



## **EPLN Governance**

EPLN is an association governed by its members. The decision-making bodies are structured in a way that enables the association to take into account the specific needs of partners from a wide variety of socio-political contexts, while allowing to develop actions on the scale of the European continent.

Under the authority and supervision of the General Assembly, EPLN's Board is the primary governance and decision-making body of the association.

Other key advisory, executive and strategic bodies within EPLN's organisational structure include:

- Scientific Council
- Secretariat
- General assembly
- Council of partners

### **Board**

The Board is represented by 17 elected members from the General Assembly. It has all the decision-making powers, except those reserved to the General Assembly. The Board discusses and votes strategic orientations proposed by the Secretariat and the Bureau. The orientations decided by the Board are ratified by the General Assembly for the following year.

### **Bureau**

The Bureau is composed of 5 members nominated by the Board (i.e. the President, Two Vice-Presidents, the General Secretary and the Treasurer) . The Bureau implements and is responsible for decisions adopted by the Board. The key areas of responsibility of the EPLN Board are the following:

1. Represent the association in all civic matters
2. External and internal communication
3. Accountancy and financial strategy
4. The Bureau also makes decisions that fall within the Board's area of responsibility when delays on short notice do not allow for convening a meeting of the Board.

## **Secretariat**

The Secretariat runs the legal, advocacy and development of activities of the EPLN. It operates under the supervision and support of the Bureau of the EPLN, and in concertation with the head of the Scientific council when it comes to research activities.

The key areas of responsibility of the Secretariat are the following:

In the legal direction:

1. Project conception, design and direction
2. Coordination of litigation action and advocacy
3. Elaboration of strategic orientations

In the development direction:

1. Facilitation and moderation of discussions between partners and members of the network
2. Outreach to new members and partners of the network
3. Administrative and financial management of projects
4. Project designs and planning
5. Budget planning and fundraising

## **Scientific Council**

The Scientific Council acts as a consultative body. It is composed of researchers specialised in the penitentiary field, who oversee the coherence of the scientific action of the association. The Scientific Council can be regularly contacted by the council of partners and secretariat to give advice and make recommendations regarding the work planned and carried out by the partners and secretariat.

## **General Assembly of members**

Individuals or organisations can become full members upon addressing their application to the Board, which will statute on these applications during its next meeting. Membership is submitted to an annual membership fee.

The General Assembly gathers once a year and defines the general directions and priorities of the association. Each year the General Assembly approves the Annual report and the financial report of the previous, and approves strategic orientations proposed by the Board for the following year.

## **Coordination body of partners (in the Statute named “structures collaborating to the network”)**

EPLN is a network of non-governmental organisations active in the defence of prisoners’ rights. Organisations can become partners of the network by addressing their application to the board. The Board is charged with approving new partners, based on the relevance of their contribution to the action areas of the network. Partners can submit proposals for strategic orientations to be considered by the Board or the General Assembly. The Coordination Body of Partners is a non-

decisional body which is responsible for collecting the needs of member organizations in terms of research, advocacy or litigation to be carried out at European level.

**Structure and bodies of the Prison Litigation Network**

