the same, favoring the enriching analysis of historical parallels, both early medieval and modern.
 - Promote and/or participate in the promotion of artistic initiatives, especially youth initiatives, that favor the transmission of the Values of Longobard culture and their "re-reading" or reinterpretation through the various forms of art.
 - More generally, establish a European "network-of-networks" system to support the planning and management of the overall initiative over time, with the participation of Public Institutions, Local and Religious Bodies, Universities, Schools, Museums, Trade Associations, Cultural and Volunteer Associations and Companies (the latter provided that they adhere to the Code of Ethics developed by the Association).
 - Contribute to enhancing, in the context of the overall Route, the identity of the individual *<Identity Clusters>* or micro-territories that, as identity pearls of a single necklace, are distinguished by their specific Longobard history, by particular geomorphological and environmental characteristics and by specific endogenous resources of tourist interest (agri-food, food and wine, crafts, hospitality services, etc.).

- Promote and cooperate with aggregations of Local Bodies and associations for the purposes of the cultural and socio-economic development of the Route and its <Identity Clusters>.
- Promote and manage initiatives, information events and technological information and communication tools (web portal and advanced telematic initiatives to support the overall organization).

Article 4 - TERRITORIAL LOGO-BRAND

The Association is distinguished by two logos (also with the function of territorial brands) that can be used indiscriminately and differentiated only by their proper name (“Longobardia” and “Langobardia”), both combined with the additional attributions of “European Virtual Region” and “Virtual European Region” and which are included in this document as substantial and inseparable parts thereof, as an expression of an extended and innovative concept of European value.

In its interweaving, the logo is representative of both the migratory flows of the Longobard peoples and the consequent hereditary interweavings – flowing into a new shared culture – and the flows of traditional commercial exchange between European Territories.

The use and/or concession of use of the territorial logo-brands by third parties, including the subjects participating in the European network and the companies adhering to the various initiatives, will be governed by the Regulations and specific agreements.

Article 5 - HEADQUARTERS

The Association has its registered office in Brescia and may open initial peripheral offices in Cividale del Friuli and Monza and representations in Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia.

Other offices of the Association may be established and/or changed through a resolution of the Board of Directors ratified by the Members' Assembly, without the need for further registrations, always making the "publicity" of deeds and registers its own.

Article 6 - DURATION

The Association has an unlimited duration; it is governed by this Statute and acts pursuant to and for the purposes of Articles 36 and following of the Civil Code, of the specialized sector discipline and of the general principles of the legal system.

TITLE 2 – MEMBERS

Article 7 - MEMBERS

The Association is composed of legal entities - such as Italian and European Institutions, Bodies and Associations interested in the development of the "European Geocultural Corridor" designed by the Route - and of natural persons representing broader and more qualified cultural and economic interests, who subscribe and declare to accept without reservations the Statute and the inspiring principles of the Association and pay the membership fees.

The Members are divided into:

- Founders: first signatories of the Articles of Association, recognized co-founder
- Ordinary: all the entities that will join the association projects on the basis of this Statute and related Regulations.
- Supporters: those who will join the association projects with only organizational or financial support. They do not have the right to vote.
- Honorary: from individuals who, in the opinion of the association bodies, will be deserving of the initiative for the value of their scientific, institutional, financial contributions. They do not have the right to vote.
- Membership in the Association is for an indefinite period and cannot be arranged for a temporary period.
- The Association keeps a register of members, edited by the General Secretary.

Those who intend to join the Association must submit an application to the Board of Directors containing the declaration of sharing the purposes and principles of the Association and the commitment to observe the Statute and Regulations and to pay the membership fees.

Article 8 - RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Membership in the Association is free and voluntary and the statutory functions performed are free of charge. The activities of members must not conflict with the activities of the Association and must always be carried out in compliance with current laws and resolutions adopted by the governing bodies.

Members have the right to participate in meetings, to vote directly or by proxy. Members are also required to comply with the rules of this Statute and to pay the annual membership fees to be paid by January 31.

