

## STATUTE

### Hellenic Association for Person-Centred and Experiential Approach

#### 1. Name and Headquarters

The name of this Association is "ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΟΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΒΙΩΜΑΤΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ" (EPVE) and for its relations with foreign countries, in English, "HELLENIC ASSOCIATION FOR PERSON CENTRED AND EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH" (HAPCEA). The Association's registered office is in Athens.

The terms "Person-Centred" and "Experiential", as the concepts and processes they include, have a wide, rich and evolving story. The phrase "Person-Centred and Experiential" aims to promote continuous dialogue and development. No specific understanding of these approaches is preferred.

#### 2. Legal Form

The Association has the legal form of a non-profit civil association, in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Code.

#### 3. Authorities

1. The purpose of HAPCEA is to offer a wide range of institutional organization, support and interaction for professionals who, either academically, scientifically or as psychotherapeutic-counselling:
  - Are committed to the paramount importance of the relationship between the client and the therapist in psychotherapy and counselling;
  - Consider the actualizing tendency and the phenomenological world of the client as a focal point of therapeutic practice;
  - Incorporate in their work the conditions and practices made and included in the therapeutic movement originally made by Carl Rogers;
  - Understand both clients and therapists as persons who are also individuals, but also in relation with others and with their different backgrounds and cultures; and
  - Are open to development and processing of Person-Centred and Experiential theory in the present but also for future research and practice.
2. This aim is consistent with the principles of PCE Europe (Person Centred and Experiential-Europe) and WAPCEPC (World Association for Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counselling).
3. With regard to Psychotherapy, the Association recognizes and accepts the Strasbourg Declaration on Psychotherapy (1990), the objectives, rules and education criteria, further education and training of the National Organization of

Psychotherapy in Greece (NOPG) and the corresponding European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP). Therefore, the Association accepts the European Certificate of Psychotherapy (ECP) as a means of certification of psychotherapy professionals, contributes to the process for granting and renewal process in cooperation with NOPG and EAP.

4. With regard to Counselling, the Association, recognizes and accepts the aims, regulations and education criteria, further education and training of the Hellenic Association for Counselling (HAC) and the corresponding European Association for Counselling (EAC).

#### **4. Goals**

4.1 Improving operating conditions in mental health services through the development and exercise of professional qualifications in psychotherapy and counselling.

4.2 The development and systematization of the regulations of exercising the profession of Person-Centred and Experiential psychotherapy and counselling in Greece. To this end, it may provide relevant information and documents to political organizations and governmental institutions.

4.3 The establishment of high educational criteria in Person-Centred and Experiential psychotherapy and counselling, aimed at the high-level service of its members and the seamless practice of their duties.

4.4 The post-graduate training of its members, psychotherapists and counsellors.

4.5 Establishing specific criteria for the renewal of their designation every five years.

4.6 Promoting clinical and literature research in the field of Person-Centred and Experiential psychotherapy and counselling.

4.7 The organization of a physical and electronic library with books and articles related to the Person-Centred and Experiential approach, Psychotherapy and Counselling.

4.8 Contributing to inform the public and relevant services (health, government bodies, associations, clubs, etc.) regarding the purpose of Psychotherapy and Counselling.

4.9 Promoting communication and cooperation with other companies, organizations and associations in Greece and abroad.

## 5. Means

The means of achieving the Association's objectives are:

1. The organizing of conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, debate study groups, courses and any kind of activity regarding the training of mental health professionals, psychotherapists and counsellors.

The topics will be decided at the initiative of the Committee for Continued Education. Indicatively it is stated that meetings may involve presentations by discussing theoretical issues, Experiential, or psycho-biological aspects, ethics, supervision, therapeutic relationships, as well as cooperation with medical specialists, social workers and other related disciplines.

Under the supervision of the Committee for Continued Education, working groups with a special interest to suggest and help in organizing postgraduate activities will be organized. Issues regarding parents, couples and families, intercultural differences, work, abuse-trauma, crises, drugs, organic psychosyndromes- psychosomatic syndromes, grief, conflict, and the elderly, are indicatively of interest to the working groups.

