



EDN Statutes of the Association

1. Name and registered office

An association exists under the name European Doula Network, which is subject to the present statutes and the regulations in Art. 60 ff. ZGB (Swiss Civil Code).

The seat of the association is at [the respective residence of](#) one of the Core-Organisers.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the association is:

- *to provide opportunities to connect doulas across Europe, both in-person and online;*
- *to inform doulas, families, the birthing community, and the wider public, by sharing reliable birth and doula resources within and beyond our community;*
- *to act as a contact point of support for doulas within our network and to protect the interests of members/doulas;*
- *to connect with specialists/specialist associations within the birthing community;*
- *to promote the doula profession and increase general awareness of it;*
- *to unite doulas using a common Code of Ethics.*

The association is politically and denominationally neutral.

A change of the purpose of the association must be approved by all members of the association.



3. Funding

The association 'European Doula Network' (EDN) is financed as follows:

- annual membership fees from members;
- donations and grants of all kinds;
- Income from its own activities and events.

Current Executive Committee members and active volunteers are exempt from membership fees.

4. Members

Members of the Association may be natural and legal persons, as well as partnerships, who recognise and promote the purpose of the Association.

Members have voting rights and belong to the network of the association. They may use the association logo, have their logo and web linked on the webpage, and can actively participate in the association. Members are obliged to adhere to the Code of Ethics and the Association's guidelines.

The Core-Organisers shall decide on the admission of members after a written application for admission has been submitted. The decision of the Core-Organiser Team shall be final. No reasons need to be given for a negative decision.

Membership Fee

The membership fee shall be determined annually by the General Assembly of the Association. It is on a sliding scale and amounts to a maximum of CHF 500 per year.

Members shall pay per calendar year in January.

Associations and Training Programmes with the same name pay separate membership dues if they wish both represented separately and both entities to be displayed on the website.

5. Reasons for lapse of membership

Membership shall be terminated by resignation or expulsion.

Resignation

Resignation may be declared in writing to the Executive Board at any time and shall take effect immediately.

Expulsion

The Core-Organisers may exclude a member from the Association if he/she does not pay the membership fee despite a reminder, if he/she seriously violates the EDN Code of Ethics, if they seriously violate the interests of the Association, or if other important reasons justify an exclusion.

If a member remains in arrears with the membership fee despite a reminder, he/she may be automatically expelled by the Core-Organisers. In order to re-join, the regular application for membership must be submitted to the Core-Organiser Team for admission in the next calendar year.

A valid decision to expel a member in other cases requires the approval of at least two-thirds of all Core-Organiser Team members, with each Core-Organiser Team member casting one vote. The exclusion shall only take place after hearing the member and shall be declared to him/her in writing. The exclusion shall be effective immediately.

6. Organisation of the Association

Organs

The organs of the Association are:

- General Assembly of the Members (the EDN Members Meeting);
- the Executive Committee (the Core-Organiser Team);
- the Auditors.

The organs of the Association shall act in an honorary capacity and only Core-Organisers and Auditors shall be entitled to attendance fees, travel expenses and cash expenses.

7. General Assembly of the Association

The supreme body of the Association shall be the General Assembly (EDN Members Meeting). It has the following powers:

- Approval of the minutes of the last general meeting;
- To approve the annual report, the annual accounts, the annual budget and Auditors report;
- To approve the membership fees;
- Election and dismissal of the Core-Organisers and Auditors;
- To consider motions of the Core-Organisers and the members;
- Passing resolutions on amendments of the Statutes;
- Dissolution of the Association and the use of the proceeds of liquidation.

The General Assembly shall be held within the first 4 months of a calendar year. The invitation shall be made at least 20 days in advance in writing or by e-mail by the Board and shall contain the agenda, the motions of the Board as well as the annual report, the annual accounts and the report of the auditors.

Motions of members for the attention of the General Assembly shall be submitted in writing to the Core-Organisers no later than **31 March** of a calendar year. The Core-Organisers shall add to the agenda any motions received in due time.

The General Assembly shall be chaired by the Core-Organisers. The General Assembly shall designate a keeper of the minutes. Minutes shall be kept of the resolutions of the general meeting of the association and shall be signed by the Core-Organisers and the keeper of the minutes. Members shall be entitled to inspect the minutes.

