



## Statutes of IFSW Europe e.V.

*These statutes were agreed by the IFSW member countries present at the IFSW Europe e.V. 2010 Delegates Meeting in Valetta, Malta, May 14-16, 2010.*

### Statutes

#### International Federation of Social Workers European Region e.V.

– abbreviated: IFSW Europe e.V.

#### Art. 1

##### Name and seat

1. The association bears the name "International Federation of Social Workers European Region e.V. (abbreviated to IFSW Europe e.V.).
2. The association is registered in Berlin
3. It shall be entered in the Register of Associations at the Court in Berlin.
4. The association is part of the International Federation of Social Workers at a global level with registered office in Bern, Switzerland (abbreviated to IFSW Global).

#### Art. 2

##### Basis

The statutes of IFSW Europe e.V. are based on the constitution and by laws of IFSW Global.

#### Art. 3

##### Purpose and aims

The IFW Europe e.V. association is a non-profit organisation with exclusive and immediate charitable aims in the sense of the section "tax privileged purposes" of the Fiscal Code of Germany.

1. The association has the following aims:
  - a) Promotion of social work as a profession through international collaboration, in particular the consideration of professional values, standards, ethics, human rights, recognition and training and working conditions
  - b) Promotion of the formation of organisations or trade unions for social workers and, where necessary, foundation of organisations where none exist
  - c) Support of national organisations for social workers in order to promote participation in national and international social planning and inclusion of social workers in the formulation of social legislation. Support for the recognition of social work, improvement of training and the values and professional standards of social work
  - d) Advocacy for the rights of users of social services.
2. The aims of the association's activities are:
  - a) Promotion of cooperation between social workers in Europe based on equal participation
  - b) Preparation of subjects for discussion and exchange of ideas and experience through



meetings, study trips, research projects, publications and other communication methods

- c) Make and maintain contact with national and international social work organisations and represent and promote the views of these organisations and their members in relation to social development and social welfare
- d) Representation of professional social work at the Council of Europe
- e) Representation of professional social work at the institutions of the European Union and presentation of the concerns of social workers in the European Union for resolutions and legislation and preparation for cross border movement of social workers within the EU.

#### **Art. 4 Membership**

1. Members are national social work organisations or co-ordinating bodies which are also members of IFSW Global and which belong to Europe.
2. Applicant organisations should be members of IFSW Global in accordance with the constitution and by laws of IFSW Global.
3. If a decision is taken to admit a member at the General Assembly of IFSW Global, European organisations shall automatically become members of IFSW Europe e.V.
4. Every member organisation must comply with the conditions of membership which are regulated in Article 7 of the constitution of IFSW Global (see appendix).
5. Member organisations should help to promote the activities of IFSW Europe e.V.
6. Member organisations must pay an annual contribution which is set by the Delegates Meeting of IFSW Europe e.V.
7. Suspension, exclusion and re-admission of a member organisation are regulated in the constitution of IFSW Global.
8. Member organisations which have not paid their annual membership fee do not have the right to vote or to propose members from their ranks for election.

#### **Art. 5 Structure**

IFSW Europe e.V. has the following structure:

- a) Delegates Meeting
- b) Executive Committee

#### **Art. 5a Delegates Meeting**

1. The Delegates Meeting is the supreme decision making body of IFSW Europe e.V. The body consists of two delegates (with one vote) per member organisation and the members of the Executive Committee.
2. The Delegates Meeting must meet at least once per annum. Each meeting shall decide on the date and location of the following meeting.



3. The invitations and documents for the Delegates Meeting must be sent at least 14 days in advance. This can be done by post, via the internet or by e-mail.
4. Special Delegates Meetings may be convened either by the President or three members of the Executive Committee or at the written request of five member organisations.
5. The Delegates Meeting shall be governed by the President if the Meeting does not determine another as head.
6. The tasks of the Delegates Meeting comprise:
  - a) decision on the statutes of IFSW Europe e.V.
  - b) decision on the by laws of IFSW Europe e.V.
  - c) approval of general and financial matters of IFSW Europe e.V. (annual budget)
  - d) nomination of an independent auditor of the annual accounts
  - e) decision on membership fees
  - f) election of an election officer
  - g) election of four members of the executive committee
  - h) election of two deputy members of the executive committee
  - i) appointment of a European contact person for the Human Rights Commission and the Committee on Ethical Issues at IFSW Global.
  - j) appointment of a representative of IFSW Europe e.V. to the Council of Europe
  - k) creation of working groups if required
  - l) delegation of ongoing business to the Executive Committee except for matters concerning the statutes
7. the decisions of the Delegates Meeting shall be recorded in writing in the minutes. The minutes shall be signed by the minute taker and the President.