2. The enlightenment of the public on matters related to the Person-Centred approach, Psychotherapy and Counselling.
3. Submission of programs, proposals and requests to competent authorities.
4. The close cooperation of the Association with related companies, associations and organizations.
5. Printing publications, magazines and books on issues concerning the aforementioned subjects.
6. Provision of scholarships for attending educational programs in Greece or abroad.
7. The interconnection and cooperation of organizations in public, private, European or international organizations and facilitation of periodic meetings with members of the respective organizations in other countries.
8. Providing advisory services to institutions, corporations, public and private bodies.
9. Regarding the renewal of the titles of Psychotherapists and Counsellors, the following apply:

For psychotherapists, members of the Association, the title renewal criteria will satisfy at least the respective criteria of the NOPG for the renewal of the European Certificate of Psychotherapy (ECP).

For the Counsellors, members of the Association, the title renewal criteria will satisfy at least the respective criteria of the HAC for the renewal of the European Certificate of Counsellor Accreditation (ECCac).

In pursuance of these objectives, the Association may use any other appropriate and lawful means.

## 6. Structure

1. The structure of the Association is consistent with the principles of the Person-Centred and Experiential approach.
2. The Association is a member, participating by proxy in accordance with the rules of this Statute, and cooperates closely
  - with the PCE Europe, the WAPCEPC, as well as other Person-Centred / Client-Centred and Experiential associations.
  - with the NOPG and the EAP.
  - with the HAC and the EAC
  - as well as with other organizations or associations of Greece and abroad.
3. Members of the Association may be individuals or legal entities (educational organizations, companies, associations) of a Person-Centred and Experiential direction, bound by clearly formulated ethical principles. For this purpose, the Association has a written Code of Conduct in line with the Guiding Ethics Guidelines of PCE Europe, the WAPCEPC, the NOPG and the HAC.
4. The Association consists of two fields: the field of Psychotherapy and the field of Counselling. Every three years, each field defines a three-member committee of representation, organization and coordination of the sector.
5. Each member of the Association may be a member of one or both areas, always according to the regulations and instructions of the NOPG/EAP and HAC/EAC, provided they meet the criteria of the relevant class of Article 7 hereof.
6. Decisions concerning either Psychotherapy or Counselling alone can be taken only by the respective sector, with the majority of the present and financially updated members.

## 7. Members

There are three categories of members:

### ***a) Psychotherapists. Accredited members.***

This category includes:

- graduates of university colleges (three or four years' duration) of recognized institutions in Greece or international equivalents, having studied humanitarian sciences with four-year postgraduate training in Person-Centred or Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy.
- Also, holders of the European Certificate of Psychotherapy.

Additionally, at least 1000 hours of supervised practice will be needed in total of 5 or more years in Person-Centred or Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy after the completion of postgraduate studies.

***b) Psychotherapists. Ordinal members.***

This category includes:

- graduates of university colleges (three or four years' duration) of recognized institutions in Greece or international equivalents, having studied humanitarian sciences with four years' postgraduate training in Person-Centred or Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy.

Additionally, at least one year's supervised practice will be needed in Person-Centred or Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy after the completion of their postgraduate training.

***c) Psychotherapists. Provisional members.***

This category includes graduates of university colleges (three or four years' duration) of recognized institutions in Greece or international equivalents, having studied humanitarian sciences, who have completed their first year and are continuing their training in Person-Centred or Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy.

***d) Counsellors. Accredited members.***

This category includes graduates of university (three or four years' duration) of recognized institutions in Greece or international equivalents with three years' training in Person-Centred or Person-Centred and Experiential Counselling.

Additionally they need at least three years' supervised counselling work after the completion of their postgraduate training.

***e) Counsellors. Ordinal members.***

This category includes graduates of university colleges (three or four years' duration) of recognized institutions in Greece or international equivalents with three years' education in Person-Centred or Person-Centred and Experiential Counselling.

Additionally they need at least one year of supervised counselling work after the completion of their postgraduate studies.

In exceptional cases, long and significant professional experience can replace the degree of higher education.

***f) Counsellors. Provisional members.***

This category includes graduates of university colleges (three or four years' duration) of recognized institutions in Greece or international equivalents who have completed their first year and are continuing their education in Person-Centred or Person-Centred and Experiential Counselling.

In exceptional cases, long and significant professional experience can replace the degree of higher education.

***g) Other Professionals. Simple members.***

This category includes:

Professionals with higher education who have at least two years' training in Counselling.

In exceptional cases, long and significant professional experience can replace the degree of higher education.

