

# Homeschooling Europe

## **Legal form, purpose, and headquarters**

### **Art. 1**

Under the name of Homeschooling Europe a nonprofit association is created, governed by these statutes and by Article 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code.

"It is politically neutral and religiously independent."

### **Art. 2**

The purpose of the Association is to represent and defend the homeschooling and home educating families of Europe.

To achieve this purpose, the association will primarily:

- Defend the right of freedom of choice in education
- Represent / advocate for home educators in and from Europe
- To the press, local governments, the international community and anyone else deemed relevant
- Provide accurate information including links to national support organisations
- Facilitate the networking of European home educators and homeschoolers including organising meetings and conferences
- Support families and national associations as needed
- Facilitate access to relevant research
- Facilitate research into home education and related issues
- Defend the right of the parents in the best interest of the children.

### **Art. 3**

The headquarters of the Association is in Lausanne. Its duration is unlimited.

## **Organisation**

### **Art. 4**

The bodies of the Association are:

- the General Assembly;
- the Committee;
- Account auditors external to the association

### **Art. 5**

The resources of the Association consist of regular or extraordinary member contributions, donations, legacies, income from the Association's activities, and, where applicable, public subsidies.

The fiscal year starts on January 1 and ends on December 31 each year.

Its obligations are guaranteed by its assets, excluding any personal liability of its members.

- Membership fees (regular or extraordinary);
- Donations and legacies;
- Income from the Association's activities;
- Public or private subsidies;
- Subscriptions to services
- Any other resources authorised by law and consistent with the Association's objectives.

## **Members**

### **Art. 6**

All individuals or organisations interested in achieving the objectives set out in Art. 2 may apply to become members.

### **Art. 7**

The Association is composed of:

- Individual members;
- Collective members.
- Honorary members
- Passive members
- Associates
- Benefactors

A collective member (or legal entity) is represented by a single individual (and thus has one vote) at meetings and assemblies.

Honorary members, passive members, associates and benefactors do not have a vote

### **Art. 8**

Membership applications are submitted to the Committee. The Committee decides on new members and informs the General Assembly. According to internal rules.

### **Art. 9**

Membership can be ceased:

- a) by resignation. In all cases, the current year's membership fee remains due.
- b) by exclusion, for example if a member harms the association, its image, reputation, or interests, etc.
- c) Repeated non-payment of membership fees also leads to exclusion. Exclusion is decided by the Committee. The affected person may appeal this decision to the General Assembly within 30 days.

## **General Assembly**

### **Art. 10**

The General Assembly is the supreme authority of the Association. It includes all members with voting rights.

### **Art. 11**

The responsibilities of the General Assembly are as follows:

- adopting the agenda for the meeting and approving the minutes of the previous meeting;
- reviewing reports, accounts, and the budget, and voting on their approval;
- discharging the Committee and the Auditing Body from their mandates;
- electing Committee members and appointing an Auditing Body;
- adopting and amending the statutes;
- hearing and addressing exclusion appeals;
- setting the amount(s) for annual membership fees;
- addressing other matters on the agenda.
- Writing the contracts referred to in article 23

The General Assembly may take up or have referred to it any matter not assigned to another body.

### **Art. 12**

The General Assembly meets at least once a year, convened by the Committee. The Committee may convene extraordinary General Assemblies as often as necessary. An extraordinary General Assembly may also be convened at the request of at least one-fifth of the members.

### **Art. 13**

Meetings are convened at least 20 calendar days in advance by the Committee. The invitation is sent by postal or electronic mail and includes the meeting agenda. If deemed necessary by the Committee, the meeting may also be held electronically.

### **Art. 14**

The Committee must include on the agenda of any (regular or extraordinary) General Assembly any proposal from a member submitted by post or email at least 10 calendar days in advance.

### **Art. 15**

The meeting is chaired by one of the Co-Chairs of the Association or another member proposed by the Committee. The Secretary of the Association or another Committee member takes minutes of the meeting and signs them alongside the person who chaired the meeting.

**Art. 16**

Decisions of the General Assembly are made by a simple majority of votes cast, excluding abstentions and null ballots. In case of a tie, the vote of the Chair is decisive. Decisions regarding amendments to the statutes require a two-thirds majority of the members present and represented.

**Art. 17**

Voting is by show of hands or via online ballot. At the request of at least five members, it will be by secret ballot. Absent members can give proxy to another member of the Association. However, a member representing others cannot hold more than two proxies.

**Committee****Art. 18**

The Committee implements the decisions of the General Assembly. It directs the Association and takes all necessary measures to achieve the stated purpose. The Committee decides on any matters not expressly reserved for the General Assembly.

**Art. 19**

The Committee is composed of at least three members, elected for 3 years by the General Assembly, and can be re-elected. There is a chair or 2 chairs and a secretary.

**Art. 20**

The Committee organises itself. It meets as often as the association's business requires. If necessary, it may hold meetings electronically. Decisions are taken by an absolute majority of those present, unless otherwise agreed.

**Art. 21**

In case of vacancy during a term, the Committee can co-opt members until the next General Assembly. Members of the Association's Committee work on a voluntary basis in their role as committee members, except for reimbursement of their actual expenses.

**Art. 22**

The Association is legally bound by the sole signature of one Chair or Co-Chair or by the sole signature of its named events Director within the limits of his/her mandate

**Art. 23**

The General Assembly can delegate part of the administrative and/or technical management of the Association to third parties (natural or legal persons) by contract.

**Art. 24**

The Committee is responsible for:

- taking the necessary measures to achieve the stated objectives;
- convening regular and extraordinary General Assemblies;
- making decisions regarding the admission and possible exclusion of members;

- ensuring the application of the statutes, drafting regulations, and managing the Association's assets;
- maintaining the Association's accounts.

## **Art. 25**

The Committee hires (or dismisses) the Association's paid and volunteer staff. It can assign time-limited mandates to any person within or outside the Association. If staff members (outside the committee) are hired, they may be invited to participate in Committee work in a consultative capacity. If committee members also hold paid roles, it is important to clearly define the scope of these roles and plan in advance how to handle situations where conflicts of interest may arise (such as pay increases or dismissals).

A member may be remunerated only if the duties performed exceed what may reasonably and ordinarily be required of volunteer members of an ordinary association.

## **Auditing Body**

## **Art. 26**

At the request of the committee, an auditing body may review the Association's financial management and present a report to the General Assembly. It is appointed by the General Assembly and cannot include committee members.

## **Dissolution**

## **Art. 27**

The dissolution of the Association is decided by the General Assembly with a two-thirds majority of the members present and represented. The dissolution must be mentioned in the meeting notice. Any remaining assets will be assigned to a Swiss organisation exempt from tax due to its public utility or public service purpose with similar objectives.

These statutes were adopted by the constitutive assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 in Lausanne

On behalf of the Association:

Debora Catherine Lütolf  
Co-Chair

Mariusz Adam Dzieciatko  
Co-Chair

Alison Clare Sauer  
Secretary

Theresa Yvonne Willen  
Treasurer

Sílvia Cópio

Erika Di Martino

Gita Mateja de Laat

Gabriel Curcubet

Juliet Louise English

Monica Barbara O'Connor