

European Association for Community Health-Care

Charta

§ 1 Name, Location, Financial Year

1. The association bears the name "European Association for Community Health-Care" ("EACHC"); after the intended entry into the register of associations with the additive "registered association".
2. The association is located in Greifswald, Germany.
3. The financial year shall be the calendar year.

§ 2 Purpose

1. The "European Association for Community Health-Care (EACHC) is the independent European Division of The International Association of Rural Health and Medicine (IARM) and supports, amongst other things, the aims and tasks of the IARM.
 - 1.1 Aims of EACHC are.
 - a) To support the WHO goal of "*Health for All in the 21st Century*".
 - b) To help improve the health situation in European rural communities, to support rural populations concerning problems in medical care with respect to prevention, curation, and rehabilitation, and to protect the health of the workers in rural communities in the spirit of various concerned resolutions of UN bodies such as WHO, ILO, FAO.
 - c) To help member organisations adopt a scientific approach in the field of community health care, particularly in agricultural medicine and rural health, and to assist with implementing science in practice.
 - d) Its endeavour is to study the issues of community health-care on interdisciplinary grounds and to provide scientific information and advice in this field for all its members and member organisations.
 - e) To establish effective collaboration with other branches of medicine, public health, agricultural, environmental and other related sciences.
 - f) To study the effects of social, physical, and environmental conditions on human health.

1.2 Tasks of EACHC are.

- a) To edit and publish professional journals and publications,
- b) To formulate the official opinion of the EACHC on professional questions,
- c) To provide professional advice and opinion to governmental or social organisations on the national and/or international level, on request, or by decision of the executive board.
- d) To organize scientific events in the field of community health-care, such as conferences, conventions, seminars, talks and related exhibitions,
- e) To arrange professional competitions on various issues and aspects of community health-care, and to establish awards, commemorative medals and prizes,
- f) To collaborate with expert individuals or organizations, as and when required, in undertaking various tasks for realising the objectives of the Association,
- g) To establish regional European organisations and specialised commissions for the improvement of this branch of science (the activities of these commissions shall be in accordance with the objectives of the association).

§ 3 Non-profit Character

1. The association pursues exclusively and directly non-profit purposes in accordance with § 51 AO.
2. The association does not act in its own interest. It does not pursue goals primarily serving its own economic advancement.
3. The funds of the association may be used only for purposes stated in the charter. The members of the association do not receive shares in the profits or other allowances from the association's funds within their role as members.
4. No person may benefit from expenditures that are not related to the purpose of the association, or through inappropriately high allowances.

§ 4 Membership

1. Every person of full age living in a European country, as well as legal entities of the public or private law, can become a member of the association. The association has three types of membership:
 1. full membership (individual and collective)
 2. honorary members
 3. associate members

FULL MEMBERSHIP is available for professionals such as physicians, psychologists, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, veterinarians, agriculturists, health economists, students and scientific bodies / organisations who are interested or involved in the field of community health-care. Full members accept the statutes of the association and pay a prescribed fee. They will have voting rights.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP is given to individuals who, because of their work in the field of community health-care, are elected by the meeting of the members after being recommended by the Executive Board. Such persons once elected become permanent life members of the Association. They will have voting rights.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP is available for public or private corporate bodies which support the aims of the Association. Such bodies are expected to pay the prescribed membership fees. They will not have a voting right.

Associate members may participate in the meeting of the members and other meetings. They may move motions, and participate in discussions. However, they do not have the right to vote and cannot be elected to the Executive Board.

All members are entitled to advantages, given by the Association. Any member of the Association or its Boards may submit a proposal through the Executive Board to award a prize to an outstanding member.

2. Application for membership shall be submitted in writing. The executive committee decides on the admission. A letter of complaint may be filed against a rejecting decision within a month after delivery, which is decided upon on the next statutory meeting of the members. The complaint decision shall be delivered in writing. There is no right of membership.

3. The membership ends

- a) in the case of death (natural person) or dissolution (legal entity) of the member
- b) by withdrawal
- c) by exclusion from the association
- d) by exclusion due to removal from the membership list.

4. The withdrawal must be stated in writing directed at least to one member of the board. It is only possible by complying with a term of one month before the end of a calendar year. A member can be excluded from the association, in case of a serious act against the interests of the association.

5. The exclusion is decided on by the meeting of the members with 2/3 majority. The executive committee shall send a copy of the request for exclusion, including justifications, to the concerned member at least two weeks before the meeting of the members. If there is a written statement of the concerned member, it shall be brought

to the attention of the meeting of the members. The exclusion decision shall be communicated to the member by the executive committee in writing and becomes effective upon delivery.

6. A member can be removed from the membership list, if there are arrears of three (3) membership fees or if there exist other arrears of the member of at least this amount at the association.

§ 5 Membership Fees

The members pay membership fees. The amount is decided on by the majority of the meeting of the members, respectively effecting the following financial year.

