

Preamble

Psychotherapy using psychoactive substances (substance-assisted psychotherapy) began to attract increasing interest around the year 2010, after a three-decade interruption in research. This interest has been strengthened by more recent scientific studies of its effectiveness.

The relevance of this form of therapy for medicine and society is being increasingly positively evaluated by the public and policy makers. The discourse between doctors, psychotherapists, and scientists on this topic as well as among politicians, health care institutions and the public is of substantial importance for the rapid establishment and promotion of these therapeutic methods. Components of this discourse include legislation, the clarification of technical and training requirements, measures for quality assurance, the dialog among international experts, and the integration within the psychiatric-psychotherapeutic professional associations of the respective countries.

The International Society for Substance-Assisted Psychotherapy (ISSP) aims to educate the public and professionals about these methods and to establish and promote them at various levels. It has set itself the task of organising scientific events, developing curricular for training and continuing education, drafting guidelines, establishing quality standards, and designing certification processes.

§1 Name, legal form, office of registry

(1) The name of the association is "Internationale Gesellschaft für substanz-unterstützte Psychotherapie" ["International Society for Substance-Assisted Psychotherapy"], in short "IGSP" [ISSP]

(2) It is to be entered in the register of associations. Upon registration it will bear the suffix "e. V."

(3) The seat of the association is Berlin.

§2 Purpose

(1) The purpose of the association is to promote science and research, vocational training and public health in the field of mental health, especially psychotherapy, in particular by researching and promoting the use of psychoactive substances to support psychotherapeutic treatment and by informing the public accordingly. The association itself does not carry out such psychotherapies.

(2) The purpose of the statutes is realised directly through the association's own activities and through the procurement and forwarding of funds for the realisation of the non-profit purposes of Paragraph 1 from another non-profit organisation or from a governmental body, for example by:

(a) The creation of a network of scientists working in this field as well as of physicians and psychologists practicing psychotherapy who are interested in information about this topic;

- (b) support for researchers, doctoral candidates and undergraduate students who are scientifically interested in this subject, for example by financing publications and translations of scientific works of importance to this field and by awarding sponsorship prizes or scholarships;
- c) the organisation and implementation of continuing education events, working conferences, congresses or symposia;
- d) the establishment and co-organisation of curricula-based continuing education courses for professional psychologists and medical therapists;
- e) the development of quality standards and quality control measures for these forms of therapy;
- f) the provision of appropriate information to the public, in particular to the relevant specialist public and its associations and organisations, for example by creating and maintaining a website providing appropriate information on the subject;
- (g) the establishment and promotion of contacts with political institutions, associations, institutions, public bodies and the media with a view to disseminating appropriate information on the therapeutic procedures concerned.

(3) The results of the scientific activities of the association will be made available to the general public in a timely and appropriate manner. Events carried out by the association are open to the public. Scholarships and awards are granted on the basis of publicly available guidelines.

(4) In its activities, the association cooperates with non-profit organisations, groups or public corporations with similar tasks, when and insofar as this serves to promote the realisation of the non-profit purpose of the statutes.

§ 3 Charitable purposes

(1) The association pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes in the sense of the section "tax-privileged purposes" of the German Fiscal Code (AO).

(2) The association is selflessly active; it does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes.

(3) Association funds may only be used for purposes that accord with the statutes. Members do not receive any allowances from funds of the association. No person may receive benefits through expenditures that do not accord with the purpose of the association or through disproportionately large compensation.

(4) The association fulfils its tasks itself or through an auxiliary person in the sense of § 57 Paragraph 1, Sentence 2 AO, insofar as it is not active in fundraising in accordance with § 58 No. 1 AO.

§ 4 Membership

(1) Members of the association can be natural and legal persons.

- a) Anyone who is licensed to practice psychotherapy as a doctor or psychologist can become a **full voting member**.
- b) Doctors and psychologists without a psychotherapy licence as well as scientists can become an **associate member** of the association.
- c) Further natural and legal persons can become a **supporting member**.
- d) Full and associate members can be named honorary members due to special merits by the general meeting with regard to the purposes of the association. They are exempt from the obligation to pay membership fees; their right to vote remains unaffected.

(2) Extraordinary members and supporting members are not entitled to vote at the general meeting.

(3) An application for membership in the association must be submitted in writing to the executive board. The executive board decides on admission at its own discretion. Rejection does not have to be justified to the applicant.

(4) Membership ends

- a) upon death, or, in the case of legal persons, upon dissolution
- b) through resignation (Paragraph 5) or
- c) through expulsion (Paragraphs 6-7).

(5) Resignation must be declared in writing to at least one member of the board. A resignation is only permissible with a notice period of three months prior to the end of a calendar year.

(6) A member can be excluded from the association if he or she has seriously violated the interests of the association. The exclusion is decided by the executive board, which will hear the member concerned in writing at least two weeks before the decision is taken.