***h) Honorary Members.***

This category includes:

People with outstanding reputation, whose action and scientific work is important, or people who have provided exceptional services and have contributed significantly to the dissemination and promotion of the Association's objectives, Psychotherapy, and mental health in general. Honorary members of the Association are nominated by decision of the absolute majority of each ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly in quorum, upon the recommendation of the Board of the Association.

***i) Education of Members and Educational Organizations.***

Postgraduate training in Psychotherapy is essential to have taken place at a recognized training center by the PCE and/or the WAPCEPC, the NOPG and/or the EAP.

Postgraduate training in Counselling is essential to have taken place at a recognized training center by the PCE and/or the WAPCEPC, the HAC and/or the EAC.

All members of the Association have the qualifications required by this Statute and may be reclassified by decision of the Member Approval Committee, submitting to the Committee the necessary certificates every time. Membership qualifications are reviewed every five

years by submitting documents supporting continued clinical practice and participation in continuing education activities within the five-year period.

## **8. Member Registration**

To register, an application needs to be submitted to the Member Approval Committee, with all information and evidence necessary for the classification of the candidate into one of the member categories, paying the one-time registration fee, amounting to thirty (30) Euros; this amount may be readjusted by decision of the General Assembly. It is also essential for the request to be endorsed by two ordinary or honorary members of the Association.

The Board is obliged, after considering the recommendation of the approval committee, based on objective criteria, within a deadline of 30 days from receipt of this request, to respond to the interested party about the enrollment or not in the Association's faculty. In case of approval, it has retroactive effect from time of application.

The founding members, automatically and without any further formality or procedure, are considered ordinal members.

## **9. Disqualification and resignation of Members**

A member can be disqualified by a reasoned decision of the Ethics Committee or the Board. Reasons for disqualification of a member are:

- Violation of the Association's Code of Ethics.
- Obstruction or opposition to the aims and operation of the Association.
- Reduction of the conditions of regulations and criteria of HAPCEA, according to which they had become a member.
- Non-fulfillment of financial obligations, after the passage of two years and notice by the Board.

The expelled member has no right to request the return of any amount that they had paid in the meanwhile in form of contributions or subscriptions.

A member, that for any of the above reasons has been disqualified, may appeal during the first GA after their disqualification and request its annulment. If the General Assembly cancels the disqualification, it is considered to have never taken place. The issue is preceded in the Agenda and, in case of decision to cancel the disqualification, the member participates in the work of the General Assembly, provided the settlement of their financial obligations to the Association.

Any member may resign at any time after applying for removal from the members' register, but is obliged to pay any overdue contributions up to the day of the application.

The examination procedure of disqualification takes place in accordance with the Association's Code of Ethics. This must be announced at least one month before the General Assembly to the disqualified member.

### **10. Member Obligations**

Each member of the Association is required:

- a) to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the Code of Ethics.
- b) to regularly pay subscription as defined by these Statutes, or by decision of the General Assembly or the Board, whether the subscription is regular or extraordinary.
- c) to closely monitor all activities of the Association and to participate actively in all efforts to achieve its goals.
- d) to accept the decisions of the GA and the Board.
- e) to participate in continuing education activities organizationally and for post-graduate training. It is necessary and inherent in membership to participate in at least one of the interest groups supervised by the Continuing Education Committee.
- f) to participate in a minimum number (3) of scientific events each year, in order to gather the necessary documents for the renewal of the title of the member class they belong to.
- h) to declare any change of address, telephone number and email address (if available).

### **11. Members' Rights**

The accredited and ordinal members (categories a, b, d and e of Article 7 of these Statutes) are entitled:

- a) to participate in person or be represented by another member who is authorized in writing, to the General Assemblies of the Association. In order to participate in the Assembly, it is necessary to have fulfilled their financial obligations. The cash settlement can be made even before the start of the General Assembly.
- b) to vote on each issue of the General Assembly
- c) to elect and be elected to the Board and the Audit Committee (AC)

Provisional, honorary and simple members are entitled to attend the General Assemblies, and to express their views, without their participation counting in the quorum and with no vote.



## **12. Resources**

The Association's resources are:

- a) Registration and annual subscription fees of members.
- b) Revenue from the organization of seminars, workshops, discussion study groups, courses and all forms of events included in the Association's purposes.
- c) Income from the issue or disposal of books, magazines, bulletins and other publications relating to the Association's purposes.
- d) Donations, bequests and inheritances to the Association.
- e) Any revenue generally acquired legally by the Association.

