

Articles of Association

Swiss Society for Gender Health (SSGH)

Legal form, purpose and registered office

Art. 1

Under the name of Swiss Society for Gender Health (SSGH), a non-profit association is created, governed by these Articles of Association and by Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. It is politically neutral and denominationally independent.

Art. 2

The SSGH's aim is to promote the integration of sex and gender in health, paying particular attention to (but not restricted to) health education, research, healthcare practice, and policy.

In order to achieve this aim, the association will develop:

- Awareness of the influence of sex and gender as determinants of health, understanding sex as driven by biological attributes (e.g., chromosomes) and gender driven by socially constructed norms, stereotypes, and self-identification.
- Promotion of the integration of sex and gender in the initial and continuing education of healthcare professionals.
- Support of the implementations of the sex and gender dimensions in health research, to reduce the sex and gender gap in health knowledge.
- Networking and promoting synergies among health stakeholders.
- Promotion of interdisciplinary and interprofessional activities and approaches.

Art. 3

The registered office of the Association is 1000 Lausanne.

Its duration is unlimited.

Organisation

Art. 4

The Association's governing bodies are the General Assembly, the Committee, and the Auditors.

Art. 5

The Association's resources are made up of ordinary or extraordinary subscriptions from its members, donations or legacies, income from the Association's activities, grants, funding opportunities or programs, or subsidies from public authorities.

The financial year begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st of each year.

Its commitments are guaranteed by its assets, to the exclusion of any personal liability of its members.

Members

Art. 6

Membership is open to any person (individual membership) or body (collective membership) with an interest in achieving the objectives set out in Art. 2.

Art. 7

The Association is made up of individual members, collective members, and honorary members.

A collective member (or legal entity) is represented by a single individual (and therefore a single vote) at meetings.

On the proposal of the Committee, the General Assembly may appoint an honorary member who has rendered outstanding services to the Association or within their discipline. Honorary members have the same rights as ordinary members but are exempt from any financial obligations.

Art. 8

Applications for membership should be addressed to the Committee. The Committee admits new members and informs the General Assembly.

Art. 9

Membership is ended or revoked:

- a) by resignation. In all cases, the membership fee for the year remains payable.
- b) by exclusion, if a member damages the Association and its image, reputation and interests. Repeated non-payment of membership fees will also result in exclusion.
- c) exclusion can be decided by the Committee without stating the grounds.

Exclusion is decided by the Committee. The person concerned may appeal against this decision to the General Assembly. Time limit for appeals to the General Assembly is 6 months from the date of the announcement.

In addition, ordinary legal remedies are available. The place of jurisdiction is Lausanne.

General Assembly

Art. 10

The General Assembly is the supreme authority of the Association and comprises all members of the Association.

Art. 11

The powers of the General Assembly are as follows, it:

- Adopts the agenda for the meetings and approves the minutes of the last meeting.
- Reads the reports, the accounts for the year, the budget, and the auditing report, and votes to approve them.
- Grants discharge to the Committee and the Auditors.
- Appoints and revokes members of the Committee and the Auditors.
- Adopts and amends the Articles of Association.
- Hears and deals with exclusion appeals.
- Sets the amount(s) for the annual membership fee on the recommendation of the Committee.
- Takes a position on the projects in the agenda.

The General Assembly may deal with or be requested to deal with any matter that it has not entrusted to another body.

Art. 12

The General Assembly is convened at least once a year by the Committee. It may be organised as a virtual meeting.

The Committee may convene Extraordinary General Meetings as often as the need arises. Extraordinary General Meetings may also be called at the request of at least 1/5 of the Association's members.

Art. 13

The General Assembly's meeting and its agenda are convened at least 20 calendar days in advance by the Committee. The notice of meeting is sent by post or e-mail and includes the agenda for the meeting.

Art. 14

The Committee is required to place on the agenda of the General Assembly's meeting (ordinary or extraordinary) any proposal from a member submitted by post or e-mail at least 10 calendar days in advance.

Art. 15

The General Assembly's meeting is chaired by the President of the Association or by another member proposed by the Committee.

The Secretary of the Association or another member of the Committee shall take the minutes of the General Assembly's meeting. The person taking the minutes shall sign them together with the person who chaired the meeting.

Art. 16

Decisions of the General Assembly's meeting are taken by a simple majority of the votes cast, irrespective of abstentions or spoilt ballots. In the event of a tie, the President, or in their absence the Chairperson of the meeting, has the casting vote.

The 'simple majority' decision-making method (also known as 'relative majority') validates a proposal that receives the most votes in favour. Those present and represented who do not vote and those who abstain are not included in the calculation of the majority.

Decisions to amend the statutes of the Association may only be taken by 2/3 majority of the members present and represented.

Art. 17

Voting is by show of hands. At the request of at least 5 members, votes will be taken by secret ballot.

When the General Assembly is accessible online, members can participate and exercise their voting rights remotely, subject to the authentication of their identity and compliance with the conditions set by the committee to ensure the security and confidentiality of the votes.

Voting by proxy is allowed. Absent members may give a written proxy to one of the Association's members. However, the representative member may not receive more than two proxies.

Committee

Art. 18

The Committee executes and implements the decisions of the General Assembly. It manages the Association and takes all necessary measures to ensure that the objectives set are achieved. The Committee decides on all matters not expressly reserved for the General Assembly.

Art. 19

The Committee consists of 5 to 15 individuals (≥ 18 years old) with residency in Switzerland or affiliated to Swiss institutions, who are appointed for 2 years by the General Assembly and eligible for re-election.

Art. 20

The members of the Committee decide among themselves how to distribute their various functions (president, secretary, treasurer, etc.). The proceeds of Committee meetings are recorded in writing (minutes).

Decisions are taken via communication in writing or by electronic means, provided that no Committee member requests a verbal discussion. Where appropriate, and in the absence of consent, decisions are taken by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the President, or in their absence the Chairperson of the meeting, has the casting vote.

Art. 21

In the event of a vacancy during its term of office, the Committee may co-opt new members until the next General Assembly's meeting, where the co-opted member would be officially nominated for election.

Art. 22

The members of the Committee work on a voluntary basis.

Art. 23

The Association is validly bound by the collective signature of two members of the Committee appointed by the Committee.

Art. 24

The Committee is responsible for:

- Taking appropriate measures to achieve the objectives.
- Convening ordinary and extraordinary General Assembly.
- Taking decisions on the admission and possible exclusion of members.
- Ensuring that the Statutes of the Association are applied, drawing up regulations and administering the Association's assets.
- Keeping the Association's accounts.

Art. 25

The Committee hires (/dismisses) the Association's salaried and voluntary employees. It may entrust any person within or outside the Association with a mandate of limited duration.

If non-committee employees are employed, they may be invited to take part in the Committee's work in an advisory capacity.

Control body

Art. 26

The Auditors audit the Association's financial management and present a report to the General Assembly. They are appointed by the General Assembly from outside the Committee.

Dissolution

Art. 27

The dissolution of the Association is decided by a two-thirds majority of the members present and represented at the General Assembly's meeting. It must be mentioned in the notice convening the meeting. Any assets will be allocated to an organisation with similar aims.

These articles of the Association were adopted by the constituent meeting held on 10/09/2024 at Lucerne.

On behalf of the Association

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Date, place: 10 September 2024, Luzern
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