Article 9 - WITHDRAWAL AND EXCLUSION

Members cease to belong to the Association for:

- voluntary resignation or extinction;
- failure to pay the membership fee by the due date.
- for unworthiness decided by the Board of Directors; in this last case, an appeal is permitted to the Arbitration Board which decides definitively.

TITLE 3 – ASSOCIATIVE BODIES

Article 10 - BODIES

- The bodies of the Association are:
 - the Members' Assembly
 - the Board of Directors
 - the Presidential Committee
 - the President
 - the Board of Arbiters

Article 11 - ELIGIBILITY AND SINGLE VOTE

The associative bodies of the Association are freely electable by the Members' Assembly according to the principle of the single vote referred to in Article 2532, paragraph 2, of the Civil Code.

Article 12 - COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly of members is the sovereign body of the Association. It is composed of all members registered in the members' book for at least three months and in good standing with the payment of membership fees. It is validly constituted for deliberative purposes by all those registered in the list of Members (founders and ordinary) who, on the date of the meeting of the Assembly itself, are in good standing with the payment of the annual membership fee.

The following are members of the Assembly with voting rights:

- the Founders
- one representative each appointed:
 - by the Municipality of the City of Monza
 - by the Association "Italia Langobardorum", Spoleto
 - by the Gaiani Foundation, Monza
 - by the Parish "S. Giovanni Battista" of Monza
 - by the Archdiocese of Udine

In the event of termination of the role in their reference Institution, each representative of the same (whether it is a legal person or European section) will be replaced by the new representative appointed by the Member legal person or by the European section.

Article 13 - CONVOCAZIONE

The Assembly may be ordinary or extraordinary and is convened by the President of the Association or, in his/her absence, by the Vice President or, in subordination, by the most senior Councilor. with an indication of the items on the agenda.

The convocation is communicated with adequate advance notice to all members with the means deemed most suitable.

The ordinary assembly is convened at least once a year within the month of May.

The extraordinary Assembly is convened by the President if he/she deems it appropriate or if a reasoned written request is made by the majority of the Board of Directors by at least one third of the members of the Assembly of Members. In these cases, the written convocation must reach the members with at least 10 (ten) days' notice starting from the date of the postmark or from that placed on the receipt.

In the event that the letter of convocation is delivered by hand, the Assembly must be held within 30 (thirty) days from the date of the convocation.

Article 14 - ASSEMBLY WORK

At the first call, the assembly is regularly constituted with the presence of half plus one of the members, present in person or by proxy to be conferred to another Member. At the second call, it is regularly constituted regardless of the number of Members present, in person or by proxy.

Voting by correspondence is permitted, in particular for foreign national representations and for national ones without local organizations.

The assembly can also be held electronically according to existing communication technologies.

Votes can be expressed only on the points specifically defined in the agenda.

Article 15 - DELEGATIONS

Each Member can be the bearer of only one proxy.

Article 16 - VALIDITY

The resolutions of the Assembly are adopted by a majority of those present. To decide on changes to the Statute of the Association, the favorable vote of the majority of participants in the validly constituted Assembly is required.

Article 17 - TASKS OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly is the sovereign deliberative body of the Association, which is responsible for all final decisions. In particular, the Assembly has the following tasks:

- elect the members of the Board of Directors, two of whom are proposed by the Founding Members;
- approve the admission of new Members;
- decide on the exclusion of Members based on the provisions of Art. 9;
- approve the program of activities proposed by the Board of Directors;
- approve the budget;
- approve the final budget;
- approve or reject requests to change the Statute and regulations;
- establish the amount of membership fees to be paid by Members;
- deliberate, always in compliance with Art.21 c.c., on the possible dissolution of the Association;
- appoint the Board of Arbiters
- appoint the General Secretary upon proposal of the President.

