

# **Statutes of the Systemic Association (SG) \***

## **A Name and Registered Office of the Association**

### **§ 1**

The Association bears the name *Systemische Gesellschaft - Deutscher Verband für systemische Forschung, Therapie, Supervision und Beratung e.V.* (German Association for Systemic Research, Therapy, Supervision and Consultation) and has its registered office in Cologne/Germany.

### **§ 2**

The fiscal year is identical to the calendar year.

## **B Purpose and Objective of the Association**

### **§3**

The Association exclusively and directly pursues non-profit and charitable purposes, within the meaning of the section on "tax-privileged purposes", as stated in the 1977 Tax Code of Germany. The purpose of the Association is to promote systemic research, theory and practise. The aims of the Statutes are achieved by:

1. Promoting systemic research in theory and practise through journalistic, financial and organisational support with the respective research projects.
2. Performing publically accessible scientific conferences on subjects such as systemic theory and practise.
3. Speedy publication of research results and practical evaluations.
4. Initiating and organising expert discussions in the association-related public.
5. PR work to publicize systemic consultation, intervention, supervision and therapy concepts, both among experts and the general public.

The Association pursues charitable causes. It does not primarily pursue activities solely for its own economic advantage. The Association's funds may only be used for statute-related purposes. The bodies of the Association are allowed to receive adequate remuneration. No person may benefit from disproportionately high payments nor from expenses that are not in keeping with the purpose of the Association.

## **C Membership**

### **§ 4.1 Members**

Members may be legal entities, who realise the Association's purpose through research, teachings and further training (Group 1) and systemically qualified natural persons

(Group 2). The members of Group 1 and 2 form the two chambers of the Association. Membership begins with admission to the Association.

The responsible chamber will decide on the membership application of a legal entity by means of a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

Membership of natural persons:

- a) Ordinary members may be persons, who have completed further training at a SG-associated institute and who meet the applicable standards for further training or can furnish evidence of having obtained the equivalent thereof.
- b) Persons who completed their vocational education at an associated institute earlier on and who do not meet the applicable further education standards, may receive an ordinary membership limited to 5 years maximum. During the period they must meet the requirements stated under a), otherwise their membership will expire.
- c) Furthermore, persons who have greatly contributed to the purpose and objectives of the Association may be appointed as honorary members.
- d) Associated members may be persons who wish to promote the Association's purpose, but who do not comply with the prerequisites under a) or b). They have no right to vote. The executive board decides on the membership of natural persons.

**§ 4.2 Co-operating Members**

Co-operating members may be legal entities, who serve the purpose of the Association but who are not based in Germany. They may participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly and submit applications for the certification of their graduates, but they have no right to vote at the General Assembly. They pay a lower membership fee than ordinary members, and have the option of becoming ordinary members.

The admission of co-operating members will be discussed at the General Assembly. Membership will be granted if the chambers of the institute vote in favour with a 2/3 majority.

**§ 5**

Membership may be cancelled at any time without prior notice by notifying the executive board in writing. Membership of a legal entity will end automatically with its dissolution.

**§ 6**

A member may be excluded if he/she violates a statute or any other of the Association's provisions. After a close consideration of the case, exclusion will occur by resolution of the General Assembly with a two-thirds majority of the voting members present in both chambers. The member concerned shall be granted a hearing.

**D Membership fees**

**§7**

Membership fees are determined by a resolution passed by the General Assembly.

## **E Bodies**

### **§ 8 Executive Board**

The General Assembly elects a 7-member executive board among its members, composed of an executive board within the meaning of Section 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB) (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer) and four further board members. Each member of the executive board has a judicial and an extra-judicial right of representation.

### **§ 9 Election of the Executive Board**

The executive board members shall be elected for a period of two years each. The chairman, his deputy and the treasurer will be elected beforehand in separate elections by the General Assembly.

The person who unites the majority of the submitted valid votes in both chambers will be voted. Each chamber also votes in half of the board members. Re-election is possible. The executive board shall remain in office until a new executive board has been duly elected.

### **§ 10 Responsibilities of the Executive Board**

The executive board is responsible for managing the ongoing business of the Association. It has to report annually to the General Assembly.

### **§ 11 General Assembly**

The General Assembly is composed of members, who are natural persons, as well as representatives of the legal entities, who are members. Each member has one vote in his chamber. The General Assembly (ordinary members' meeting) takes place once a year. General Assemblies are convened by the executive board in writing, with a two week's notice of summons, with an indication of the items on the agenda.

Any duly convened General Assembly has a quorum. A chairperson and a recording clerk are chosen at the beginning of the General Assembly.

As the highest body of the Association, the General Assembly is generally responsible for all tasks, provided certain tasks have not been assigned to other bodies, in accordance with these Statutes. In particular, the annual accounts and the annual report on the resolutions regarding the approval and dismissal of the executive board must be submitted to the General Assembly. The General Assembly can, in emergency cases, decide to extend the agenda determined by the executive board, with a majority of the valid votes cast in both chambers, provided that this does not concern the extension of a resolution amending the articles of association.

The General Assembly passes its resolutions by simple majority of the voting members present, unless the articles of association stipulate otherwise.

#### Resolutions

The members of both chambers jointly participate in the General Assembly, but vote in separate chambers. As long as the Statutes do not stipulate otherwise, the majority of valid votes cast in both chambers is necessary for a resolution to be passed by the General Assembly; abstentions remain out of consideration.

Only the chamber of legal entities (Group 1) shall vote on further education issues. The form of voting is generally determined by the Chairman of the Assembly. The votes of both chambers must however be cast in writing if a third of the members of a chamber present for the vote request this. In the event of a tie, a motion shall be deemed rejected.

### **§ 12 Extraordinary General Assembly**

An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened if this is in the interests of the Association or if 30 per cent of the Association members of a chamber request this in writing, thereby stating the reasons.

## **F Taking of Minutes**

### **§ 13**

Minutes shall be taken of all General Assemblies and board meetings, which must contain all motions and resolutions as well as election results.

The minutes must be signed by the respective Chairman of the Assembly and by the recording clerk. Members may ask the recording clerk to view them.

## **G Amendments to the Statutes**

### **§ 14**

A three-quarters majority of the voting members present in both chambers is needed to amend the Statutes or to dissolve the Association. Amendments to the Statutes may only be voted on by the General Assembly if this agenda item was already mentioned in the invitation to the General Assembly, enclosing both the previous text and the proposed new text of the statute.

### **§ 15 Dissolution of the Association**

In the event of the Association's dissolution or the omission of its previous purpose, the Association's assets shall devolve to the German Section of Amnesty International, which shall use them directly and exclusively for non-profit or charitable purposes.

### **§ 16**

These Statutes were drawn up and unanimously adopted at the founding meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1993 in Cologne and unanimously amended and extended on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004 in Berlin.

### **§ 17**

Amendments to the Statutes requested for formal reasons by legal, regulatory or financial authorities may be made by the executive board at its own initiative. All Association members must be informed at once in writing of the amendments to the Statutes.

*\*) Amendment to the Statutes of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2005 and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 (cf. VR 11635, AG Köln).*