

Explanatory Memorandum

Becoming a member of ENSI 'Environment and Schools Initiatives', an association under Austrian law

What are the potential benefits and what this involves in practical terms for members?

01. August 2015

Memorandum

Why join ENSI?

Are you responsible for addressing education for sustainable development and/or Environmental Education in your department, ministry or organisation and would value the opportunity of sharing ideas and good practice with peers in other countries, to enhance your clarity on ESD, strategic direction, policy and programmatic impact?

Do you wish to exchange meaningful research and experiences in the area of education for sustainable development, and would like to promote this work with like-minded experts in other countries?

Do you wish to contribute effectively to the UN at international and national level?

By joining ENSI, you will be in a stronger position to respond to all these challenges. A modest human and financial investment from the ENSI members and member countries resources an exciting international program of research and innovative activities and projects.

In practice, this means working together through mutual understanding, and respect for cultural diversity, to avoid unnecessary duplication and reinvention. We find a common language, methodology and critique to achieve significant and measurable progress in an area of fundamental importance to formal and non-formal education worldwide.

This explanatory memorandum outlines the benefits to member countries of becoming part of the ENSI international network, and responsibilities and expectations of member organizations.

We hope this will help you to understand more about our philosophy and approach, and you will see the benefits of becoming an ENSI member. We look forward to welcoming you in our network.

www.ensi.org

ENSI Environment and School Initiatives

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INTRODUCTION

What is ENSI?

'Pioneering work', 'Cutting edge of international thinking and practice in environmental education' 'An experienced and credible network on education for sustainable development'

ENSI – a precious network for almost 30 years!

ENSI was set up as a decentralized international network in 1986 under the umbrella of OECD's Centre for Educational Research & Innovation (CERI). In consequence of OECD's reorganization all decentralized networks became independent in 2002 and ENSI was recognized as an international NPA in 2008. ENSI is now an association under Austrian law, seated at the Ministry for Education and Women's affairs in Vienna. The network ENSI is financed by its members and by own project work.

ENSI sets emphasis on the implementation of Education for Sustainable Development in the whole educational system through research based projects in the fields of quality development, competence enhancement for teachers and students, cooperation among schools and the civil society and development of new skills for VET students.

ENSI cooperates with major international organizations such as UNESCO, UNECE, UNEP (Carpathian Convention), RCE/UN-Universities, CEE India, Baltic21 and others.

ENSI's members are governments, international organizations, institutions such as universities, schools, NGO's and persons from civil society. Partners come mainly from Europe, Asia and Australia.

Partners from the following countries have contributed to ENSI initiated projects and/or are cooperating with ENSI in projects in the period from 2002 to 2014:

Australia, Austria, Belgium/Flanders, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain/Catalonia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, UK

ENSI's strengths lies in the combined work of policy makers, researchers, teacher educators and their students, pilot schools with teachers and students, communities and a broad variety of organizations from the field of EE and ESD.

ENSI is a frontrunner of international developments in ESD. During the UN decade on ESD the network ENSI initiated five relevant large international projects, carried out in cooperation with strong partners (see p.9).

Outcomes of these projects influenced policy decisions on international and national levels through dissemination in workshops, on conferences and in international organizations for example UNECE.

New questions and developments in the field of ESD may initiate new ERASMUS+ projects,

which will be developed and carried out in cooperation with ENSI network.

“ENSI organizes and affects the exchange of expertise in the field of research education on sustainable development also by offering a platform for senior experts, as well as for young, innovative researchers.” (Quotation from UNESCO Review of Contexts and structures for Education for Sustainable Development 2009, Arjen Wals)

For more information about ENSI visit ENSI's homepage at www.ensi.org and find here all projects outcomes free for download.

Rationale behind ENSI

ENSI's mission is:

- Promotion of environmental awareness and future leading skills for a more sustainable living.
- Bridge building between research, education for sustainable development in school and community and policymaking
- Promotion research lessons toward policymakers
- Promotion of qualitative and action research methods and self-reflected practice
- Promotion of dynamic qualities, such as initiative, autonomy and individual responsibility, as well as teamwork and solidarity

The environment offers a very special context for achieving a broader and more integrated development of human creativity, initiative and organizational skills and qualities that are essential prerequisites for achieving a sustainable society.

ENSI's activities are linked to the professional backgrounds of its members: Teacher education, educational research in the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Environmental Education (EE), quality development in schools through ESD, qualities of school and community collaboration and SD in vocational training.