The amount of regular subscription for each class of membership will be determined by the General Assembly (GA), the Association, upon proposal of the Board. The registration fee for all members shall be 30 (thirty) Euros, a one-time fee paid with the member's approval of registration. This amount may be adjusted each time by decision of the General Assembly. Honorary members are exempt from paying registration fees and subscriptions.

## **13. Donors - Benefactors**

Tenderers of the amount of 200 euros are declared Donors.

Tenderers of the amount of 700 euros are declared Benefactors.

Tenderers of the amount of 1200 euros are declared Great Benefactors.

## **14. Association bodies**

The Association bodies are: 1) The General Assembly, which is the supreme body; 2) The Board; 3) The Auditing Committee and 4) The Committees.

## **15. Operation of the Board**

The Association is managed by a 7-member Board which is elected by secret ballot during the General Assembly and is composed of the President, two Vice Presidents, the Treasurer, the Secretary General and two Members. The term of the members of the Board lasts four (4) years. Alternate members who entered by replacing members who have resigned their position, complete the term of the members who resigned.

The Board of Directors involves at least 3 members of both categories a and b of Article 7 (Psychotherapists: accredited and ordinal) and 3 members of categories d and e of Article 7

(Counsellors: accredited and ordinal members). If there are no nominations of psychotherapists or counsellors in each election, the seats will be filled from both sides.

The Board is mandatorily renewed every two (2) years with the withdrawal of three (3) members at one meeting and four (4) at the following meeting, alternately and by election of an equal number of new members. For the first time, the four (4) nominees with the most crosses will serve four-year terms, while the next three (3) will serve two-year terms. Board members are persons who are termed legally competent. Loss of legal competence entails expulsion from the Board.

The Board meets regularly once a month or, at its discretion, more frequently. The Board will meet exceptionally when convened by the President or by at least one-third of its members by notice to the members at least 48 hours before. The invitation may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail), a mobile phone message (SMS), fax, or by post.

Each member of the Board may suggest topics for discussion. The Board is in quorum when four (4) of its members are present, necessarily including the presence of the President of the Association, or the Vice-President if the President cannot be present. Decisions are taken by absolute majority of the members present, except in the case of equality of votes, where the decision is taken by the casting vote of the President.

In decisions of the Board relating to costs of significant amount of the Association, more than quorum is needed, and is achieved when five (5) members are present. In this case, decisions will be taken by a qualified majority of 2/3 of the members present. The "significant amount" will be determined each year during the Annual General Assembly.

Board decisions are obtained by open vote unless requested by two current members of the Board by secret ballot. Decisions of the Board are reviewed, only by higher quorum of 2/3 of the Board members and a majority of 2/3 of the members present, except for decisions made by consensus of the members of the Board which are reviewed only by consensus of the members of the Board. Decisions of the Board are overturned only by resolutions of the General Assembly.

Board Members that are absent for more than four consecutive meetings without obtaining written permission from the Board upon written request, or delays the payment of contributions of more than one year, are replaced automatically by care of the President by the first substitute member. If a member resigns from the Board, they will be replaced again with care of the President by the first substitute member. If there is no substitute member, the Board continues with a reduced number of members, provided that it is not less than four (4). If the number of members are reduced to under four, an extraordinary General Assembly is called to report the outgoing Board until the day before the elections. This is followed by elections to attain up to a total of seven members. The elected members who emerge from such a vote have terms equivalent to that of the replaced or resigned members.

In the event that the Board proceeds with a reduced number of members, quorum will be the presence of four members.

Each member of the Board may be withdrawn by the General Assembly, with a quorum of at least half of the financially updated members and by decision taken by absolute majority of the members present. However, to recall the President, a majority of two thirds (2/3) of those present is required. Before deciding, the President of the General Assembly invites the member or members of the Board to account for the specific censure before the General Assembly. During the General Assembly, using the above procedure, up to three (3) members of the Board may be dismissed.

The entire Board is dismissed before expiry of its term, by decision of an extraordinary General Assembly, or in case of impeachment by at least 1/3 of registered and financially updated members. Especially in this case, for a decision to be made, the General Assembly needs a quorum of 1/2 of registered and financially updated members and the majority of 2/3 of those present. Before making the decision, the President of the General Assembly invites members of the Board to account for the specific censure before the General Assembly.

