



European Association for Gestalt Therapy
Established 1985

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CONSTITUTION/STATUTES OF THE `EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR GESTALT THERAPY`

Europäische Gesellschaft für Gestalttherapie e.V. (EGGT)
Association Européenne de la Gestalt-thérapie
Asociacion Europea de Terapie Gestalt

SECTION 1

Name, registered office of the Association

1. The Association bears the name “European Association for Gestalt Therapy” (EAGT). It’s entered in the Register of Associations (Vereinsregister).
2. The registered office of the Association is Belgium, Geel.

SECTION 2

Aims and Objectives

1. The Association was founded on May 5th, 1985, in Hückeswagen, Germany. It’s a non-profit organization that aims to unite into a common association Gestalt psychotherapists, Gestalt Practitioners in Organisations, Gestalt Therapy training institutes, GPO training institutes and Gestalt therapy national organizations (NOGT’s) in Europe.
2. The Association and its applicants shall have the following objects:
 - a. The union of Gestalt therapy societies, associations and federations from different European nations;
 - b. The union of persons, organizations and institutions active in Europe in the field of Gestalt psychotherapy and its applications;
 - c. The dissemination of Gestalt therapy and its forms of application in research and doctrine in the European area and abroad;
 - d. Promotion of academic and cooperative exchange between Gestalt therapists in European nations and abroad, and between the national professional associations;
 - e. Promotion of the legitimacy of Gestalt therapy in Europe;
 - f. Promotion of exchange between educational institutions and clinical establishment for Gestalt therapy;
 - g. The development of comparable standards and curricula for Gestalt therapists in the European area and the devising of joint training standards;
 - h. Public relations, and health and professional initiatives on a supranational level, in particular on European committees;
 - i. Cooperation with other psychotherapeutic approaches, associations and institutions.

Section 3

Means for achieving the object of the Association

1. The holding and organization of information and further education events at national and supranational level.
2. The promotion of training possibilities orientated towards the standards of European framework guidelines and the respective national legal provisions and the establishment of a regular conference of Gestalt therapy training institutions.
3. The formation of standing committees and task groups for Gestalt psychotherapy and Gestalt Practitioners in Organisations (GPO).
4. Publications and the dissemination of scientific works.
5. Exchange and advanced research in relation to the theory and practice of psychotherapy.
6. Representation of interests of the Association with persons or organizations, official bodies, associations, etc.
7. The execution of cooperative projects with institutions, official bodies, associations, etc.
8. The establishment of a regular conference.

SECTION 4

Membership

1. **Ordinary Members** may be:
 - European National and Professional Associations, which meet the EAGT training standards for psychotherapists or Gestalt Practitioners in Organisations (GPO) and code of ethics.
 - Institutes, which meet the EAGT training standards for psychotherapists or GPO and code of ethics and work in the field of training or clinical applications of Gestalt therapy.
 - Individuals who meet the EAGT training standards for psychotherapists or GPO and supervisors.
2. **Associate Members** may be:
 - Individuals who have started a training in Gestalt therapy or GPO in Institutes, which are ordinary members of the EAGT.
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 - Every training institute, which commits itself to reaching EAGT training standards for psychotherapists or GPO and is in the process of fulfilling the requirements of the EAGT in its training curriculum.
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 - Every National Association for Gestalt therapy, which commits itself to reaching EAGT training standards for psychotherapists or GPO and Code of Ethics and is in process of fulfilling the requirements of the EAGT.
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 - Retired Gestalt practitioners.
3. **Subscriber Members** may be those who support the Association regularly in financial terms without being a member of EAGT.
4. **Cooperative Membership** may be held by Institutions and Associations who feel themselves to be connected to the professional, health policy and pedagogical aims of the EAGT.

5. **Honorary Membership** may be awarded upon the proposal of the Executive Committee at the Meeting of Members to such persons or Institutes who have served the objects of the Association in a particular manner or who have made an outstanding contribution in the field of Gestalt therapy.
6. **Joint membership** may be awarded to Ordinary NOGTs.
 - Joint membership is for individual members of a NOGT as described under section 4.1 and 4.2
 - Joint membership is valid for 3 years and shall be validated by a signed contract. After three years the contract will be renewed.
 - The minimum of members for joint membership shall be 15.
7. The **application for membership** pursuant to paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee enclosing the requisite documents. On the basis of the documents submitted (regarding completion of training, training standards and other requirements of the EAGT), the Executive Committee shall verify the preconditions of membership and shall decide with regard to exceptions. In the event of a refusal, written reasons shall be given.
8. Ordinary Members, GPO members and accredited supervisors will receive a **membership certificate**, valid for a period of 5 years. All these certificates will have a different lay-out.

