

10. ATKYE ITALIA ONLUS BY-LAW

The Organization: ATKYE ITALIA ONLUS

[ATKYE Italia Onlus](#) serves as the vital fundraising and support arm in Italy for the broader ATKYE international project. The organization's primary mission is to provide life-changing educational opportunities to marginalized young people—specifically young girls—living on the Kenyan coast near Watamu. By mobilizing supporters in Italy, the association funds schooling, empowerment programs, and essential resources that help break the cycle of poverty through education.

The Challenge: Navigating the 5x1000 Compliance Window

In early 2023, ATKYE Italia faced a critical regulatory deadline. To maintain its eligibility for the 5x1000 tax benefit – a crucial source of funding derived from Italian taxpayers' returns – the association needed to align its bylaws with the strict new requirements of the Italian Third Sector Code (CTS). Failure to transition into the new legal framework would not only result in the loss of tax-exempt status but would also bar the organization from the RUNTS (Single National Register of the Third Sector), effectively cutting off the financial lifeline for their educational projects in Kenya.

PBI and Squire Patton Boggs's Pro Bono Support

PBI recognized that for an international fundraising entity, legal compliance is the foundation of donor trust. PBI coordinated a match with an attorney, who provided 25 hours of specialized out-of-court legal counsel in Verona:

- **Statutory Overhaul:** Performed a comprehensive revision and update of the association's bylaws to ensure every clause met the standards required by the Third Sector Code.
- **RUNTS Migration Strategy:** Prepared the necessary documentation to transition the organization to register under the relevant section and category of RUNTS (i.e., other third sector entities).
- **Compliance Roadmap:** Provided the board of directors with a step-by-step guide on the administrative procedures required to complete the registration in the national register and safeguard their 5x1000 eligibility.

The Impact: Safeguarding Education for Young Girls

This strategic overhaul not only preserved ATKYE Italia's 5x1000 lifeline but also positioned the organization as a compliant, future-proof entity within Italy's evolving Third Sector landscape, where RUNTS registration unlocks broader access to grants, partnerships, and public trust. The 25 hours of Squire Patton Boggs' counsel transformed a looming compliance crisis into a springboard for growth, ensuring that every euro raised in Italy flows unimpeded to classrooms and empowerment programs on Kenya's coast—directly lifting young girls from poverty's grip through sustained education.

Through PBI's coordination and the professional expertise of Squire Patton Boggs, ATKYE Italia successfully modernized its legal structure. This intervention ensured that the association did not lose access to vital tax-related funding, directly preserving the scholarships and educational support provided to young women in Kenya. By securing the organization's standing in the RUNTS, PBI helped ensure that ATKYE Italia can continue to transform lives abroad through a legally robust and transparent foundation at home.

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PBI's precision matchmaking here reveals pro bono's superpower for small international NGOs: turning dense regulatory thickets like the Third Sector Code into navigable paths that amplify global missions. By modernizing bylaws and crafting a clear RUNTS migration roadmap, the intervention didn't just avert funding disaster—it empowered ATKYE Italia to scale its donor base confidently, channeling more resources to Watamu's marginalized youth and proving that airtight Italian compliance is the unsung engine of cross-continental social change.