§ 6 Organs

The organs of the EACHC are:

1. The executive board
2. The meeting of the members

The meeting of the members may decide on the establishment of further boards or representative bodies of the association.

§ 7 Executive Board

1. The executive board comprises the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer as well as elected members.
2. In order to issue statements that are obligatory by law, the President and the Vice-President form the deputy executive committee in the sense of § 26 BGB.
3. The executive board is elected by the meeting of the members for the duration of three years. The executive board remains in office until the following election. If a member retires during the term of office, the full board may elect a substituting member for the remaining term of office.

4. The executive board conducts the business of the association and deals with all administrative tasks, as far as they are not assigned to another representative body of the association by the charter or by law. In particular, it has the following tasks:

- a) Execution of the resolutions of the meeting of the members,
- b) Summoning and preparation of the meeting of the members, the chairing of the meeting of the members by the president, the president elect, or the three vice presidents,
- c) Summoning and preparation of the executive board meeting.
- d) Planning of the budget for each financial year, record keeping, creation of the annual report,
- e) Admission and participation in the exclusion of members,
- f) Conclusion and termination of contracts of employment,
- g) Summoning of committees.

5. Limitation of authorisation: The third party authorisation of the executive board is limited (§26 Subsection 2 Clause 2 BGB). Acquisition, sale, burden and other liabilities of estate (and comparable estate based rights) as well as taking out a loan requires approval by the meeting of the members.

The executive board can establish its own rules of procedure.

§ 8 Meeting of the Members

1. The meeting of the members is responsible for all tasks, as far as they are not allocated to the executive board or other representative bodies of the association. It is exclusively responsible for the following affairs:

- a) Authorization of the budget that is set up by the executive board for the next financial year
- b) Election of the auditors and the acceptance of the auditing report from the auditors
- c) Regulation of the amount and maturity of the membership dues
- d) Electing and recalling the members of the executive board
- e) Change of the charter
- f) Liquidation of the association
- g) Decision on the complaint against the refusal of an application for membership
- h) Exclusion of an association member
- i) Nomination of honorary members.

2. Further specifications

a) The statutory meeting of the members takes place annually. An extraordinary meeting of the members shall be called up, if

- the executive board decides the summoning for urgent and important reasons

- one tenth of the members demand the summoning of the executive board in writing, while indicating reasons.

b) The meeting of the members is called up by the chairman of the board or a deputy chairman in text form, complying with a term of at least one month, indicating the agenda.

The invitation letter is considered as delivered to the member, if it was directed to the address that was last given to the deputy executive board.

Each member can demand the extension of the agenda until one week before the beginning of the meeting of the members by means of a message in text form. The executive board decides on the extension of the agenda. Afterwards and during the meeting of the members, requests for extending the agenda can only be accepted by decision of the meeting of the members with a 2/3 majority.

c) The meeting of the members is led by the President, if prevented by the Vice-President. If no member of the board is present, the meeting determines the leader.

The meeting of the members elects an election board for the duration of the execution of elections of the board of directors.

The person who takes minutes is determined by the leader of the meeting.

The mode of election is determined by the leader of the meeting. The election must take place in writing and/or secretly, if 1/3 of the present members entitled to vote should request so.

Elections of the board of directors take the form of written elections. The meeting of the members is quorate, if at least one third of the members entitled to vote is present, and in the case of a change of the association purpose and liquidation of the association, if one half is present.

In the case of the absence of a quorum, the chairman must call up a new meeting of the members with the same agenda within four weeks, which is quorate independently of the number of the present members entitled to vote. In this case votes can also be cast by postal vote or by electronic vote. The details about the postal and electronic votes are regulated by the order of the elections and tunings. This is to be indicated within the invitation.

Each member has one vote. A delegation of votes is not allowed. Decisions are made with a simple majority of the cast valid votes. Abstentions are not taken in account.

Amendments to the charter require a 3/4 majority of the cast valid votes, changes of the association purpose and the liquidation of the association require a 4/5 majority.

The members of the executive board are elected individually, first the President, then the Vice-President and at last the remaining members.

The candidate who received more than half of the cast valid votes is considered to be elected.

The meeting of the members can give itself bylaws.

3. Evidence of Meeting Resolutions

a) The resolutions of the meeting have to be documented in a transcript

b) The transcript has to be signed by the chairman of the meeting. In case of multiple chairmen chairing the meeting, the most recent has to sign the entire transcript.

c) Every member is eligible to read the transcript.

§ 9 Liquidation of the Association

1. The liquidation of the association can only be decided in a meeting of the members by the majority of votes regulated in § 8. If the meeting of the members does not decide differently, the chairman and the deputy chairman together form liquidators entitled to act as substitute. The stated regulations apply in the case that the association is liquidated for another reason or it loses its capacity to act.
2. In the case of liquidation of the association or the discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes, the asset of the association is devolved on a legal entity of the public law (under consideration of § 3).
3. Decisions on the future use of the asset may be implemented only after a consent with fiscal authorities has been reached.