ENSI aims to:

- create stable learning networks, which link schools, universities, communities and workplaces
- generate local and international knowledge and meaningful discourses concerning sustainable development in order to meet personal, social and economic needs within communities
- foster democratic participation of students as active citizens in shaping the environmental conditions of their life and work.
- generate discussion among the different stakeholders of ESD: students, partners in local communities, schools, researchers, teacher trainers and governments

In the areas of teaching and learning, ENSI endorses:

- students increasing their control in determining the nature and content of their learning experiences
- shift from book learning to inquiry-based learning experiences

- use of content from ESD or EE (theories and practice) as resources for reflecting about personal experiences of the environment and for undertaking intelligent and responsible action towards it
- shift from institutionally based monitoring/assessment of learning experiences to personal self-monitoring or assessment based on reflection and feedback from the community.

In the area of school – community relations, ENSI supports the:

- shift away from the classroom as a exclusively learning site towards the community as a learning environment
- use of the school as a learning resource for the community, and the community as a learning resource for the school
- development of a flexible and dynamic curriculum for all students which focuses on sustainable development in the local environment, and is responsive both to the need of students to make sense of their personal experience in the world outside school and to the social and economic needs being voiced within the local community, through the school playing a pivotal role.
- involves participants in being accountable for their work at the local level

Finally, in using research as an integral part of development, ENSI:

- treats development activities as experiments to be tested through gathering the perspectives of a range and variety of participants involved in the development process within the community (comprising students, teachers, parents, community representatives, employers)
- addresses research questions initiated by the parties involved in the development process
- constructs reflective accounts of the development process as it operates, metaphorically, in the swampy lowlands as well as adopting a helicopter perspective
- contributes to the production of comparative studies of the development process in different local and national contexts, as a means of stimulating public debate.

ENSI's Vision

- In practical terms ENSI is a learning organization with a common identity and focus with agreed pedagogical principles and content. Its identity is based on a systematic reflection on practice and a well researched learning perspective. Its focus is on participation and change beyond behavioral change. It sees change as a condition of learning that goes beyond the key messages of sustainability but regards ESD as a cross cutting theme in research.
- ENSI captures and reflects on its members' experiences so that we can 'practice what we preach' and develop a portfolio that showcases our work and can be used for partnership purposes.
- ENSI also influences government agencies and continues to develop links between research groups, schools and authorities. In reality ENSI strengthens its impact beyond school development and professional development and therefore targets change in government policies.
- ENSI sees schools as the centre for learning and ultimately influencing their communities. It focuses on schools as systems and intends to map the role of schools in creating sustainable communities.

In brief, ENSI is a highly credible network involving internationally renowned experts alongside policy shapers, researchers, active sustainable schools and teacher training institutions in its member countries.

ENSI has a strong track record, from as far back as 1986, of effective partnership with the OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation and looks back on four high scored EU-funded projects realized during the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

International partnerships and its implications

ENSI contributed over the full ten years actively to the UN-Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. Five large projects with a total of more than hundred partners have been executed between 2004 and 2014. In the focus of ENSI's project work were

- School and Community collaboration for SD (CoDeS, 2011-2014)
- Partnership and participation for SD, (SUPPORT 2007-2009)
- ESD in the Carpathian region (CASALEN 2007-2009)
- Teacher competences for ESD (CSCT 2004-2007)
- School and Quality Development along principles of SD (SEED 2002-2005)

ENSI's substantive experience in relation to EE and ESD as a platform for school and community development is an important niche that can contribute significantly to international acting bodies, such as UNESCO, UNEP, and UNECE and can also support national developments in member countries in these areas over the coming years.

This cooperation revolves around two overarching themes:

First, to transpose ENSI experiences and expertise on the interface between ESD and school development, inclusion and participation within an ever-evolving community, promoting ESD as a platform for school and higher education institute development,

Second, to promote synergies between ENSI's primary focus of environmental education and other tenets of sustainable development.

Based on our experience of the last 30 years, ENSI contributes to

- new research initiatives and 'research consolidation', transferability and the 'multiplier effect' of research in the framework of ESD.
- new research cooperation with partners from communities and interest groups, supported by academic research in participatory action research settings.

ENSI oversees a dedicated series of workshops, seminars and conferences on specific aspects of environmental education and education for sustainable development and a remarkable series of publications, originated in the network.