#### **Art. 5b**

##### **Executive Committee**

1. The Executive Committee (Art. 26 German Civil Code - BGB) shall comprise six members:
  - a) the President of the European Region, elected by the General Meeting of IFSW Global
  - b) the European member at large elected by the General Meeting of IFSW Global
  - c) a further four members elected by the Delegates Meeting of IFSW Europe e.V.
2. The Executive Committee shall convene at least twice per annum. The members of the executive committee shall communicate with each other via web chat between meetings.
3. The President is Chair of the Executive Committee.
4. Members of the Executive Committee who are elected by the Delegates Meeting shall serve for two years. Two members shall be elected in even years and two in uneven years.
5. The tasks of the Executive Committee comprise:
  - a) to work in accordance with the working plan approved by the Delegates Meeting
  - b) creation of a secretariat (within the budget) with honorary members to perform the tasks of IFSW Europe e.V.
  - c) preparation of the budget for approval by the Delegates Meeting
  - d) verification of the annual accounts and presentation for approval by the



#### Delegates Meeting

- e) appointment of two members of the Permanent Committee on EU issues
  - f) preparation of an annual report to be sent to the member organisations before the Delegates Meeting
  - g) reporting to the Executive of IFSW Global on the work and activities of the European region
6. The Executive Committee requires a simple majority in its decisions.
  7. Members of the Executive Committee shall have delegated signing authority on behalf of IFSW Europe e.V.

#### **Art. 6 Liability**

IFSW Europe e.V. is liable to the amount of its assets. Neither members nor the Executive Committee are personally liable except in cases of intentional and gross breach of the obligation for due care.

#### **Art. 7 Finances**

1. The business year for IFSW Europe e.V. corresponds to the calendar year.
2. The Treasurer shall assume the following tasks as directed by the Executive Committee:
  - a) collection of membership fees
  - b) preparation of the accounts for audit
  - c) preparation of the budget for presentation to the Executive Committee and the Delegates Meeting
  - d) collection and administration of donations as directed by the Delegates Meeting and the Executive Committee
  - e) preparation and provision of bank accounts and vouchers for each Member of the Executive Committee and the delegates and provision of an overview of due membership fees
  - f) proper administration of accounts and monies of IFSW Europe e.V.
  - g) compilation of a written statement of all finances

#### **Art. 8 Statutes and procedure**

##### **8a) Modifications to the statutes**

1. Modifications to the statutes may only be made by the Delegates Meeting. Proposals to modify the statutes will only be accepted if they are supported by a two thirds majority of members present or represented by proxy.
2. Each modification proposed must be announced to the members 90 days before the date of the Delegates Meeting.

##### **8b) Dissolution**

1. The decision to dissolve IFSW Europe e.V. must be taken by the Delegates Meeting.
2. A decision to dissolve the organisation requires a two thirds majority of members present



- or represented by proxy.
3. The proposal for dissolution must reach members at least 90 days before the Delegates Meeting.
  4. If the Delegates Meeting agrees to dissolution, any assets shall pass to IFSW Global.

## **Art. 9**

### **Final clause**

1. These statutes replace the statutes adopted formerly by the Delegates Meeting and shall come into force when they have been adopted by the founding members.
2. Further internal procedures shall be set down in the by laws based on these statutes for IFSW Europe e.V. The by laws of procedures may be modified by the Delegates Meeting if more than half of the members present or represented by proxy agree.
3. Notwithstanding Art. 4.1, up to seven individuals may be recognised as founding members. Personal membership shall end automatically on acceptance by the Delegates Meeting.
4. The founding members shall elect a founding Board consisting of the President and a further 5 members. The task of the founding Board shall expire with the election of a new Executive Committee according to the Statues (Art. 26 German Civil Code - BGB).

Ms Barbara Molderings is commissioned in the name of the Board and the delegates to undertake the necessary steps to register the Association in the Register of Associations and to have the list of signatories authorised by a notary public.

These Statues were originally approved in this form at the Delegates Meeting held on 26.04.2009 in Dubrovnik.

#### Notes:

e.V. = eingetragener Verein means registered association.

§26 BGB is the important § for an registered association in the German Law.

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