



**ELIA Elections 2026
Nomination Package**

Representative Board and Presidency (2026–2030)

Call for Nominations

ELIA invites nominations for the election of members to the Representative Board and for the ELIA Presidency for the term 2026–2030.

Elections will take place at the ELIA General Assembly on 21 November 2026 during the Biennial Conference in Zwolle, The Netherlands.

Deadline for nominations: 20 September 2026.

Positions to be filled

Representative Board: vacancies will include both European and non-European seats. The Board represents the interests of ELIA members and ensures the association fulfills its statutory purpose (see [ELIA Statutes](#)). The number of vacancies is expected to be seven for European seats and two for non-European seats.

Presidency: A new President will be elected for 2026–2030. The President chairs the ELIA Representative Board and the Executive Group, provides leadership, and ensures the effective functioning of both bodies in line with the association's purpose. Both European and non-European members are eligible. Only members of the newly elected or continuing Representative Board are eligible for election as President. Candidates who are not current members of the Representative Board must first be elected to the Board. They may subsequently stand for election as President within the same election process.

Eligibility and Nomination

- Self-nomination only
- Candidates must be affiliated with an ELIA member institution
- One candidate per institution
- Candidates must be able to commit to the duration of the term
- Candidates must be supported by their institution
- The election process is governed by the ELIA [Statutes](#). In case of any discrepancy, the Statutes prevail

Please note: current Representative Board members who wish to stand for the Presidency must also submit a nomination form. They are not required to stand again for election to the Representative Board. If not elected as President, they will continue their existing mandate on the Representative Board.

Role Expectations

Representative Board members:

- Participate in meetings and working groups
- Contribute to ELIA's activities and development
- Act as ambassadors within their networks

Representative Board members are appointed for an initial term of four years. Candidates should be able to commit to this full term.

President:

- Provides strategic leadership
- Represents ELIA internationally
- Works closely with the Executive Director and the Executive Group
- Chairs the ELIA Executive Group and Representative Board

The President is appointed for a four-year term and should be able to commit to this full term.

Institutional support

Institutions must confirm:

- Time allocation
- Financial support for travel and participation
- Commitment for the full term

A formal signed statement is required.

What we are looking for

Generally, candidates will be part of the leadership of their institution or bring strong leadership experience. We seek diverse perspectives across regions, disciplines, and institutional contexts. Candidates are expected to commit to ELIA's values and engage with ELIA's strategic missions. Candidates are encouraged to familiarise themselves with ELIA's current values and strategic framework, available here: [ELIA Strategy](#).

Application requirements

- Application Form
- Biography (max. 250 words)
- Motivation (max. 400 words)
- Video (2 minutes max)
- Photo
- Institutional support letter

Nomination Form

Candidate Name:

Institution:

Role:

Email:

Phone:

Please indicate your candidacy:

- I am applying for a seat on the Representative Board
- I am applying for the Representative Board and the Presidency
- I am a current Representative Board member applying for the Presidency only

Attachments:

- Biography (250 words max)
- Motivation Statement (400 words max)*
- Video Link (2 min max)
- Photo
- Support letter from your institution*I*

**Motivation Statement should identify:*

- Motivation to serve ELIA
- Contribution envisioned
- Reflection on representational aspects of your candidacy
- Engagement with ELIA strategic missions and values
- If applying for the Presidency, please include your vision for the role

***Support Letter from Institution*

- Statement of support for your nomination (including covering travel/hotel costs for meetings of the Representative Board and (where possible) attendance at ELIA signature and community hub events). This should cover at least the first four years of your term and will be asked again every time you subsequently renew your term. Please print out, sign, stamp and send as pdf by email with your application.

**Please send form with attachments to Maria Hansen, Executive Director by email:
maria.hansen@elia-artschools.org**

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Candidate Briefing Note

Why consider candidacy?

Serving on the ELIA Representative Board offers an opportunity to actively contribute to ELIA's work and to the development of higher arts education internationally. ELIA works to strengthen the sector through three strategic missions:

- Community – creating shared spaces for peer learning, exchange, and mutual support, grounded in a strong sense of belonging
- Connection – fostering relationships across cultures, generations, and practices to enable exchange, collaboration, and creative innovation
- Advocacy – representing and amplifying the voices of higher arts education to influence policy and strengthen the conditions in which the arts can thrive

Candidates are expected to engage actively with these priorities and commit to ELIA's values (see here: [ELIA Strategy and Values](#))

What does the role involve?

Representative Board members:

- Participate in two board meetings per year (online or in person)
- Contribute to working groups, projects, or steering groups
- Act as ambassadors for ELIA within their region and networks

Estimated time commitment and term

The time commitment for board members depends on the level of their involvement in other ELIA activities, such as working groups, projects or steering groups.

Representative Board members are appointed for an initial term of four years. Members may subsequently extend their term in increments of two years, up to a maximum of ten years in total.

Presidency (additional):

- Provides strategic leadership to ELIA
- Represents the organisation internationally
- Works closely with the Executive Director and chairs the Executive Group and Representative Board.

Estimated time commitment:

The Presidency requires a sustained commitment and availability for the four year term.

Who should consider applying?

ELIA encourages applications from individuals who:

- Are part of the leadership of their institution or bring strong leadership experience
- Are engaged in higher arts education and its development
- Can contribute expertise, perspective, and networks
- Are motivated to collaborate across institutional and national contexts

We encourage candidates who contribute to:

- Broader regional representation
- Diverse disciplinary, institutional and cultural perspectives
- Inclusive and equitable participation within ELIA

Points to consider before applying

Before submitting a nomination, candidates are encouraged to reflect on:

- Time availability: can you realistically commit the required time over multiple years?
- Availability of institutional support: does your institution support your candidacy, including time allocation and financial coverage for travel and participation?
- Added value: what perspective, expertise, or network do you bring to the Board?
- Representation: how does your candidacy contribute to the balance of regions, disciplines, and voices within ELIA?

Candidates for the Presidency should consider:

- Their experience in leading organisations or complex initiatives
- Their ability to represent ELIA externally
- Their vision for ELIA's future development

Please note:

Only members elected to the Representative Board are eligible to stand for election as President.

Before you apply

Potential candidates are encouraged to:

- Review the current composition of the Representative Board
- Contact the ELIA Office for an informal conversation
- Discuss their candidacy with their institution
- Fill in the form with all attachments and submit

Key Dates

Nomination deadline: 20 September 2026

Elections: 21 November 2026 (General Assembly, Zwolle)

For questions or an informal conversation, please contact:

ELIA Office, Executive Director Maria Hansen, maria.hansen@elia-artschools.org