(7) Membership ends automatically if the membership fee has not been paid despite reminders.

§ 5 Membership fees

(1) Membership fees are charged to members.

(2) The general meeting decides on the amount and due date of these fees in a schedule effective for the following financial year.

§ 6 Organs

1) The organs of the association are

- a) the executive board (§§ 7-9),
- b) the general meeting (§§ 10-11) and
- c) the scientific advisory board (§ 12)

(2) The members of the organs are active in an honorary capacity in principle. The general meeting can decide on an annual, appropriate, lump-sum remuneration for the work of members of the board.

(3) The members of the executive bodies are obliged to provide information if the possibility of conflict of interest exists; this applies in particular when decisions are made on matters affecting the private interests of a member or his or her immediate family. The member concerned may be excluded from deciding on the resolution on this matter in a resolution which must be approved by all members except the member concerned, who does not participate in the resolution.

(4) The members of the organs are only liable to the Association for intent and gross negligence. The association can insure them against risks within the scope of its financial possibilities.

§ 7 Executive board

(1) The executive board consists of five persons: the chair, two vice-chairs, the treasurer and the secretary. Internally, each vice-chair can individually represent the chair if he or she is hindered. The executive board may delegate management authority to one of its members (managing member of the board).

(2) The executive board represents the association in and out of court; it has the status of a legal representative. Two members of the executive board represent the executive board jointly; the managing member of the board represents the executive board singly. By resolution of the general meeting, the executive board or its individual members may be exempted from the restrictions of § 181 BGB (German civil code) in whole or in part. Employees of the association may not be members of the executive board.

(3) The members of the executive board are elected by the general meeting for the duration of three years individually, first the chair, then the two vice-chairs and finally the remaining members. The candidate is elected who receives more than half of the valid votes cast. If the required number of votes is not achieved, a run-off election will be held on the second ballot between the two candidates with the most votes. In the event of a tie on the second ballot, the chairman of the meeting decides by drawing lots. Voting on the basis of blocks or lists is permissible.

(4) After expiry of the term of office, the members of the executive board remain in office until the election of a new executive board and its assumption of office. If a member resigns during the term of office, the executive committee can appoint a provisional substitute member for the remaining term of office of the resigning member.

(5) Only members of the association can belong to the executive board. The accumulation of several board offices in one person is not permitted.

§ 8 Responsibilities of the executive board

(1) The executive board conducts the business of the association and performs all administrative tasks, unless they are assigned to another body by these statutes or by law. It has in particular the following tasks:

- a) the preparation of the general meeting and setting the agenda;
- b) the convening of the general meeting and its management by the chair;
- c) the execution of the decisions of the general meeting;
- d) the administration of the association's assets and bookkeeping;
- e) the preparation of the budget for each financial year and the preparation of the annual report;
- (f) the adoption of decisions on the admission and participation in the expulsion of members;
- (g) the conclusion and termination of contracts of employment.

(2) The executive board may adopt its own rules of procedure.

§ 9 Convening and passing resolutions of the executive board

(1) As a rule, the executive board makes its decisions at meetings.

(2) Meetings of the executive board must be convened in writing by the chair at least four weeks before the meeting, in urgent cases at the latest one week before the meeting. There is no requirement of notification of an agenda.

(3) The meeting of the executive board is chaired by the chair of the executive board.

(4) Resolutions may also be passed in writing, by telefax, telephone or electronic circulation, provided that no member of the executive board objects to this procedure or that the articles of association do not stipulate otherwise.

(5) The executive board has a quorum if all members of the executive board have been duly invited and at least three board members, including the chair, were present or take part in the voting by circulation procedure.

(6) The executive board decides by simple majority of the valid votes cast. The vote of the chair of the executive board decides in the event of a tie; in his absence, that of the vice-chairman who directs the decision-making procedure.

(7) Minutes are to be taken of the meetings and resolutions and are to be signed by the chairperson of the meeting. They must contain the following items:

- the time and place of the meeting;
- the names of the participants and the chair of the meeting;
- the decisions taken and the results of voting.

The minutes shall serve as evidence; they shall be sent to the members of the executive board and archived with the documents of the association.

§ 9 Responsibilities of the general meeting

In addition to the matters otherwise provided for in the articles of association, the general meeting of members is exclusively responsible for:

- a) the election of the members of the executive board, auditors and members of the scientific advisory board in individual, block or list elections and their removal;
- b) the naming of honorary members;
- c) determining the amount and due dates of membership fees;
- d) the approval of the budget for the next financial year drawn up by the executive board;
- e) the acceptance of the annual report of the executive board and the report of the auditors;
- f) the discharging of the executive committee;
- g) the changing of the articles of association;
- h) the dissolution of the association.

§ 11 Convening and passing resolutions of the general meeting

(1) The General Assembly of Members shall take its decisions at an ordinary meeting, by means of interconnection on the internet, if technically feasible, or in writing. An extraordinary general meeting is to be convened if the interests of the association require it or if one fifth of the members request the convening of the meeting in writing, stating the reasons.