SECTION 5

Rights and Duties of Members

1. Membership shall give entitlement to participate in all events of the Association.
2. Ordinary Members attending the Meeting of Members have the right to vote on the basis of proportional representation thus:
 - Individual members = 1 vote
 - Organisations with less than 150 members = 2 votes
 - Organisations with more than 150 members = 4 votes
 - Organisations with more than 500 members = 6 votes
3. Associate Members, Subscribers Members, Cooperative Members and Honorary Members do not have the right to vote in the Meeting of Members.
4. Members shall be under a duty to safeguard the reputation of the Association, to promote its aims, to recognize its Constitution and to pay the membership fee.
5. Members must pay the fee determined by the Meeting of Members. They keep the above said rights only if they have regularly paid the membership fee. In order to secure the right to vote, the fee for the current year must be paid before the Annual Meeting of Members, and at the latest before the 1st April of the year in question. All fees paid after the 1st April shall be subject to a surcharge of 30% of the total membership fee.
6. Fully paid up Ordinary members who are unable to attend the Meeting of members may exercise their right to vote by notifying the EAGT Secretary in writing at least 21 days before the date of the Meeting of members and designate a proxy.

SECTION 6

Termination of Membership

1. Membership shall end through withdrawal from the Association, exclusion or death.

- a. Voluntary withdrawal shall be declared to the Executive Committee in writing, and may take place observing a three-month period of notice with effect from the end of a calendar year. Until the time of withdrawal, the member shall remain under a duty to pay the membership fee.
 - b. A member may be struck from the membership list by a resolution of the Executive Committee if, despite having received two written reminders, such member is in arrears with the payment of membership fees or contributions. Striking off may only be resolved upon if, following despatch of a second reminder, two months have elapsed, and striking off was stated in such reminder. The Executive Committee's resolution as to striking off shall be notified to the member. Until the time of exclusion, the member shall remain under a duty to pay the membership fee.
 - c. If a member shall damage the interests of the Association in a manner, which is grossly negligent, such member may be excluded from the Association by a resolution of the Executive Committee. Before adoption of the resolution, the Executive Committee must give the member an opportunity to give his/her comments either orally or in writing.
 - d. If a member fails the Ethical Code of the EAGT, the issue will be referred to the Ethical Committee of the EAGT.
2. The Executive Committee's resolution shall be substantiated in writing and shall be despatched to the member by way of recorded delivery letter.
 3. The member may appeal against the resolution to the Meeting of Members. Such appeal must be lodged with the Executive Committee within one month following receipt of the resolution. The Executive Committee must convene a Meeting of Members, which will decide with regard to exclusion.

SECTION 7

Organs of the Association

- The Meeting of Members,
- the General Board,
- the Executive Committee,
- the Ethical Committee,
- the Psychotherapy Training Standard Committee,
- the GPO Training Standard Committee

shall be the organs of the Association.

SECTION 8

The Meeting of Members

1. Ordinary Meetings of Members shall take place at least once a year. They shall be convened by the Executive Committee in writing, indicating the Agenda, and observing a minimum period of notice of three months. Such period shall begin upon the day following the date of despatch (postmark) of the letter of invitation. The letter of invitation shall be deemed to have been sent to the member if it is addressed to the most recent address notified in writing by the member to the Association.
2. The Agenda shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Every member shall be entitled to apply to the Executive Committee for an addition to the Agenda up to one week at the latest before a Meeting of Members. The chairperson of the Meeting shall indicate the addition at the commencement of the Meeting of Members. The Meeting shall decide by a simple majority of those present whether to accept any addition to the Agenda proposed at the Meeting.