Resolutions at the General Assembly shall be passed by open vote with a simple majority of the votes cast. Voting shall be by secret ballot only if expressly requested by a majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the chairperson of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

The General Assembly shall constitute a quorum, irrespective of the number of members present.

Only active members have the right to vote. Passive members are excluded from the right to vote. They may attend the General Assembly in an advisory capacity. Each Active Member shall have one vote. If an Active Member is unable to attend, he/she may send his/her vote for elections and motions on the agenda by email to the Core-Organisers up to 5 days before the General Assembly.



An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened by resolution of the Core-Organisers, at the request of at least one fifth of the members or at the request of the Auditors. The invitation shall be made in writing by the Core-Organisers at least seven days before the meeting, stating the agenda. Invitations sent by email are valid.

8. The Executive Committee (Core-Organiser Team)

The Executive Committee shall consist of three Active Members: three Core-Organisers and Treasurer. Cumulation of offices is permitted. It shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of one year. The members of the Core-Organiser Team are eligible for re-election.

A meeting shall be convened at the request of a member of the Core-Organiser team.

In the event of a tie at a General Assembly, the vote of the Chair shall count twice.

In all other respects, the Core-Organiser Team shall constitute itself and determine the authority to sign. In principle, collective signature applies.

The Core-Organiser Team shall be responsible for the management and representation of the Association. The Core-Organiser Team shall have all powers not expressly reserved to the General Assembly, including but not limited to the following:

- Management of the day-to-day business and organisation of the Association;
- Preparation and conduct of the Association's meetings;
- Draw up by-laws, proposals and regulations;
- Admission and exclusion of members;
- Employ or engage persons, for a reasonable compensation, to achieve the objectives of the Association. This may also be a member of the Executive Committee.
- Individual clearly definable departments and responsibilities:
 - website,
 - public relations,
 - external representation,
 - volunteer recruitment and supervision
 - training,
 - bookkeeping,



- fund management,
- fundraising

These roles and responsibilities may be delegated in whole or in part by the Core-Organiser Team to volunteers or non-members. In this case, the liabilities shall be regulated by mutual agreement and recorded in writing.

The Core-Organiser meeting shall be convened at the request of a member of the Core-Organiser Team. A quorum shall exist when the majority of the Core-Organisers are present. Each member of the Core-Organiser Team shall have one vote. Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of those present. The Core-Organisers shall regulate the authority to sign in twos.

9. Auditors

The General Meeting may elect one or more natural persons or legal entities, who need not be members of the Association, as Auditors for a term of one year. The term of office ends with the acceptance of the last annual accounts. Re-election is permitted. A dismissal is possible at any time and without notice.

The financial year shall coincide with the calendar year. The annual accounts shall be closed on 31 December of each year. The annual accounts shall be audited by the Auditors. The Auditors shall submit a written report on the audit of the annual accounts to the Annual EDN Members Meeting (General Assembly) and have the duty to propose that the Treasurer and the Executive Committee be discharged or refused discharge.



10. Assets of the Association and Liability

The assets of the Association shall consist of membership fees, surpluses from the operating accounts, any donations, contributions to events and bequests.

The Association's assets shall be exclusively liable for the Association's debts.

The personal liability of the members shall be excluded.

11. Amendments to the Statutes and dissolution

Amendments to the Statutes require a $2/3$ majority vote of the members present at the General Assembly.

Dissolution of the Association requires a $2/3$ majority vote of the members present at the General Assembly.

This General Assembly shall constitute a quorum regardless of the number of members present.

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the General Assembly shall decide on the use of the liquidation proceeds.

The distribution of the Association's assets to the members is excluded.

These Statutes of the European Doula Network were approved and adopted at the General Assembly (Annual EDN Members Meeting) of 23 April 2023 and shall enter into force immediately.

Core-Organisers

Anita Budak



Electronic Signature: Core-Organiser 1, Croatia, 23rd April 2023

Maria Andreoulaki



Electronic Signature: Core-Organiser 2, Greece, 23rd April 2023

Deborah Mitchell



Electronic Signature: Core-Organiser 3, France, 23rd April 2023