## **16. Duties of the Board**

The Board:

- a) monitors and enforces the proper observance of the Statutes.
- b) represents the Association via the President to any authority and generally in all the relationships of the Association with third parties.
- c) conducts all affairs of the Association and manages the assets of the Association.
- d) prepares the annual budget and reports for the fiscal year ending December 31, then submits the report for the previous year for approval at the first General Assembly of the next year.
- e) convenes the General Assembly and is held accountable to the ordinary General Assembly every year, or extraordinarily if the entire Board resigns or the number of members falls below the quorum or is deposed after censure.
- f) carries out the decisions of the General Assembly and ensures for all matters relating to the good organization, administration, operation and promotion of the Association and which is not assigned to this Statute in exclusive competence of the General Assembly.
- g) for reasons of allocation and better organization of the Association's operations, may establish permanent or temporary committees or groups of members, with a maximum term limit of two years. The Board determines the turnover of each committee and delegates to them the management or study of specific issues or sectors. The person

responsible for each committee or group recommends to the Board any matter for which the group is responsible.

h) carries out any responsibilities assigned by the General Assembly.

The Board, following a justified decision which is subject to approval by the General Assembly, may appoint or hire with salary one or more employees, depending on the needs and financial resources of the Association for a period of one year, which may be renewed if there is the need imposed by appointment. The Board is held responsible for any action of the employee and ultimately decides and controls. The members of the Board are not entitled to any remuneration for the provision of their services to the Association.

### **17. President's Responsibilities**

The President takes care of fulfilling the Association's objectives, respecting the Statues and the coordination of the Association's activity. The President shall represent the Association in court and generally in all state authorities regarding any form of relationship and difference, as well as extrajudicially. The President accepts the proposals of members and prepares the agenda of meetings of the Board and GA, convenes, presides and directs the meetings of the Board and of non-reporting General Assemblies, gives the floor to those who request it and removes it from those diverted. The President declares the opening and closing of meetings and debates, puts matters to the vote and may interrupt any meeting, which is noisy and threatened by friction and recriminations.

The President implements the decisions of the Board and General Assembly or entrusts their execution to a member or committee with the consistent resolution of the Board. The President signs every outgoing document and the minutes of the Board and GA. Together with the Treasurer, the President shall sign payment orders. The President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer may handle the bank account of the Association for sums of more than four hundred (400) Euros, when the withdrawal has the signature of two of them. For withdrawals of less than four hundred (400) Euro, the signature of one of them is sufficient. This amount can be adjusted by decision of the General Assembly.

The President, when obstructed by some reason or is absent, at all duties and rights, will be replaced by the 1<sup>st</sup> or in turn by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and in case of their absence, by the Secretary General.

### **18. Responsibilities of the Secretary General**

The Secretary General ensures the implementation of decisions of the Board, prepares and co-signs with the President all outgoing documents and correspondence. The Secretary General collects issues put forward by members of the Board and any other member of the

Association and brings them to the attention of the President who shall prepare the agenda of the Board Meeting and GA.

The Secretary General maintains the registered members, the registry of incoming and outgoing documents, and the Book of Minutes of the meetings of the Board. The Secretary General keeps the Association's records and its seal.

The Secretary General, when is absent or obstructed, will be replaced by a consultant appointed by the President.

### **19. Responsibilities of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer has the responsibility of the Association's treasury and is controlled by the Auditing Commission. The Treasurer supervises income on a base of duplicate receipts, payment orders and legal documents. The duplicates and orders are countersigned by the Chairman or by members of the Board appointed by decision of the Board. Every payment order needs to have the receipt stub of the recipient attached. For petty expenses, a payment order is not required for each, but can be covered collectively by one payment order, that cannot be greater than one hundred and fifty (150) Euros. This amount can be revalued by decision of the General Assembly.

The Treasurer keeps the books of the Treasury and keeps all payment and collection documents in special folders. At the beginning of each month, the Treasurer submits to the Board a summary statement of revenue and expenditure for the previous month.

The Treasurer deposits, in a recognized Bank, each amount resulting from the management in the Association's name amounting to more than four hundred (400) Euros. This amount may be adjusted by decision of the General Assembly. The amounts deposited are undertaken by the procedure in Article 13 hereof.

At the end of each year, the Treasurer prepares the financial report and, together with the Board, the budget forecast for next year. The Treasurer submits to the Board the state of members that are not financially updated or that have delayed any extraordinary contributions every six months.