3. Any changes to the Constitution may only be adopted by a 2/3 majority of the members present.
4. The ordinary Meeting of Members shall have the following duties:
 - a. To accept the annual report and the annual accounts of the Executive Committee and the General Board;
 - b. To give the members of the Executive Committee and the General Board formal approval in respect of their actions;
 - c. To establish new standing committees and task groups;
 - d. To establish the annual membership fees;
 - e. To resolve upon any changes to the Constitution and dissolution of the Association.
 - f. To vote on the Accreditation Regulations of Individual Members, Training Institutes, professional organisations and for GPO's. This will be revised every 5 year..
5. An extraordinary Meeting of Members shall be convened by the Executive Committee if the interests of the Association shall so require or if one third of the members shall request the same in writing to the Executive Committee, indicating the purpose thereof and reasons therefore.
6. The Meeting of Members shall elect members of the Executive Committee, via proposals and by a simple majority. They can be re-elected for two periods (with a maximum of 9 years).
7. The Meeting of Members shall elect members and chair of the Training Standard Committee the members and the chair of the Ethical Committee, the Complaints Committee and the chair and members of the GPO Training Standards Committee, every three years. They can be re-elected for two periods (with a maximum of 9 years).
8. The Meeting of Members shall in general adopt their resolutions by a simple majority of votes of those present. For the purpose of dissolving the Association, a majority of four fifths of those present shall be required.

SECTION 9

The General Board

1. The General Board leads the policy of EAGT and follows the aims of the Association and the decisions of the Meeting of the Members. It gives the Executive Committee guidelines for executing EAGT's policy.
2. The General Board shall consist of the delegates of National Associations of Gestalt Therapy (NOGTs) and the Executive Committee. The delegates of the NOGTs are appointed by them. It is expected that the delegates stay at least for a period of 3 years, to give to the board a continuity, but with a maximum 9 years.
3. The General Board meetings shall be convened if the interest of the Association shall so demand (at least once per year), or if one third of it's members shall demand convening in writing, indicating the purpose thereof and reasons therefore.
4. The General Board is chaired by the President.
5. The General Board shall adopt its resolutions by way of a simple majority and shall devise its own rules of procedure.

SECTION 10

The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of 6 persons, the Chairperson (President) and his/her Deputy (Vice-President), the Secretary and the Treasurer, the External Relations / NOGTs Officer and the TSC chair and the GPO chair. One member is nominated as President Deputy (Vice-President).

2. Both in and out of court, the Association shall be represented by two members of the Executive Committee jointly, of which one shall be the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson.
3. In order to do justice to the European nature of the Association, at least four nationalities should be represented in the Executive Committee.
4. Whenever possible, a country which has not yet been represented in this function should hold the presidency of the EAGT [mostly from the country which shall host the following EAGT Conference].
5. The Chairperson shall convene ordinary and, where appropriate, extraordinary meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Board, and shall arrange the Meetings of Members to be held at least once per year. S/he shall convene and chair the Meeting of Members. S/he shall decide with regard to applications for acceptance and exclusion in respect of persons and institutions.
6. The Executive Committee meetings shall be convened if the interest of the Association shall so demand (at least once per year), or if one third of the Executive Committee members shall demand convening in writing, indicating the purpose thereof and reasons therefore.
7. The Executive Committee shall adopt its resolutions by way of a simple majority and shall devise its own rules of procedure.
8. The Executive Committee members shall be elected for 3 years. They shall remain in office until new elections have taken place. Re-election shall be permitted for a maximum of 2 periods (with a maximum of 9 years).
9. In all financial matters the Association shall be represented by the President or chairperson and the Treasurer.

SECTION 11

Resolutions

- The resolutions adopted in the Executive Committee meetings, in the General Board meetings and in the Meetings of Members shall be signed in writing by the keeper of the Minutes of the meeting, usually the office of EAGT.

SECTION 12

Dissolution and entitlement to accrual

- Dissolution of the Association may only be resolved upon in a Meeting of Members by the majority of votes as laid down in Section 8. In the event that the Meeting of Members does not appoint separate liquidators, the Chairperson and the Treasurer shall be appointed jointly as liquidators having the right to represent.
- The liquidators shall effect ongoing business, and the remaining available assets shall be transferred to Amnesty International.

Approved by vote of the EAGT Meeting of Members:

- Palermo, October 1st , 1998;

Changes approved by vote of the EAGT Meeting of Members:

- Stockholm September 13th , 2001
- Prague November 8th , 2003;
- Krakow September 30th, 2006;
- Athens September 6th, 2007;
- Belgrade September 13th, 2008
- Berlin September 9th, 2010
- Zürich September 17th, 2011