



CULTURE FOR EDUCATION
Gravissimum Educationis Foundation

STATUTE

Foreword

In His pastoral solicitude of October 28th, 2015, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Declaration *Gravissimum educationis* and on the proposal of the Congregation for Catholic Education, the Holy Father Francis erected the Foundation *Gravissimum educationis*, nowadays named "Gravissimum educationis – Culture for Education", with the aim of promoting Catholic education in the world.

On March 19th, 2022, with the Apostolic Constitution *Predicate Evangelium*, the Holy Father reformed the Roman Curia, in its service to the Church and the World. The Congregation for Catholic Education merged with the Pontifical Council of Culture in the new Dicastery for Culture and Education, called to foster the fruitful integration between the two domains. The Foundation, which has become an instrumental juridical person of the Dicastery, is likewise called upon to expand its purposes and activities by integrating the cultural dimension to the original educational mandate. This expansion is reflected in the Foundation's new name, in which the wording "*Culture for Education*" is inserted.

The Foundation is regulated by this Statute.

Article 1: Name, nature and location

The Foundation *Gravissimum educationis – Culture for Education* is established. It enjoys canonical and civil public juridical personality and is registered in the Registers of the State of Vatican City. The Foundation shall have its headquarters in Via del Pellegrino in the State of Vatican City and may set up branch offices in other states as well.

Article 2: Purposes and activities

The Foundation is a not-for-profit institution, and, as a juridical personal instrumental to the Dicastery, it cooperates to the pursuit of its purposes., in particular with the aim of promoting initiatives that can effectively combine the dimensions of culture and of formal education.

In carrying out its activities, the Foundation is inspired by the documents of the Church's Magisterium on education and culture, such as the Conciliar Declaration *Gravissimum educationis*.

Within this framework, the Foundation aims to:

- a) promote projects aimed at establishing and consolidating collaborative relationships between entities and institutions active in the educational sector;
- b) promote cultural projects and events aimed at fostering, also in the educational sphere, reflection on key topics of contemporary debate and dialogue between arts, cultures and faith;
- c) implement projects and initiatives related to the *Global Compact on Education*;

- d) promote research, publications and training activities on the Church's thinking on education and culture;
 - e) organize international scientific conferences and events;
 - f) establish prizes and awards in favour of those who have distinguished themselves for special merits in cultural or educational activity or scientific research;
 - g) promote networks and collaborations among educational institutions with regard to the training and qualification of personnel and the sharing of best practices;
 - h) promote fundraising for the pursuit of the purposes and activities set forth in this Statute.
- The Foundation may also carry out any activity related or instrumental to the achievement of its purposes.

Article 3: Patrimony

The patrimony of the Foundation consists of:

- a) the initial monetary endowment of € 500.000,00 (five-hundred thousand);
- b) sums, real estate and other properties and activities that will be given to the Foundation specifically to increase its assets.

Annuities from the Foundation's assets will be used for the fulfilment of the statutory finalities.

Article 4: Operating means

The Foundation's operating means consist of property income, income from its activities, and any other income not intended to increase its assets, including public or private grants, sponsorships, and donations.

The Foundation's operating means are used to carry out its institutional purposes.

Article 5: Financial year and budget

The financial year begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st of each year.

By October 31st of each year, the Board of Directors must approve the preliminary budget and by March 31 the final financial report for the year ended the previous December 31st.

At least twenty days before being submitted to the Board of Directors, the projects of the preliminary budget and of the financial report prepared by the Secretary General in consultation with the Treasurer must be submitted to the Prefect of the Dicastery of Culture and Education, who may make comments as part of his institutional oversight duties.

Article 6: Organs of the Foundation

The organs of the Foundation are:

- (a) The President;
- (b) The Vice President;
- (c) The Board of Directors;
- (d) The Secretary General;
- (e) The Treasurer;

- (f) The Scientific Committee;
- (g) The Assembly of Supporters;
- (h) The Board of Auditors.

