

**European Citizen Science  
Association (ECSA)  
[Verein der europäischen  
Bürgerwissenschaften e.V.]**

**Statutes<sup>1</sup>**

Version 26.11.2014

**Changes to the statutes**

**§ 1 Name and place of business**

(1) The name of the association is the “European Citizen Science Association (ECSA)” (Verein der europäischen Bürgerwissenschaften e.V.).

(2) The association is based in Berlin.

**§ 2 Purpose**

The purpose of the association is the advancement of science and research in the area of citizen science in Europe, where citizens are valued as a key component in advancing knowledge about the sustainable development of our world. Engaging with disadvantaged communities is a key goal of ECSA. Individuals are encouraged to take an active role in the development of a sustainable society, helping to protect and improve health and the environment.

The purpose of the association is realized especially by:

- a) carrying out research on participatory research, volunteering / community service, and citizen science;
- b) developing and employing knowledge and skills on citizen science at the European, national and regional level, as well as gathering and distributing these through websites, workshops, talks and publications;
- c) developing and implementing EU-wide citizen science programmes, especially in areas with high societal relevance at both the European and national levels, such as sustainability, the environment, and social and technical innovation;
- d) identifying, developing and promoting best

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- practice and excellence in citizen science;
- e) developing a common European approach to citizen science, in terms of methodology, education and training materials, and time and performance criteria.

We commit to the timely publication of all of the research results generated by the association.

### § 3 Benefit to the public

The association pursues exclusively and immediately charitable purposes within the meaning of the "tax-privileged purposes" of the German tax code. The association shall act in an altruistic way, not primarily pursuing economic purposes. Funds may only be used for statutory purposes. Members shall not receive compensation from the funds of the association. No person may benefit from disproportionately high remuneration, or from expenditures that are not in accordance with the purpose of the association.

### § 4 Bodies

The bodies of the association are:

1. the General Assembly (German: "Mitgliederversammlung");
2. the Executive Board (German: "Vorstand");
3. the Board of Directors (German: "Vorstandsrat").

The General Assembly can decide to form other bodies.

### § 5 General Assembly

(1) The Executive Board annually calls for the General Assembly.

(2) If more than 20 percent of the members wish for an additional annual meeting, the Executive Board, convened by the Secretariat (§ 10), will call for another meeting.

(3) The invitation has to reach the members by email at least two weeks in advance.

(4) The General Assembly has the following duties:

- a) Approval of the budget for the coming fiscal year;

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- b) Receipt of the annual report of the Executive Board and its discharge;
- c) Election of the Executive Board;
- d) Election of the Board of Directors;
- e) Establishment of Working Groups and election of the Chairs of Working Groups;
- f) Election of the Advisory Board;
- g) Determination of the membership fees;
- h) Decisions on statutory amendments and dissolution of the association.

5) The resolutions of the General Assembly are recorded in the minutes and shall be signed by the chair of the meeting and the recorder. They are made publically available on the ECSA website.

6) The General Assembly can change the Statutes by simple majority. Planned changes have to be announced at least two weeks before the General Assembly.

(i) Election of the President (§ 7 (5) of the Statutes).

NEW:

(7) The General Assembly shall be held in a face-to-face meeting, or virtually (online procedure) in a chat room accessible only to association members with their identification data and a separate access word.

(8) Notwithstanding § 32 Para. 2 BGB, a resolution without a meeting of the members is valid if:

- a) all members were involved;
- b) the deadline set by the Executive Board for the submission of votes in text form is at least two weeks after the dispatch of the resolution proposal;
- c) the Executive Board points out the deadline for submission when sending the motion for resolution, and;
- d) points out that votes must be sent to the association's address, e-mail address or other electronic voting procedures, in particular online forms, for the attention of the Executive Board.

A proposal is accepted if it receives a simple majority of the votes cast; abstentions do not count.

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NEW

(8) Elections may be held by postal vote outside of the general meeting. Votes by e-mail and other electronic voting procedures, in particular online forms, are considered to be postal votes. The Executive Board must set a deadline of at least 14 days for the invitation to vote. The invitation to vote shall specify the deadline and the exact addressee for effective voting (e-mail address, etc.). Alternatively, the invitation to vote must indicate the specific online forms for voting. Votes received late will not be considered. The Executive Board delegates the supervision of the voting procedure, as well as the counting and announcement of the voting results, to an election officer to ensure the proper conduct of the voting process.

## § 6 Executive Board

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(1) The Executive Board consists of the first chairman and one assessor. The association is represented in court and out of court by one member of the Executive Board respectively.

(2) The Executive Board is elected by the General Assembly for a period of two years. It remains in office until a new election takes place. If a member of the Executive Board leaves during the period of office, the General Assembly shall elect a replacement for the remainder of the term of office of the resigning Board member.

(3) The Executive Board instructs the Secretariat.