If the Treasurer is absent or indisposed, they will be replaced by a consultant appointed by the President of the Board, after having been informed by the Treasurer.

All regulations concerning handling money are changed only by decision of the General Assembly.

### **20. Association Records**

The records kept by the Association are the following:

- a) Registry of members
- b) Registry of incoming and outgoing documents with the relevant files
- c) Book of Minutes of the meetings of the Board
- d) Book of Minutes of General Assemblies
- e) Book of income and expenditure
- f) Book of Donors and Benefactors

## **21. Representation**

The Legal representative of the Association is defined as the current Chairman of the Board and, in their absence, the 1<sup>st</sup> or, in turn, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in order. The representative will represent the Association in all its relations with third parties and shall sign any document relative to the Association. The Representative also, with certified authorization, may be appointed to delegate management operations to a member of the Board Association.

## **22. Responsibility**

All obligations created during the Association's operation, will be borne by the Association and not its signatories and representative, since, as individuals, they have no liability in connection with the other partners.

## **23. Approval of Accountability - Financial Results**

The Board discusses and approves the accountability of its activities, drafted by the Secretary General, which includes a financial statement prepared by the Treasurer, twenty days prior to the convening of the Annual General Meeting and ensures submission of the financial report to the Auditing Committee.

## **24. Resignation of Members from the Board**

The resignation of any member of the Board is submitted to the Board, which may not accept it until the final discharge of the Board of the responsibilities of the General Assembly. In the event of withdrawal of a Board member, the first substitute member enters the Board.

In case of depletion of the number of substitute members, the Board continues to operate legally, with as many members that are needed for the existence of its quorum. If the

number of Board members fall below the quorum, a General Assembly is convened to elect new Board members in accordance with Article 13 hereof.

## **25. The Auditing Committee**

The Auditing Committee (AC) consists of three members and three alternative members, elected by the General Assembly. Their election takes place along with the election of the Board every two years. They cannot be elected members of the committee, or be candidates for the Board of Directors.

The AC controls the financial management of the Association at the end of each fiscal year and ten days before the convening of the General Meeting. The Board and the Treasurer bring to the Committee's attention the Book of the Treasury, the receipt and payment order stubs and any other information requested by the Committee. The AC can take similar control whenever it deems appropriate.

The AC submits to the Ordinary General Assembly a report on the management of assets of the Association, which is recorded in the minutes of the GA.

## **26. Committees**

- a) Member Approval Committee
- b) Ethics Committee
- c) Continuing Education Committee
- d) N. Greece-Thessaloniki Committee
- e) Other Professionals Committee
- f) Supervision Committee
- g) Auditing Committee.

By decision of the General Assembly or the Board it is possible to recommend new committees having subjects and involvement of the members by the process that will be decided by the respective founding bodies (the General Assembly, the Board).

The members of the respective categories and the corresponding Provisional members without the right to vote belong automatically to the sectors of Psychotherapy, Counselling, and in the Committee for Other Professionals (*e.g.*, psychotherapists are automatically in the psychotherapy sector, etc.).

For professional matters relating to the areas of Psychotherapists and Counsellors and the respective national associations (NOPG and HAC), the decisions are taken by the respective sectors, and canceled only by the Board, with an increased majority of 2/3 of its members.

Each committee shall appoint by the majority vote of the members a representative and a substitute to take part in expanded meetings of the Board with the representatives of the committees. The extended meetings of the Board are carried out at least every four months and the representatives of the Committees participate in them ex officio. Also, the representatives of the Working Groups can be involved, if the Board deems it necessary.

In case of disagreement of the Board on the decision of a committee, an extraordinary expanded Board meeting is called with the representatives of the committees, where the final decision is taken by simple majority of those present, unless 2/3 of all the members of the Board vote against the decision; in which case the decision is invalidated.

## **27. General Assembly**

The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Association and decides on all matters not assigned by Law or these Statutes to other organs. The GA decides on any matter falling normally into the jurisdiction of another body, that would have been brought before another institution, following a decision of an absolute majority of the members of that institution, so it bears this responsibility.

