

The Statutes of Montessori Europe e.V.

Preamble

Montessori Europe was established as an organisation to enable and promote Montessori pedagogy in a political, social and educational context throughout Europe. Montessori pedagogy offers an education that respects the dignity of children and adolescents and is oriented toward their individual needs.

Its basic principle is to provide free choice in a structured learning environment.

Montessori pedagogy encompasses a differentiated offering for children and adolescents of both sexes and all ages, of differing abilities and for the gifted as well as the socially disadvantaged.

It supports and nurtures the development of a unique personality and is oriented toward an ideal of socially responsible, creative and responsible human beings.

1. Name, Domicile and Fiscal Year

The name of the Association is „MONTESSORI EUROPE e.V.“.

The domicile of the Association is Berlin. Its fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the subsequent year.

2. Objectives/Non-profit nature

The purposes of the association are to promote

- education, adult education and vocational training,
- as well as fundraising for the achievement of the aforementioned tax-privileged purposes of other tax-privileged entities.

These purposes achieved in particular by the following means:

- To encourage the provision of Montessori education for all children and adolescents, regardless of their ability or circumstances.
- To promote a European network of Montessori organisations and Montessori establishments in Europe.
- To promote co-operation and the unrestricted exchange of experiences for teachers/pedagogues, pupils, younger children and parents.
- To form educational-political policy positions and statements and support their representation throughout Europe, as well as supporting the UN Convention for Children's Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- To co-operate with international organisations with similar aims, such as the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), European Forum for Freedom in Education (EFFE) and others.

The Association pursues exclusively and directly non-profit-making objectives in the sense of the chapter "Aims favoured by the tax law" of the German tax law ("Abgabenordnung"). The Association acts selflessly and does not primarily pursue its own business interests. Funds of the Association may only be used for purposes in accordance with its statutes. Funds of the Association are raised primarily through its members' fees and public contributions. The members do not receive financial contributions from means of the Association. No person is

allowed to be favoured by expenses that are not in accordance with the objectives of the Association, or by unusually high compensation.

3. Membership

Anyone who is interested in the achievement of the Association's objectives can become a member. Members on the basis of these statutes are defined as individual members, schools and organisations such as institutes and associations.

Joining the Association occurs by decision of the Board upon application of the prospective member in text form.

Members are obliged to promote the Association's objectives. Membership requires the payment of the yearly membership fee. Membership Terms & Conditions approved by the General Meeting regulate the particulars.

Membership ends by means of

- a) death
- b) resignation, which can occur at any time. There is no right to a refund of paid-in membership fees. Those who do not pay fees in spite of a reminder are no longer be regarded as members.
- c) formal expulsion, which can occur by decision of the General Meeting, after prior hearing of the member, if the member transgresses the statutory regulations of the Association, ignores decisions of the General Meeting or disregards the goals and objectives of the Association.

Also, upon leaving the Association, a member has no claim on the Association's assets of any part thereof.

Members have the right to publicize their membership and use the Montessori Europe logo with the additional text „Member“. Any significant misleading logo usage or misrepresentation of the nature of membership in Montessori Europe is a statutory transgression in the sense of clause c) in this Section.

In order to fulfil the purposes and tasks of the association, personal data relating to the personal and material circumstances of members are processed in compliance with the provisions of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the German Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG). The documents 'Membership Terms and Conditions' and 'Privacy Policy Statement' describe this in detail.

4. Decision-making Bodies of the Association

The decision-making bodies of the Association are

1. the General Meeting of the members
2. the Board.

5. General Meeting

The General Meeting is the highest decision-making body of Montessori Europe. An Annual General Meeting of the members (AGM) is convened annually, usually in a different country each year. In particular, it decides on:

1. the election and recall of members of the Board
2. changes to the statutes
3. the Membership Terms & Conditions
4. the acceptance of the business report and the exoneration of the Board
5. the expulsion of a member.

The Board convenes the General Meeting by invitation in text form of the members including its agenda. The invitation is sent to the last e-mail address known to the Board at least one month in advance. Motions for the Annual General Meeting must be received at the domicile of Montessori Europe by e-mail at least 14 days prior to the meeting date.

The General Meeting reaches a quorum independently of the number of members present, as long as a proper invitation was issued. Each member with no outstanding membership fees has one vote.

The General Meeting decides with the majority of the votes cast, unless stated otherwise in the statutes. In the case of a tie, the vote of the President of the Board is decisive.

Members can transfer their voting right to other members by means of an authorization in text form.

The yearly report and financial results are presented to the General Meeting for decisions on their approval and the exoneration of the Board.

The General Meeting elects two revisors who belong to neither the Board nor a body invoked by it and who may not be full employees of the Association.

Decisions of the General Meeting are documented in the meeting minutes, which are signed by the assembly leader and the meeting secretary.

Exceptional General Meetings are convened by the Board when required or on demand of at least one third of the members in text form.

As an alternative to a physical meeting, a General Meeting can take place as a virtual meeting in an access-protected online chat room.

The General Meeting can decide on Rules of Order for meetings, in particular regarding when and how meetings can be held virtually.

6. Board

The Board consists of six to eight members and is comprised of the President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer and up to 5 further members without portfolio.

The Board members are elected by the members' Annual General Meeting for four years and stay in office until the Annual General Meeting four years hence. A renewed election is possible.

Elections take place in a staggered manner every two years. At one election, the President and up to three further members without portfolio are elected; at the next election two years later the Vice-President, the Treasurer and up to two members without portfolio are elected.

The AGM votes on the number of Board members to be elected in a particular election year, based on a proposal from the Board. If this proposal is not accepted, three members are elected.

Board members without portfolio are elected with the relative majority of the votes cast.

Board members with specified positions stay in office until replacement members have been elected.

One member of the Board represents the Association judicially and always two non-judicially.

Not more than two persons representing the same country should be represented. Employees of Montessori Europe may not belong to the Board.

The Board is responsible for all business, including setting a Data Privacy Policy, as well as the selection and commissioning of the Executive Management. This excludes any business reserved for another decision-making body of the Association.

Convening meetings of the Board occurs in text form by the President with as minimum time limit of 14 days and simultaneous declaration of the agenda. A quorum of the Board is reached when at least 4 Board members are present. Decisions of the Board are made by simple majority.

The members of the Board are not remunerated. They are entitled to the reimbursement of their expenses.

7. Executive Management

The daily business and implementation of measures decided by the Board are transferred to and carried out by the Executive Management, which consists of at least one person, the General Secretary.

8. Working Groups

The Board is authorised to establish Working Groups, in order to support its activities and to improve the overall effectiveness of Montessori Europe.

The activities of Working Groups are governed by a set of Bylaws that the Board develops and agrees on.

The activities of Working Groups are reported to the General Meeting.

The members of Working Groups work in an honorary capacity, without compensation.

9. Changes to the Statutes

A decision to change the statutes requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the votes cast at a General Meeting. The decision can only be made after proper advance notice in the invitation to the General Meeting. The invitation must also contain the new wording of the planned change.

10. Dissolution of the Association

A decision to dissolve the Association requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the votes cast. The dissolution must be announced in the invitation to the General Meeting.

In case of the dissolution or annulment of the Association or in case of the Association ceasing its tax-privileged purposes the net worth of the Association falls to a tax-privileged corporation for the purpose of promoting education and / or public and vocational training, including student aid. (If these conditions are not met, the net worth falls to the 'Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Bundesverband e.V.' (German association for child protection).

Berlin, 06.10.2020