(2) The Executive Board is elected by the General Assembly for a period of ~~three~~ two years. It remains in office until a new election takes place. If a member of the Executive Board leaves during the period of office, ~~the Board of Directors (§ 7 of the statutes) is entitled to appoint another person for the remaining term of office of the Executive Board.~~ ~~the General Assembly shall elect a replacement for the remainder of the term of office of the resigning Board member.~~

NEW

(4) The Executive Board may be re-elected for two consecutive terms of office. After the second term of office, the member of the Board of Directors may not stand for election for one term.

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NEW

(5) The Executive Board may appoint a managing director (as a special representative within the meaning of § 30 BGB). The scope of their duties, and the extent of their power of representation, shall be determined at the time of appointment.

### § 7 Board of Directors

(1) The General Assembly appoints up to five members of ECSA to the Board of Directors for a period of two years.

(2) The Board of Directors advises the Executive Board and sets the scientific guidelines for the work of ECSA.

(3) The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a year. The Board of Directors decides by a simple majority.

### § 7 Board of Directors

(1) The General Assembly appoints ~~up to five~~ **between five and seven** members of ECSA to the Board of Directors for a period of ~~two~~ **three** years.

NEW

(4) A member of the Board of Directors may be re-elected for two consecutive terms of office. After the second term of office, the member of the Board of Directors may not stand for election for one term.

NEW

(5) The Board proposes a President who is confirmed by the General Assembly for a period of six years. The president can participate in the board meetings in an advisory role, and has the right to a casting vote if a vote in the board leads to a tie.

### § 8 Advisory Board

(1) The Advisory Board consists up to 12 persons who are not members of ECSA. It advises ECSA on strategic and policy matters, and comments upon the annual report and ECSA accounts.

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(2) Members of the Advisory Board can be nominated by any ECSA member. Members of the Advisory Board may be academics, political leaders, or eminent persons interested in citizen science. Ideally, they are influential across Europe. They represent research councils, regulatory organizations, government agencies and, notably, members of the public.

(3) The General Assembly elects members of the Advisory Board for two years.

(3) The General Assembly elects members of the Advisory Board for ~~two~~ **three** years.

(4) The members of the Advisory Board meet regularly and report to the General Assembly.

## § 9 Working Groups

(1) The strategic work within ECSA is carried out by different Working Groups.

(2) The Working Groups are led by persons who are elected for a two-year period by the General Assembly. The chairs of the Working Groups are responsible for communication within the Working Groups, as well as for communication with the Secretariat.

(3) The chairs of the Working Groups report to the annual General Assembly about their work, and provide written reports.

## § 10 Sekretariat

(1) The Secretariat supports the Executive Board and the General Assembly in the implementation of the statutory duties.

## § 11 Membership

(1) Membership of the association is open to any natural person, or any legal entity governed by private or public law.

(2) The Executive Board decides on membership based on written request.

(3) Membership ends:

- a) with the death of the member;
- b) by written notice of resignation addressed to a member of the Executive Board; membership

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can only be discontinued in this way at the end of the fiscal year, after giving a notice of three months;

c) by expulsion from the association.

(4) A member whose conduct is damaging to / in gross violation of the interests of the association may be expelled by a resolution of the Executive Board. Before expulsion, the member concerned is to be heard in person or in writing. The decision on exclusion is to be justified in writing and to be delivered to the respective member.

(5) The membership fees are annual fees and due on the 1st of January of each year in advance.

(6) The amount of the membership fees is decided by the General Assembly and published via the ECSA website.

(7) Rights of members:

- a) Only members of ECSA may elect the bodies of the association and be elected to the Executive Board or the Working Groups.
- b) Members receive regular e-newsletters and conference updates. They get free access to the online community (to be developed), pay reduced fees for conferences and other events, and contribute to the lively development of the association.
- c) Members will have access to and will be able to contribute to the development and use of best practice documents.
- d) Members will be provided with opportunities for networking at various events, and will have access to the register of members.
- e) Members will receive updates on European citizen science activities and new funding streams.
- f) Members will be given the opportunity to promote their own citizen science activities.

## § 12 Fiscal year

(1) The fiscal year of the association corresponds to the calendar year.

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### § 13 Dissolution of the association

- (1) Upon the dissolution or annulment of the association, or the discontinuation of its tax-privileged purpose, the assets of the association shall be transferred to the European Environment Agency (EEA), which must use them immediately and exclusively for the promotion of citizen science.

### § 14 Entering into force

These statutes shall enter into force on the day of the founding Meeting.

**Declared April 1st 2014**

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The Executive Board is authorized to amend and supplement the statutes of the association at the request of the register court or the tax office for corporations. In this case, the Executive Board is obliged to inform the members of the association about the amendments / supplements to the statutes immediately after registration of the amendment to the statutes, at the latest with the invitation to the next ordinary general meeting, and to place this topic on the agenda of this general meeting.

NEW:

#### § 15 Final provisions

The association is entered in the register of associations and is subject to German law on associations. In the event of discrepancies between the German and English versions, only the German version is valid.

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