The General Assembly controls and supervises the Association's other organs. The GA has exclusive jurisdiction:

- a. to elect the Members of the Board and the Auditing Committee (AC).
- b. to judge on the report of the outgoing Board and decide on the approval of the budget.
- c. to determine the amount of annual contributions and registrations after proposal of the Board.
- d. to judge and decide on the exemption or not of the Board from any liability, based on the report of the AC.
- e. to decide on any amendment of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.
- f. to name honorary members of the Association after proposal of the Board.
- g. to decide to dissolve the Association.
- h. to decide on the rules governing the management of the Association's money.
- i. to decide on the purchase of any fixed or movable asset, worth over three thousand Euros (3,000).



j) to decide on any other matter that legally serves the purposes of the Association.

## **28. Convening the General Assembly**

The GA is convened by the Board after written invitation once a year by the end of March or extraordinarily when requested by the Board, or by at least 1/10 of the financially updated Members through written application to the Board. The request must state the reason for seeking convergence and the issues requested for discussion. The Chairman of the Board is obliged to convene the Meeting within twenty (20) days from the submission of the application.

In case of disagreement of the Board or if the President is idle and not issued an invitation, after 15 days from notification of the written request, the extraordinary General Meeting may be called directly by the 1/5 of the financially updated members with voting rights. The written invitation for convening the General Meeting must state a) the issues to be discussed, b) the place, date and time of the Assembly, and the place, date and time of the repeat Assembly in case a quorum is not achieved at the first Assembly.

Each invitation to a GA must be announced to the members of the Association at a certain date, at least eight (8) days before the date set for the Assembly. The invitation may be sent by electronic mail, fax, or post.

## **29. Quorum of General Assembly**

The meeting of the General Assembly is in quorum with the presence of 1/2 of the regular financially updated members. Members that have not fulfilled their financial obligations do not participate in the General Meeting. In case of no quorum, the Assembly is carried out as specified in the notice, without other call or notice. In this second meeting, the Assembly is in quorum no matter how many are present.

## **30. General Assembly Procedure**

The President and Secretary are elected at the beginning of the General Assembly. Members of the Board or the Auditing Committee may not be elected President or Secretary of the Assembly. The Chairman of the Meeting directs the discussion, gives and takes away the floor, constitutes a vote and may interrupt any meeting which is noisy and threatened by friction and recriminations. The Secretary keeps the Minutes of the Assembly.

During the General Assembly, concerning the conduct of elections, a three-member Election Committee will be elected, which consists of the President and two members, and shall ensure the carrying out and nomination of suitable candidates. Members of the

Election Committee cannot be candidates for the Board of Directors or the Auditing Committee. Ordinal members of the Association that wish to be elected as members of the Board or the Auditing Committee, have already announced in this writing or will announce this to the Election Committee. It is also possible for a member to propose the candidacy of another member for the Board or the Auditing Committee. In the absence of the candidate member, they may make an application in writing to the Election Committee before voting begins, with the premise that the member will be financially updated. The Election Committee checks whether the candidates for the Board of Directors and the Auditing Committee meet the basic qualifications.

Every two years, a number of members of the Board of Directors are elected, equal to the number of those who have left. Each member of the General Assembly votes for 1-3 candidates by writing their surnames on a blank ballot. If the ballots are printed with the names of the candidates, each voter puts up to 3 crosses on the ballot. The five first runners-up are considered substitute members of the Board. Board members cannot be re-elected until after two (2) years from the normal expiry of their term.

The Auditing Committee (AC) consists of three members and three substitute members elected by the General Assembly. The election of the Auditing Committee takes place in accordance with Article 23 hereof together with the election of the Board every two years. Each member of the General Assembly votes for up to three candidates, putting the relevant crosses on the ballot. The first three in votes are elected members of the Committee, while the next three are considered substitute members.

Before the voting begins, The Election Committee receives the ballot box, checks if it is empty, and seals it; then, the Chairman announces the start of the election. Voting lasts until all attendees that wish to vote have done so. Each attending member can represent, by written proxy, and vote on behalf of only one of the missing members with right to vote.

Objections are submitted throughout the course of the vote to the Election Committee, which meets immediately and announces its decision.

### **31. Proclamation of elected members and convening of the new Board**

After the election, the votes received by each candidate are counted. Finally, the Supervisory Board makes the proclamation of the elected members of the Board and the Auditing Committee and draws up a detailed report signed by its members. During the election process, in order to promote four (4) Board members, the considered elected members are the two (2) candidates, with the highest number of votes, psychotherapists in categories a or b of Article 7 hereof and two (2) candidates, with the highest number of votes, counsellors in categories d or e of Article 7 hereof. If there are insufficient nominations of either psychotherapists or counsellors, the seats are filled from both sides. During the election process, in order to promote three (3) Board Members, the considered elected members of the psychotherapist candidates with the highest number of

votes belonging to categories a or b of Article 7 hereof, the counsellor candidate with the highest number of votes belonging to category d or e of Article 7 hereof and another candidate with the next highest number of votes, regardless of class.