Other areas of collaboration include:

- Contribution to an interdisciplinary 'monitoring' and evaluation system at national and international level re the implementation and mainstreaming of ESD in schools, higher education and school-community work.
- Reflection on strategies to mainstream 'tried and tested' pilot work undertaken in the framework of the ESD (influencing policy instruments, guidelines, wide scale dissemination).
- Trans-national comparative analysis regarding selected elements of the national action plans on ESD relating specifically to environmental education, and synergies with other tenets of sustainable development.
- A pool of leading ENSI experts for school and community development to present and moderate during relevant external interdisciplinary ESD meetings.
- Information conduit to core target groups concerning windows for cooperation with major agencies such as UNEP, UNESCO, and others.

Welcoming new members

ENSI is an open organization and welcomes new members and new member countries worldwide, that are committed to education for sustainable development and environmental education.

Essential benefits of being a member of ENSI

- The use of an international body to help launch, manage and mainstream many environmental education developments
- Facility to combine the attention of policy-makers with the practical projects carried out at the school level.
- Facility to combine the work of participating researchers with teachers involved in innovative programs
- Access to an international exchange of data and experiences.
- Ability to gain access to foreign researchers in environmental education and ESD.
- Access to publications
- Access to network groups for professional development
- Ability to develop cooperative action research projects as a basis for professional development
- Access to ENSI meetings and conferences
- Facility to support new ways of thinking, especially in the interaction and communication between governments, NGO's, communities, private partners and school.
- Possibility to develop national research on Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development in order to stimulate international discussion groups ranging from research to simply exchange of ideas.

How to become a member country or individual ENSI member

ENSI is a non profit association with members on three levels:

1. Governments, or non- governmental organizations, institutions or associations with a mandate from their government can become *member countries*

The annual membership fee for countries is € 4'000.

2. Institutions, associations or non-governmental organizations can become *associate members*

The membership fee for associated partners is € 800

3. Experts in Environmental Education, Education for Sustainable development, curriculum development, pedagogy and related sciences can become *individual members*.

The membership fee for individuals is € 50

If you wish to become a member of ENSI, you are invited to fill out the ENSI registration form, (here: www.ensi.org/) and send it to the ENSI secretariat to set the procedure in motion.

Support from the ENSI Secretariat

As a member of ENSI, you will receive regular mailings on news, work in progress and key developments in relation to ENSI's work program and ESD and EE in general, and opportunities to participate and contribute to new projects.

You will have access to the ENSI broad network of more than 1500 addresses to be able to share news and views with other members of the ENSI network. And you will be able to post relevant material and web links on the ENSI website that has a much wider outreach to non-ENSI members and significant players in the world of ESD.

The secretariat will also provide you with specific support on request, in relation to questions on the state of play in other countries, international or EU policy issues

More information?

Should you have further questions – please do not hesitate to contact Christine Affolter, Network Management ENSI. E-mail: secretariat@ensi.org

Constitution of ENSI

(Certified translation from German into English)

Statutes of the Association

Environment and School Initiatives / *Umwelt und Schulinitiativen*

Article 1: Name, Seat and Scope of Activities

(1) The name of the Association shall be “Environment and School Initiatives” (Umwelt und Schulinitiativen), abbreviated ENSI in English.

(2) It shall have its registered seat in Vienna and conduct its activities worldwide.

(3) It is not intended to set up branches.

Article 2: Object

The object of the Association, whose activities are not for profit, shall be the following:
Establishment of an international network close to governments with a view to acquire, develop and disseminate new findings for the development of pedagogical concepts for teacher training, school education and university-level teaching in Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development through an exchange of know-how and experience, research and cooperation with organisations pursuing similar objectives, with higher-education and teacher-training institutions in Austria and abroad.

Article 3: Means to Attain the Association’s Object

(1) The object of the Association is to be attained by the activities and financial means set out in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) Activities envisaged to attain the object of the Association include

- a) International networking,
- b) Contribution of the expertise of its members,
- c) Organisation of seminars, meetings, conferences, further education events etc.,
- d) Research projects,
- e) Implementation of and/or participation in international R&D projects,
- f) Production of publications,
- g) Public relations and communication,
- h) Launch of a website and/or use of other electronic media,
- i) International cooperations involving other international organisations and programmes,
- j) Elaboration and provision of guidance for policy-makers and of other forms of advice, either by its own initiative or on request.

(3) The required financial means shall be raised by

- a) Membership contributions,

- b) Subsidies and grants,
- c) Proceeds from events,
- d) Proceeds from services,
- e) Project funds from national and international projects and research commissions,
- f) Sponsoring funds,
- g) Other contributions (donations, legacies, etc.).

