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NGO SET-UP IN FRANCE

INTRODUCTION

The project

'Youth Eco-Activism in the EU' (YEA-EU) is a KA220 youth project designed to raise awareness of the climate crisis among young people (aged 18-30) and equip them with the tools to take initiative and actively participate in addressing these issues at the local, national, and EU levels.

YOUTHECOACTIVISM

The project's goal is to guide young people in creating their own social enterprises focused on mitigating climate change and to encourage more young people to engage in climate action through youth-led activism.

Disclaimer

We recommend always checking the information provided here on the official websites.

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NGO SET UP GUIDE IN FRANCE

FIRST OPERATIONS

In France, a non-profit association is created under the **Law of 1 July 1901**.

Basic steps

- Gather at least 2 founding members
- Define the purpose of the association
- Choose the association's name
- Draft the statutes
- Hold a founding general assembly
- Declare the association to the authorities
- Publish the creation notice
- Open a bank account

After declaration, the association acquires legal personality.

WHAT THE STATUTES MUST CONTAIN

The statutes must include:

- Name of the association
- Purpose and activities
- Registered office address
- Duration (limited or unlimited)
- Membership conditions
- Governance bodies (general assembly, board)
- Rules for decision-making
- Financial rules
- Conditions for dissolution

The statutes must be signed by the founding members.

DECLARATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The declaration is done:

- Online via service-public.fr
- Or through the local prefecture (Préfecture / Sous-Préfecture)

Documents required:

- Signed statutes
- Minutes of the founding general assembly signed
- List of board members

Once declared, the association receives a **RNA number**.

PUBLICATION

- The association must be published in the **Journal Officiel des Associations (JOAFE)**
  → Site du Journal Officiel
- Publication is automatic when declaring online
- This step gives public visibility and legal recognition

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

- Préfecture or Sous-Préfecture
- Service-public.fr platform

A notary is **not required**.

TAX & ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

- Associations are non-profit by default
- A **SIREN / SIRET number** is required if the association:
  - Applies for public funding
  - Employs staff
  - Has significant financial activity

The SIRET number is requested from **INSEE**.

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BANK ACCOUNT

To open a bank account in France, you need:

- Statutes
- Declaration receipt
- JOAFE publication
- ID of the president and treasurer
- Minutes of the general assembly

COSTS

- Declaration: free
- Publication in JOAFE: free
- Bank account fees: vary depending on the bank