TITLE 5 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 18 - COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is elected by the Assembly and is composed of 9 (nine) to 18 (eighteen) members in consideration of the federative nature of the Association, which - due to the development of the overall Route "Longobard Ways across Europe" - includes participation at the level of both the four macro-areas into which the Route itself is divided, as well as of the individual Countries and the multiple territorial units with their own specific identity characteristics (Identity Clusters) that make up each macro-area.

The Board of Directors, with a majority vote of those present, may co-opt other members, even those external to the Assembly in the capacity of experts and who have only a consultative vote.

The exact composition of the Board of Directors is determined on the basis of the Regulations.

The meetings of the Board of Directors may take place electronically and are valid if attended by the majority of those elected with the right.

To simplify the work of the Board of Directors, and upon specific delegation of the latter body, some resolutions may be delegated to the Presidency Committee.

Article 19 - TASKS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The meetings of the Board of Directors are valid with the presence of at least the majority of its members elected by the Assembly; they are chaired by the President or, in his/her absence, by the Vice President, or, in their simultaneous absence, by the oldest Director present among those present elected by the Assembly. The Board of Directors decides by majority of those present; in the event of a tie, the vote of the person presiding prevails.

The Board of Directors meets, upon convocation by the President, at least three times a year and, when at least one third of the members request it. In this second case, the meeting must take place within 20 (twenty) days of receipt of the request.

For the convocation to be valid, a notice of at least 10 (ten) days is required, starting from the date of the postmark or from that placed on the receipt in the event that the letter of convocation is delivered by hand. The Board of Directors may also be held electronically using existing communication technologies

The Board of Directors elects from among its members the President and the Vice President, who remain in office for the duration of the Board itself.

The Board of Directors meets whenever the President deems it necessary or at least one third of the members request it.

The Board of Directors has the task of:

- implementing the resolutions of the Assembly;
- carrying out all the acts and operations that are necessary for the life of the association within the limits of the general directives decided by the Assembly;
- submitting the annual budgets and financial statements for approval by the Assembly;
- determining the work program based on the guidelines contained in the general program approved by the Assembly, promoting and coordinating its activity and authorizing its expenditure;
- accepting or rejecting the applications of aspiring members;
- ratifying, in the first subsequent meeting, the measures within its competence adopted by the President for reasons of necessity and urgency. Likewise, any co-opted/designated members of the board must be ratified by the first useful meeting of the members, and whose number may never exceed one third of the total members of the Board.
- Draw up the minutes of its meetings and consequent resolutions, which will be approved at the beginning of the next meeting.

Article 20 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Board of Directors is also required to examine and approve the annual economic and financial statement submitted by the President and to submit the document for approval by the Shareholders' Meeting by May of the following year.

Article 21 - DURATION

The Board of Directors remains in office for 5 (five) years and its members are eligible for re-election. The expired Board of Directors continues to carry out its functions until the election of the new Board by the Assembly.

Article 22 - CO-OPTION

If during the financial year one or more directors are missing, or one or more directors are absent from the meetings of the Council for at least 3 (three) consecutive sessions, the others may provide for their replacement by co-opting him/her from among the members of the Assembly or - in the case of representatives of European countries - by co-opting the new representative appointed by the Institutions and Bodies of that country.

TITLE 6 – PRESIDENT

Article 23 - ELECTION

The President is elected by the Board of Directors from among its members, by a majority of votes.

Article 24 - TASKS OF THE PRESIDENT

The President:

- legally represents the Association towards third parties and in court;
- signs all acts and documents that involve commitments for the Association;
- convenes and chairs the meetings of the Assembly and the Board of Directors and presides over the two bodies according to the established methods;
- directs and coordinates the execution of the decisions taken;
- has the power to delegate the execution of various tasks to other members of the Board of Directors;
- proposes to the Assembly the appointment of the General Secretary;
- convenes and coordinates the Presidential Committee;
- assigns the tasks in the Scientific Committee according to the specifications of the following art. 28.

In case of necessity and urgency, the President takes the measures within the competence of the Board of Directors, submitting them for ratification at the first subsequent meeting.