Article 4: Types of Membership

- (1) The Association shall consist of regular, extraordinary and honorary members.
- (2) Regular members are such who fully contribute to the work of the Association. Extraordinary members are such who promote the activities of the Association mainly by the payment of assessed membership contributions. Honorary members are persons appointed as such in reward of special achievements rendered for the Association.

Article 5: Acquisition of Membership

- (1) All natural and legal persons may become a member of the Association.
- (2) The Executive Board shall decide on the admission of regular and extraordinary members. Admission may be refused without a statement of reasons.
- (3) Until the Association has been formed, regular and extraordinary members are provisionally admitted by the founders of the Association, or by an Executive Board if such Executive Board has already been appointed. This membership shall take effect only upon the formation of the Association. If an Executive Board is appointed only after the formation of the Association, regular and extraordinary members shall also be (finally) admitted by the founders of the Association until then.
- (4) Honorary members are appointed by the General Assembly on application by the Executive Board.

Article 6: Termination of Membership

- (1) Membership shall cease upon death, with legal persons upon loss of their legal personality, by voluntary resignation or by exclusion.
- (2) Members may only resign by the end of each half year. Notice of resignation shall be given to the Executive Board in writing at least one month in advance. Where notices are late, resignation shall become effective only at the next resignation date. The postmark date shall be relevant for the timely submission of a notice of resignation.
- (3) The Executive Board may exclude members who have defaulted on the payment of their membership dues for more than six months in spite of two written reminders, with a reasonable period of grace having been extended. This shall not affect the obligation to pay the membership contributions which have become due.

(4) The Executive Board may also order the exclusion members from the Association for gross violation of their duties as members and for conduct that is detrimental to the interests of the Association.

(5) The General Assembly may, on application by the Executive Board, resolve to withdraw an honorary membership for the reasons set out in paragraph (4).

Article 7: Rights and Duties of Members

(1) The members may attend all events of the Association and use its resources. Only regular and honorary members shall have a right to vote and to stand for election in the General Assembly.

(2) The members shall have a right to submit motions to the General Assembly.

(3) Every member may request a copy of the Statutes from the Executive Board.

(4) At least one tenth of all members may request the Executive Board to convene a General Assembly.

(5) The Executive Board shall inform the members at every General Assembly about the activities and financial management of the Association. If at least one tenth of the members so require by stating their reasons, the Executive Board shall at any time provide them with the requested information within four weeks.

(6) The Executive Board shall inform the members of the audited financial statements (accounts). If such information is provided during the General Assembly, the auditors shall be involved.

(7) The members shall promote the interests of the Association to the best of their abilities and to desist from any behaviour which may harm the reputation and purpose of the Association. They shall adhere to the Statutes and to all resolutions passed by the Association's bodies. Regular and extraordinary members shall pay their membership contributions as assessed by the General Assembly in good time.

(8) Honorary members are exempt from the payment of membership contributions.

Article 8: Bodies of the Association

The bodies of the Association are the General Assembly (Articles 9 and 10), the Executive Board (Articles 11 to 13), the Auditors (Article 14), and the Board of Arbitration (Article 15).

Article 9: General Assembly

(1) The General Assembly shall be the "assembly of members" within the terms of the Austrian Law on Associations 2002 ("Vereinsgesetz 2002"). The annual General Assembly shall be held once every year.

(2) Extraordinary General Assemblies shall be convened within four weeks by

a. resolution of the Executive Board or the annual General Assembly,

b. written application of at least one tenth of the members,

c. request of the auditors (section 21, paragraph 5, last sentence, Law on Associations),

- d. resolution of an auditor (section 21 paragraph 5, second sentence, Law on Associations, Article 11, paragraph 2, third sentence of these Statutes),
- e. resolution of a court-appointed curator (Article 11, paragraph 2, last sentence of these Statutes).

(3) Written invitations to the annual General Assembly shall be sent to all members by telefax or email (to the fax number or email address communicated by the member to the Association) at least four weeks before the set date, and at least two weeks before the set date for extraordinary General Assemblies. The invitation to the General Assembly shall contain the agenda of the meeting. The General Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Board (paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, point (a) to (c), by an/the auditor/s (paragraph 2, point (d)), or by a court-appointed curator (paragraph 2 point (e)).

(4) Motions to the General Assembly shall be submitted in writing at least three days prior to the day of the General Assembly to the Executive Board by way of telefax or email. The General Assembly shall have the right to add further agenda items.