(2) The general meeting will be convened by the chair of the executive board in writing, giving at least four weeks' notice and specifying the procedure pursuant to Paragraph 1, the venue and date of the meeting or the access data for interconnection on the internet or the address and deadline for the casting of written votes as well as the items for resolution (agenda). The deadline begins on the day following the dispatch of the letter of invitation. The letter of invitation shall be deemed to have been received by the member if it was sent to the address last notified to the executive board.

(3) Each member may request in writing that the agenda be supplemented one week before the beginning of the general meeting at the latest. Requests for additions to the agenda made thereafter and in the general meeting can only be accepted by decision of the general meeting.

(4) The general meeting is chaired by the chair of the executive board or, in his or her absence, by one of the vice-chairs, or, in their absence, by another member of the board. If no member of the board is present, the general meeting appoints the chair of the meeting. The general meeting can appoint an election manager or election committee for the duration of the execution of board elections.

(5) The secretary is the keeper of the minutes. If the secretary is prevented from doing so, the chair of the meeting will appoint the secretary.

(6) The general meeting has a quorum if at least one tenth of the members entitled to vote are present or involved. In case of absence of a quorum, within four weeks the chair will, with the same the agenda, convene a new general meeting, which will have a quorum regardless of the number attending; this must be stated in the invitation.

(7) The type of voting is determined by the chair of the meeting. Each full member has one vote in the general meeting. The transfer of voting rights to another member is permissible; it must be in writing and is only effective if it is submitted to the board of directors at least one week before the general meeting. No person may accumulate more than three votes.

(8) Resolutions are passed with a simple majority of the valid votes cast, unless otherwise stipulated in the statutes. Abstentions are not counted.

(9) Minutes of the meetings and resolutions are to be taken, which must be signed by the chair of the meeting and the minute-keeper. They must contain the following items:

- the time and place of the meeting;
- the names of the chair of the meeting and the keeper of the minutes;
- the number of members present;
- the statement that the meeting was properly convened and that there was a quorum;
- the agenda;
- the proposals made;
- the wording of the resolutions passed, including the method of voting and the results of voting (number of votes for and against, abstentions and invalid votes).

The minutes serve as evidence; they must be kept with the documents of the association.

§ Scientific advisory board

(1) The scientific advisory board advises the executive board and thus contributes to ensuring the scientific quality of the fulfilment of the purpose.

(2) It consists of five members. Its members are nominated by the executive board and elected by the general assembly, which also decides on the term of office. The election procedure for the board of directors applies accordingly. Das Wahlverfahren zum Vorstand gilt entsprechend.

§ 13 Financial year and business management

(1) The financial year is the calendar year, unless the executive board decides otherwise.

(2) In order to fulfil its tasks, the association may maintain special-purpose companies and may maintain business operations for raising funds.

(3) The annual accounts are to be audited by up to two auditors who are elected by the general meeting for a period of three years. The audited annual statement of accounts is to be submitted to the general meeting with a statement regarding the discharge of the executive board for resolution.

§ 14 Changes of articles of association and status

(1) A majority of two thirds of the valid votes cast is required for amendments to the articles of association, and a majority of three quarters is required for changing the purpose of the association.

(2) Changes to the articles of association required by register or financial authorities can be decided by the executive board; it must inform the general meeting of the process in the invitation to the next meeting.

(3) The dissolution of the association can only be decided in a general meeting called for this purpose with a majority of three quarters of the valid votes cast.

(4) Unless the general meeting decides otherwise, the chair and the two vice-chairs of the executive board are jointly authorised liquidators. This applies accordingly in the event that the association is dissolved for another reason or loses its legal capacity.

(5) If the association is dissolved or if it loses its non-profit status, its assets will fall to a public legal entity or other non-profit corporation designated by the general meeting for use in promoting public health.

§ 15 Data protection and general regulations

(1) Unless otherwise provided for in these articles of association, the relevant statutory provisions shall apply.

(2) In order to fulfil its statutory tasks and any legal or other legal obligations, the association processes personal data of its members using electronic data processing equipment, for example in the context of membership administration. The data are protected by necessary measures from becoming known by third parties. Further details are regulated in a data privacy policy to be passed by the executive board.

(3) Through their membership and the associated recognition of these statutes, the members agree to the collection, processing (storage, modification, transmission) and use of their personal data.

(4) Within the framework of the statutory provisions, members have the right to information about the data stored about them, their recipients and the purpose of their storage, as well as to the correction, deletion or blocking of their data.

(5) Insofar as the written form is mentioned in these statutes, electronic text form (e-mail) is sufficient. In its correspondence, especially for invitations and hearings, the association uses the address that the member last provided.

(6) Insofar as names for offices are used in these statutes, these apply equally to all genders.