Article 7: The President

The President is the pro-tempore Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

It is the responsibility of the President:

- to legally represent the Foundation before third parties and in court;
- to appoint advocates and special attorneys;
- to convene and preside over the Board of Directors, ensuring its proper functioning, and supervise the execution of resolutions adopted by it;
- to convene and chair or have one of its delegates chair the meetings of the Scientific Committee;
- to convene and preside over or have one of its delegates preside over the meetings of the Supporters' Assembly;
- to adopt in cases of necessity and urgency any appropriate measure in the interest of the Foundation, submitting it for ratification by the Board of Directors at the earliest opportunity.

The President performs his duties free of charge, subject to the reimbursement of expenses incurred.

Article 8: The Vice-President

The Vice-President is elected by the Board of Directors among its members.

The mandate lasts for 5 years.

He or she substitutes the President in the case of his absence or impediment.

The Vice-President performs his duties free of charge, subject to the reimbursement of expenses incurred.

Article 9: The Board of Directors

The Foundation is managed by the Board of Directors, composed of seven (7) members:

- the *pro-tempore* Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, who presides it;
- four (4) representatives of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, named by the Prefect;
- one (1) representative of the Scientific Committee, indicated by the Assembly of Supporters and named by the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education;
- one (1) representative of the Assembly of Supporters, indicated by the Assembly of Supporters and named by the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

The members of the Board of Directors performs their duties free of charge, subject to the reimbursement of expenses incurred.

With the exception of the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, President *ex officio* of the Foundation, the members of the Board serve for a term of five (5) years; their term may be renewed.

If one or more Councillors leave office for any cause, the body that appointed them will provide for their replacement. The new Councillors thus appointed will hold office until the natural expiration of the Council.

The Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education may revoke the term of office of the Councillors if serious and justified reasons exist and upon written admonition.

Article 10: Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

All powers of ordinary and extraordinary administration of the Foundation are vested in the Board of Directors.

Specifically, it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors on an ordinary basis to:

- a) elect from among its members the Vice President;
- b) approve the preliminary and final budgets;
- c) adopt the annual or multi-year plan of the Foundation's activities;
- d) hire and fire employees;
- e) adopt, if deemed appropriate, executive regulations of this Statute.

The following, by way of example, shall qualify as acts of extraordinary administration for the purposes of applying this Statute:

- a) the extinction of the Foundation;
- b) amendments to the Statute;
- c) acts of disposition of real estate, taking out mortgages with or without mortgage guarantees.
- d) the acceptance of inheritances, bequests and donations encumbered or ways.

Article 11: Convocations, meetings, resolutions and minutes of the Board of Directors

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be convened by the President by written notice or electronic mail, accompanied by the agenda and to be sent to all members of the Board and the Board of Auditors at least 7 (seven) days before the date set for the meeting or, in case of urgency, by electronic mail or telefax sent at least 2 (two) days before the date of the meeting.

Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held by video-conferencing or tele-conferencing, provided that all participants can be identified by the President and all other attendees, that they are allowed to follow the discussion and intervene in real time in the discussion of the topics discussed, that they are allowed to exchange documents related to such topics, and that all of the above is noted in the relevant minutes.

The Board shall meet in ordinary form at least 2 (two) times a year for the approval of the preliminary and final budgets and, in extraordinary form, whenever the President deems it necessary or a request is made by at least two of its members.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are valid if at least a majority of the Board members attend. Resolutions of the Board of Directors are approved by a simple majority of those attending the meeting. In case of a tie, the President's vote prevails.

Resolutions relating to the performance of acts of extraordinary administration are approved by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the directors in office and their validity is subject to:

- a) the evaluation of the Prefect of the Dicastery of Culture and Education as to whether such acts correspond to the institutional purposes of the Foundation; and
- b) to the subsequent approval of the Secretariat for the Economy.

The minutes of each meeting of the Board of Directors shall be signed by the President and the Secretary General of the Foundation and kept in a dedicated book. A copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Board of Directors must be forwarded to the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education in order to allow for comments on the compliance of the decisions made with the statutory purposes.

Article 12: The Secretary General

The Secretary General is appointed by the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education from among the members of the Board of Directors.

The term of office lasts for five (5) years.

The Secretary General is an ex officio member of the Scientific Committee and the Assembly of Supporters.