(5) Valid resolutions – with the exception of resolutions on a motion to convene an extraordinary General Assembly – can only be passed on agenda items.

(6) All members have the right to take part in the General Assembly. Only regular and honorary members shall have a right to vote. Each member shall have one vote. Legal persons shall be represented by an authorised agent. The right to vote may be transferred to any other member entitled to vote by way of written proxy.

(7) The General Assembly shall be quorate regardless of the number of persons pre-sent.

(8) In general, votes and resolutions in the General Assembly shall require a simple majority of all votes validly cast. Resolutions amending the Statutes or dissolving the Association shall require a qualified majority of two thirds of all votes validly cast.

(9) The General Assembly shall be chaired by the Chairperson, and if the latter is pre-vented, his or her deputy. Should the deputy also be prevented from attending, the oldest member of the Executive Board present shall chair the meeting.

Article 10: Tasks of the General Assembly

The following tasks are reserved to the General Assembly:

- a) Adoption of the annual programme and of the annual budget;
- b) Acceptance and approval of the annual report and the financial statements in consultation with the auditors;
- c) Election and removal of the members of the Executive Board and of the auditors;
- d) Approval of legal transactions between the auditors and the Association;
- e) Granting of discharge to the members of the Executive Board;
- f) Assessment of the admission fee and of the membership contributions for regular and extraordinary members;
- g) Conferral and withdrawal of honorary membership;
- h) Adoption of amendments of the Statutes and of resolutions on the voluntary dissolution of the Association;
- i) Deliberation and adoption of resolutions on other items on the agenda.

Article 11: Executive Board

- (1) The Executive Board shall consist of a Chairperson, a deputy Chairperson, a Secretary, a deputy Secretary as well as of a Treasurer and a deputy Treasurer.
- (2) The Executive Board shall be elected by the General Assembly. Upon retirement of an elected member, the Executive Board shall have the right to co-opt another eligible member to replace the retiring member, for which sub-sequent authorisation shall be sought at the next following General Assembly. Should the Executive Board, without replenishment by co-optation, be unable to act at all, or for an unforeseeable period of time, any one of the auditors shall immediately convene an extraordinary General Assembly with the purpose of electing a new Executive Board. If the auditors are equally unable to act, any regular member recognizing the emergency shall immediately file an application with the competent court for the appointment of a curator, who shall convene an extraordinary General Assembly without delay.
- (3) The Executive Board shall have a term of office of two years; re-election shall be possible. All functions in the Executive Board shall be exercised ad personam.
- (4) The Executive Board shall be convened in writing or orally by the Chairperson, and if the latter is prevented, by his or her deputy. Should the deputy be prevented for an unforeseeable period of time, any other Executive Board member may convene the Executive Board.
- (5) The Executive Board shall be quorate if all of its members were invited and at least half of them are present.
- (6) The Executive Board shall decide by a simple majority of all votes; in the case of a tie, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
- (7) The meetings of the Executive Board shall be chaired by the Chairperson, and if the latter is prevented, by his or her deputy. If the deputy is equally prevented, the meeting shall be chaired by the oldest member of the Executive Board pre-sent or by any member of the Executive Board who is appointed by the majority of the remaining members of the Executive Board.
- (8) Apart from death or end of term (paragraph 3), the office of an Executive Board member shall lapse by removal (paragraph 9) or by resignation (paragraph 10).
- (9) The General Assembly may remove the entire Executive Board or individual members at any time. Removal shall take effect on the appointment of a new Executive Board or Executive Board member.
- (10) Executive Board members may give written notice of their resignation at any time. Such notice of termination shall be addressed to the Executive Board, and in the event that the entire Executive Board resigns, to the General Assembly. Any such resignation shall become effective only upon the election or co-optation (paragraph 2) of a successor.

Article 12: Tasks of the Executive Board

The Executive Board shall be responsible for managing the Association. It is the “man-aging body” within the meaning of the Austrian Law on Associations 2002. The Executive Board shall be responsible for all tasks which are not assigned to any other body of the Association by the Statutes. In particular, the following matters shall fall within the sphere of competence of the Executive Board:

- (1) Establishment of an accounting system that meets the requirements of the Association, with continuous recording of income/expenditure and maintenance of a schedule of assets as minimum requirement;
- (2) Preparation of an annual programme and annual budget, of the annual report and of the financial statements;
- (3) Preparation and convocation of the General Assembly in the cases of Article 9 paragraphs (1) and (2) points (a) to (c) of these Statutes;
- (4) Provision of information to the members on the activities of the Association, its financial management and on the audited financial statements;
- (5) Management of the Association's assets;
- (6) Admission and exclusion of regular and extraordinary members of the Association;
- (7) Establishment of a secretariat and appointment of a managing director;
- (8) Adoption of byelaws governing the responsibilities and signing powers of the managing director (Secretary General);
- (9) Employment and dismissal of employees of the Association.

