

Statutes of the association

« Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research »

This is the translated (not legally binding) and amended version of the original document in German « Statuten » (21.09.2023).

1. Name and location

A nationwide association under Art. 60 ff ZGB is registered under the name of "Swiss Society for Early Childhood Research". The Society is denominationally and politically independent. It is headquartered at the location of the administrative office.

2. Purpose

The aim of the Society is to strengthen research in early childhood in Switzerland. It is a network consisting of researchers from various disciplines.

The network promotes in particular

- the up and coming researchers
- national and international networking
- exchange and dissemination of information and knowledge
- the dialogue between the disciplines
- the dialogue with the public

The Society pursues exclusively ideal-driven, not profit-driven goals.

3. Remedy

The annual membership fee for the members is determined annually by the general assembly. It amounts to a maximum of CHF 200 per member. Society committee members are exempt from the membership fee.

Activities of the Society can also be financed by further donations and grants (e.g. funds from foundations).

The financial year corresponds to the calendar year.

4. Membership

Full Members: Individuals who are scientifically active in the field mentioned under §2 and either have a doctorate or a Master's degree (or equivalent) plus 5 years postgraduate research experience can become Full Members of the Society. Full members are eligible to vote and can be elected to the committee.

Junior Members: Individuals who are scientifically active in the field mentioned under §2, but do not yet have a doctorate can become Junior Members of the Society. Junior members can participate in the general meeting and have voting rights, but cannot be elected to the committee. Junior members who obtain their doctorate move to the status of a Full Member the following year.

Associate Members: Other interested individuals (e.g. service providers) can become Associate Members. Associate Members may participate in the General Assembly, but have no voting rights and may not be elected to the committee.

Applications for membership must be addressed to the Committee. The Committee decides on the admission of new members and informs the General Assembly about it. Membership begins with payment of the first annual membership fee.

5. Termination of membership

The membership expires by:

(a) withdrawal. The member notifies the administrative office in writing (e-mail is valid) of his resignation by the end of December at the latest. In the event of resignation during the current year, the membership fee must be paid in full for the remaining year.

(b) exclusion for 'important reasons'.

The committee is responsible for the exclusion. The person concerned may appeal against this decision at the General Assembly meeting. Not paying the membership fees repeatedly (for two years), will lead to exclusion from the Society.

6. Organs of the Society

The organs of the Society are:

- a) the General Assembly
- b) the Society Committee
- c) the Auditors

7. The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Society. It consists of all members of the Society.

The General Assembly is responsible for the following tasks:

- Adoption and amendment of the statutes of the Society;
- Election of the members of the Committee and the Auditors;
- Definition of the strategy and management of the Society's activities;
- Approval of the reports, acceptance of the annual accounts and budget resolution;
- Decision on the discharge of the members of the Committee and the Auditors;
- Determination of the annual membership fee for Society members;
- Opinion on other projects on the agenda.

The General Assembly may express itself or be called upon to do so on any subject which it has not entrusted to another body.

The General Assembly meets at least once a year after being convened by the Committee. The members are invited to the General Assembly at least three weeks in advance in writing (e-mail is valid), and must include the agenda.

Requests for additional agenda items for the General Assembly must be submitted at least 10 working days before the General Assembly.

The agenda of the annual (i.e. ordinary) General Assembly includes the following items

- the report of the Committee on the activities of the Society in the past year;
- the exchange or decision on the future development of the Society;
- the reports on the financial situation (annual accounts and budget) of the Society Committee and the Auditors;
- the election of the members of the Society Committee, the President, the Vice President and the Statutory Auditors

Each member entitled to vote has one vote at the General Assembly; resolutions are passed by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.

The meeting can only decide on business that is not on the agenda if two-thirds of those present decide to intervene.

8. The Society Committee

The Committee is responsible for the implementation and execution of the resolutions of the General Assembly. The Committee manages the Society and takes all necessary measures to achieve the objectives of the Society. The Committee decides on all issues that are not expressly reserved for the General Assembly. The committee may delegate tasks to third parties in return for compensation. In justified exceptional cases and upon request, committee members may charge expenses (e.g. travel expenses for committee meetings) in accordance with the expense regulations.

The Committee consists of at least five members, who are elected for two years by the General Assembly. In addition, junior members have the right to nominate one representative for the committee. The Committee constitutes itself, apart from the Presidency and Vice-Presidency. The Committee meets as often as the business of the Society requires.

The Society Committee is composed as follows:

- ... at least three disciplines
- ... at least three Swiss research institutions
- ... at least two Swiss language regions (with researchers active there)

9. The Auditors

The auditors examine the accounts of the Society and submit a report to the General Assembly. It consists of two auditors elected by the General Assembly.

10. Signing authority

The Society shall be bound by the collective signature of two Committee members. Power of attorney within the budget may be granted to others.

11. Liability

Outstanding debt may only be deducted from the society's assets. Members cannot be held personally liable.

12. Change of articles

The present statutes may be amended if three quarters of the members present and eligible to vote agree to the proposed amendment at the General Assembly.

13. Termination of the Society

The termination of the Society is decided by the General Assembly and requires a two-thirds majority of the present members eligible to vote. If the Society owns assets, these shall be transferred to an organisation with similar purposes.

14. Coming into effect

These statutes were adopted at the founding meeting on 24 September 2018 and entered into effect on this date.

These Statutes were amended at the General Meeting on 18 November 2019 and entered into effect on that date.

These Statutes were amended at the General Meeting on 21. September 2023 and entered into effect on that date.