Within 10 (ten) days from the election, the Board of Directors will meet regularly under the chairmanship of the candidate with the highest number of votes in previous elections and remaining in the Board of Directors, and elects, by secret ballot, the President, two Vice Presidents, the General Secretary and the Treasurer. Each member of the new Board of Directors shall be informed within a week by the Board member retiring that has the appropriate authority and will take over their duties.

At the first election after the founding of the Association, there will be elected three psychotherapists, three counsellors and another majority member regardless of category, all with the highest number of votes. If there are no nominations of psychotherapists or counsellors in each election, the positions will be filled from both sides (in accordance with Article 11 hereof, the right to vote and stand for election are the categories a, b, d and e of Article 7 hereof).

### **32. Decisions of the General Assembly**

The GA's decisions are taken by a show of hands, unless required to be conducted by secret ballot by 1/10 of the present regular members. In case of dispute of the result, counting of the ballots takes place. The GA's decisions relating to the formulation of censure to the Board or Auditing Committee or individual members of the Board or disqualification of a member of the Association or generally concerning personal matters, are taken by secret vote; otherwise they are considered void. Also, elections are mandatorily conducted by secret ballot.

### **33. Modification of the Statute**

The present Statute may be amended by decision of the General Assembly, ordinary or extraordinary, especially convened by the Board or at the request of 1/5 of the regular and financially updated members of the Association. The amendment may be decided upon at the first General Assembly by a majority of half + 1 of the financially updated members present at the General Meeting with a quorum of at least 1/2 + 1 of the members. If there is no quorum, the Assembly is repeated, having as quorum all present financially updated members of the Association, and decisions are taken by the 2/3 majority of the members present. If a quorum is present at the beginning, it is considered to exist by the end of the Assembly.

Afterwards, the modification of these statutes takes place during an ordinary or extraordinary GA for this purpose, and requires the presence of 2/3 of financially updated members. The approval of the change of the statutes requires a majority of 2/3 of the

members present. If there is no quorum, the Assembly is repeated and then quorum is considered 1/2 plus one of the members of the Association and decisions are taken by the majority of 2/3 of the members present. If a quorum is present at the beginning, it is considered to exist by the end of the Assembly.

Any other vote of the General Assembly requires relevant majority of members present.

### **34. Issues not covered by this Statute**

Any matter relating to the Association and is not provided in this Statute, is regulated by the General Assembly, under the condition that the decision does not require actions that are contrary to the provisions of the existing civil and criminal code.

### **35. Seal**

The Association has a circular stamp with the initials of the name of "EPVE" in the circumference of the circle, and the initials PCEA (Person-Centred and Experiential Approach) along with the date of foundation in the middle.

### **36. Dissolution of the Association**

The Association's duration is unlimited. In any other case, the dissolution of the Association shall be decided by a majority of 3/4 of those present at the General Assembly of ordinal members, where a quorum of 3/4 of ordinal and financially updated members is needed. The dissolution of the Association is decided during an extraordinary General Assembly for this purpose, and the vote is required to be performed twice during the same meeting, at its beginning and its end. The Association is dissolved mandatorily if its members fall below ten (10).

The Association's funds may never be distributed among its members. At the same General Assembly, a three-member committee is elected, which undertakes the liquidation of the assets of the Association and their mandatory distribution to non-profit organizations, according to the decision of the General Assembly, to legal entities or organizations with similar objectives. In case of disagreement, the courts of Athens will be the competent authorities.

### **37. Founding members**

This Statute, consisting in its entirety of thirty-seven (37) Articles, was approved by the following founding members on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in Athens. On the same day, the founding members unanimously elected an interim Executive Committee, which is

authorized to act to achieve the objectives of the Association, until the approval of this Statute by the Athens Court of First Instance and its registration into the recognized union books. The application submitted to the competent court will be filed within two months, *i.e.*, until the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Upon approval and within 100 days, it will be necessary to convene a General Assembly for the election of a new Board and Auditing Committee.

**MEMBERS OF THE TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

## **THE FOUNDING MEMBERS**