The Secretary General is responsible for:

- the preparation of planning considerations concerning the Foundation's activities and the operational coordination thereof, in accordance with the plan of activities resolved by the Board of Directors and on the basis of the President's instructions;
- the preparation, in agreement with the Treasurer, of the draft of the preliminary and final budgets;
- the redaction of minutes of Board meetings and their transmission to the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education as required by law;
- the redaction of the minutes of the Scientific Committee meetings;
- the safekeeping and updating of the Foundation's books, documents and archives;
- the transmission of the preliminary and final budgets approved by the Board of Directors to the Secretariat of the Economy;
- the supervision of personnel administration.

Article 13: The Treasurer

The Treasurer is appointed by the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education from among the members of the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer is responsible for:

- a) the supervision of the administrative-accounting activities of the Foundation on the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors and the directives issued by the President;
- b) the preparation, in consultation with the Secretary General, of the draft of the annual budget estimate and balance sheet for submission to the Board of Directors;
- (c) the Foundation's accounts.

Article 14: The Scientific Committee

For the conception and implementation of its activities, the Foundation avails itself of a Scientific Committee composed of up to 15 (fifteen) members appointed by the Board of Directors from among scholars and experts of clear reputation and international standing in the field of education and culture.

The Scientific Committee meets at least once a year at the call of the President and is chaired by the President or his delegate.

The members of the Scientific Committee serve for a period of five (5) years and may be renewed.

The Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education may revoke the term of office of the members of the Scientific Committee if serious and justified reasons exist and after written admonition.

It is the responsibility of the Scientific Committee to propose to the Board of Directors the objectives of annual or multi-year planning and the activities to be undertaken to realize the purposes of the Foundation.

The Scientific Committee shall indicate to the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education one (1) of its members to be appointed as the Committee's representative on the Board of Directors.

The members of the Scientific Committee shall perform their duties free of charge, subject to the reimbursement of expenses incurred.

Article 15: The Assembly of Supporters

The Assembly of Supporters is composed of eminent personalities or entities from the ecclesial, cultural, economic and business worlds, appointed by the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

The purpose of the Assembly is to assist the Foundation in achieving its institutional purposes, including by financially supporting its activities.

The Assembly meets at least once a year at the call of the President and is chaired by the President or his delegate.

The Assembly of Supporters shall indicate to the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education one (1) of its members to be appointed as the Assembly's representative on the Board of Directors.

The members of the Assembly of Supporters perform their duties free of charge, subject to the reimbursement of expenses incurred.

Article 16: The Board of Auditors

The Board of Auditors is composed by three (3) members:

- a) the President, named by the Secretariat for the Economy;
- b) two members named by the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

The members of the Board of Auditors serve for a period of three (3) years from their nomination and may be renewed.

The Board of Auditors is responsible for:

- supervising the financial, asset and economic management of the Foundation;
- ascertaining that the accounting records and books are properly kept;
- expressing its opinion on the budget and final accounts, drawing up special reports to be submitted to the Board of Directors before their approval by the latter;
- conducting cash and management audits at least every six months and at any time it deems appropriate.

The Members of the Board of Auditors attend meetings of the Board of Directors without having voting rights.

Article 17: Duration, extinction and devolution

As a public canonical juridical person, the Foundation is perpetual.

The Foundation shall be extinguished:

- a) by justified decision of the Board of Directors taken in compliance with the provisions of Article 11 above, or
- b) by justified decision of the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education followed by the approval of the Secretariat for the Economy.

In the event of the extinction of the Foundation for whatever cause, the remaining patrimony, at the conclusion of the liquidation phase in accordance with the provisions of the Board of Directors in compliance with the will of the founders and with purpose constraints existing in acts of disposition received by the Foundation itself, shall be devolved upon the indication of the Supreme Pontiff for purposes similar to those of the Foundation.

Article 18: Prorogation

For anything not provided herein, please refer to the canonical provisions on Foundations and to the jurisprudence of the Vatican City State as compatible.

Article 19: Competence

Disputes concerning the validity, efficacy and execution of this Statute shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Tribunal of the State of Vatican City.

Article 20: Language

The official text of the Statute is the one in Italian.