In case of absence, impediment and termination, the relevant functions are carried out by the Vice President or the oldest member of the Board of Directors.

Article 25 - VICE PRESIDENTS

The Vice President is appointed by the Board of Directors upon proposal of the President. He carries out all the tasks assigned to him by delegation to the President and replaces the latter in the event of his impediment for all necessary duties and functions.

The representatives of the European countries of the 1st macro-area and the 2nd macro-area elected to the Board of Directors will appoint, upon proposal of the President, the Vice Presidents pertaining to the respective macro-areas.

The Vice Presidents have the task of coordinating the sections of the Association in the European countries, representing them in all respects.

In the event of termination of the role in his/her reference Institution, each Vice President will be replaced in the association position by the new representative appointed according to the criteria defined above.

Article 26 - PRESIDENCY COMMITTEE

To assist the President in the development of initiatives, the Presidency Committee is established, with mainly consultative functions, whose basic structure is composed of the Vice President of the Association and the foreign Vice Presidents. Other members of the Board of Directors, the Members' Assembly and/or external experts may be called for specific meetings.

The Presidency Committee may be delegated by the Board of Directors of the Association to deliberate in all respects on specific themes and topics.

The Presidency Committee also has the task of guiding the multidisciplinary activity of the Scientific Committee, of reporting possible lines of development to be entrusted to the scientific study and elaboration of the Committee itself and of verifying its activity.

Article 27 - BOARD OF PROBIVIRI

The Board of Probiviri is composed of three members elected by the Members' Assembly on the proposal of the President. The Board appoints the President from among its members.

It has the task of deciding on compliance with the statutory provisions and of resolving any disputes between individual Members. The decisions of the Board of Probiviri are binding for all Members and the association bodies. The Probiviri remain in office for five years and can be re-elected at the end of their term.

The Probiviri absent from the Board for more than three sessions will be replaced by decision of the Board of Directors to be ratified in the next Members' Assembly.

TITLE 7 - SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Article 28 - ESTABLISHMENT

Pursuant to Articles 1 and 3 of this Statute as well as the provisions of the Institut Européen des Itinéraires Culturels of Luxembourg for the definition of the general orientations of the activities related to the design and development of the European Cultural Itineraries, a multi-sector Technical-Scientific Committee is established, named after the Longobard Amelio Tagliaferri. A specific Regulation will govern its activity, which will be carried out under the control of the General Secretary of the Association, who will report to the Board of Directors also with regard to the recommendations of names for the various scientific positions that emerge from recommendations of the members of the Scientific Committee.

TITLE 8 – OPERATION

Article 29 - FINANCE AND ASSETS

The Association draws the economic resources for the operation and performance of its activities from:

- membership fees and contributions from members;
- contributions from private individuals;
- contributions from the State, Entities and Public Institutions;
- contributions from international organizations;
- donations and bequests;
- reimbursements deriving from agreements;
- income deriving from various activities;
- income from movable or immovable property received by the organization in any capacity.

It is forbidden to distribute, even indirectly, profits or operating surpluses as well as funds, reserves or capital. It is mandatory to use the assets, including any revenues, income, proceeds, income however denominated, for the performance of the statutory activity for the exclusive pursuit of civic, solidarity and social utility purposes.

Article 30 - MEMBERSHIP FEE

The membership fee payable by members is set by the Assembly. It is annual; it cannot be divided or repeated in the event of withdrawal or loss of membership status.

The fee and/or membership contribution are not transferable except for transfers due to death. The fee and/or membership contribution are not revalued.

Members who are not up to date with the payment of membership fees cannot attend Assembly meetings or take part in association activities. They are not voters and cannot be elected to social positions.

TITLE 9 – FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 31 - LIQUIDATION

In the event of liquidation or dissolution for any other reason, the assets of the Association will be transferred to other non-profit organizations.

Article 32 - LEGAL REFERENCES

For anything not expressly provided for in this Statute, the relevant legal provisions apply.

This document consists of eight (8) pages