Article 13: Special Duties of Individual Executive Board Members

- (1) The Chairperson shall be responsible for running the Association's daily business. The Secretary shall support the latter in running the Association's business.
- (2) The Chairperson shall represent the Association vis-à-vis third parties. To be valid, written notices of the Association shall require the signature of the Chairperson and the Treasurer. Legal transactions between Executive Board members and the Association shall require the approval of any other Executive Board member.
- (3) Only the Executive Board members specified in paragraph (2) may grant powers of attorney to validly represent the Association vis-à-vis third parties and/or to sign on behalf of the Association.
- (4) In the case of imminent danger, the Chairperson may issue instructions independently at his or her own responsibility, even in matters falling within the sphere of competence of the General Assembly or the Executive Board; internally, such instructions require the subsequent approval by the Association's competent body.
- (5) The Chairperson shall chair the General Assemblies and the meetings of the Executive Board.
- (6) The secretary shall keep minutes at the General Assemblies and the meetings of the Executive Board.
- (7) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the Association's orderly financial management.
- (8) In case they are prevented, the Chairperson, the Secretary or the Treasurer shall be replaced by their deputies.

Article 14: Auditors

- (1) The General Assembly shall elect two auditors for a term of two years. Re-election is possible. The auditors may not belong to any body - with the exception of the General Assembly - whose activities they audit.

(2) The auditors shall be responsible for the ongoing monitoring of business and for reviewing the financial management of the Association in terms of the regularity of accounting and the use of funds in compliance with the Statutes. The Executive Board shall provide all documents and information to the auditors which they may require. The auditors shall report to the Executive Board on the findings of their audits. (3) Legal transactions between the auditors and the Association shall require the approval of the General Assembly. Moreover, the provisions of Article 11 paragraphs (8) to (10) shall apply to the auditors by analogy.

Article 15: Board of Arbitration

(1) A Board of Arbitration set up within the Association shall resolve any and all disputes arising out of membership in the Association. It is an “arbitration body“ within the meaning of the Law on Associations 2002 and not an arbitral tribunal as de-fined in section 577 et seqq. Austrian Civil Code.

(2) The Board of Arbitration shall consist of three regular members of the Association. It shall be composed in a manner so that one party to a dispute names a member as arbitrator to the Executive Board in writing. On request by the Executive Board within seven days, the other party to the dispute shall for its part designate a member of the Association as arbitrator within 14 days. After having received no-tice by the Executive Board within seven days, the designated arbitrators shall name within a further 14 days a third regular member as chair of the Board of Arbitration. In the event of a tie, the presiding arbitrator shall be drawn by lot from among the proposed members. The members of the Board of Arbitration shall not belong to any other body – with the exception of the General Assembly - whose activity is the subject of the dispute.

(3) The Board of Arbitration shall decide in the presence of all of its members by a simple majority, after granting both parties the right to be heard. It shall decide to the best of its knowledge and abilities. Its decisions shall be final within the Association.

Article 16: Voluntary Dissolution of the Association

(1) Only a General Assembly may decide on the voluntary dissolution of the Association and only by a two-thirds majority of the votes validly cast.

(2) If the Association has assets, the General Assembly may decide on their liquidation. In particular, it shall appoint a liquidator and decide to whom the latter shall transfer the Association’s remaining assets once all liabilities have been settled.

(3) The Executive Board shall inform the regulatory authority for associations in writing of the voluntary dissolution of the Association within four weeks after such decision has been taken.

Article 17: Use of the Association’s Assets upon Resignation of Members, Dissolution of the Association, or Discontinuance of the Privileged Purpose

If the Association is dissolved or the privileged purpose of the Association no longer exists, the Association’s remaining assets shall, after all liabilities have been settled, be used for non-profit, charitable or ecclesiastical purposes within the meaning of sections 34 et seqq. Federal Fiscal Code (Bundesabgabenordnung). To the extent possible and allowed, these assets shall be transferred to institutions which pursue the same or a similar object as this Association.

