

## Articles of Association

### 1. General information

#### Art. 1 Name and purpose

The «Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Bildungsforschung» (SGBF), «Société suisse pour la recherche en éducation»<sup>1</sup>, (Swiss Society for Research in Education, SSRE, hereinafter «Society») is a non-profit association organized under Article 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code.

The objective of the Society is to promote educational research in Switzerland. In particular, the Society aims to<sup>5</sup>:

- promote cooperation between educational research, policy, practice and administration,
- bring together the individuals and organizations active in educational research in Switzerland,
- promote cooperation between these individuals and organizations, in particular through working parties,
- provide these individuals and organizations with resources to facilitate scientific communication,
- provide members with information about scientific events at the national and international level, as well as on research policies, research funding possibilities and employment opportunities in the field of educational research,
- contribute to the advancement of younger researchers,
- promote the constant observation of educational research developments,
- represent the interests of educational research before educational/scientific policymakers and providers of education and science funding, to cultivate relationships with these bodies by sitting on decision-making boards and committees and to regularly inform SSRE members about the decisions taken by these boards and committees.

#### Art. 2 Registered office

The registered Office of the Society is situated at the same location as the Secretariat.<sup>6</sup>

### 2. Membership

#### Art. 3 Members

Membership is open to:

- natural persons as individual members,
- legal entities as collective members and
- honourable members duly appointed by the General Assembly

who are active in educational research or perform other tasks in the field of education in close collaboration with individuals or organizations engaged in or concerned with educational research.

#### **Art. 4 Membership dues and liability**

1. Annual membership dues for individual and collective membership are determined by the General Assembly. Honourable members are absolved of the financial obligation associated with membership.
2. The liability of members is restricted to the payment of the annual membership dues as determined by the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 1.

#### **Art. 5 Granting of membership**

1. Applications for membership must be addressed to the Executive Committee<sup>5</sup>. Membership is granted through a corresponding resolution of the Executive Committee.
2. If the Executive Committee does not accept an application, an appeal may be made at the next General Assembly; in such a case, membership will be granted provided that a corresponding resolution is passed by the General Assembly.
3. Full membership dues are due in the Society year during which membership is granted.

#### **Art. 6 Termination of membership**

1. Members who act contrary to the best interests of the Society can be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, stating the reasons for expulsion. Such a resolution by the Executive Committee can be appealed at the next General Assembly. Membership shall continue in such case until the General Assembly has made its decision.
2. Members who have not satisfied their financial obligation for a period of at least one year, despite payment reminders, can be deleted from the list of members by the Executive Committee.<sup>2</sup>
3. Members can resign their membership as of the date of the next scheduled General Assembly by giving notice in writing.
4. Full membership dues are due in the Society year during which membership is terminated.

### **3. Organization**

#### **Art. 7 Governing bodies**

The governing bodies of the Society are:

- the General Assembly
- the Executive Committee
- the Monitoring Committee
- the Working Parties<sup>5</sup>

#### **3A General Assembly**

#### **Art. 8 Composition and voting rights**

1. The General Assembly is the highest organ of the Society and is composed of all members (individual, collective and honourable members).
2. Each member can exercise one vote at the General Assembly.
3. A secret ballot is held at the General Assembly if requested by one or more members.

### **Art. 9 Convening and rules of procedure**

1. An ordinary General Assembly is convened once a year; extraordinary general assemblies may be scheduled when deemed necessary by the Executive Committee or when demanded by one-fifth of the Society's members.
2. Invitations to the General Assembly must be issued at least three weeks in advance. The General Assembly constitutes a quorum if duly convened.
3. Resolutions of the General Assembly are passed by a simple majority of the votes cast unless otherwise specified by law or these Articles of Association.

### **Art. 10 Duties**

1. The duties and responsibilities of the General Assembly are, in particular:
  - approving the annual report, the annual financial statements, the budget and the auditors' report,
  - electing the President and Vice-president<sup>5</sup>,
  - electing the other members of the Executive Committee and the Monitoring Committee,
  - determining membership dues in accordance with Art. 4,
  - approving revisions to the Articles of Association,
  - approving the dissolution of the Society, which shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes cast,
  - nominating honourable members,
  - passing resolutions on accession to other scientific associations,
  - voting on proposals submitted by the Executive Committee or individual members.
2. Motions that were not duly placed on the agenda can be voted on by the General Assembly only if at least three-quarters of the members present approve.

### **3B Executive Committee**

#### **Art. 11 Composition**

1. The Executive Committee is composed of at least seven and no more than thirteen members<sup>5</sup>, who are elected annually by the General Assembly.
2. The maximum term of office of an Executive Committee member is nine years<sup>5</sup>.
3. The editorial staff of the SSRE journal is entitled to representation on the Board, but is not subject to this term restriction.

#### **Art. 12 Constitution**

1. The President of the Society is concurrently the President of the Executive Committee. The President is elected to a one-year term of office and may be re-elected twice<sup>5</sup>.
2. The Vice-president is elected to a one-year term of office and is, in principle, the designated successor to the President<sup>5</sup>,
3. The Executive Committee appoints a Treasurer from its own ranks and is supported by a Secretariat<sup>5</sup>.

#### **Art. 13 Duties, responsibilities and working methods**

1. The Executive Committee manages the current affairs of the Society which do not fall within the competence of another organ and makes preparations for the General Assembly. It also represents the Society in its dealings with external parties.

2. The Executive Committee is authorized to delegate special tasks and responsibilities to individual members of the Society and to appoint sub-committees assigned to specific topics.
3. The Executive Committee shall submit to the General Assembly a balanced range of candidates for the Executive Committee<sup>5</sup>.
4. The President and the Executive Committee can establish an office of three to four members, consisting at minimum of the President, the Vice-President and the Treasurer<sup>5</sup>.

**Art. 14 Signatory powers**

The President, the Vice-president, the Secretary<sup>1</sup> and the Treasurer have legally binding signatures.

**3C Monitoring Committee**

**Art. 15 Composition and duties**

1. The General Assembly elects a Monitoring Committee composed of two auditors and a substitute. They are subject to the same provisions concerning term of eligibility for re-election as the Executive Committee, the auditors however are not subject to any term of office restrictions<sup>8</sup>.
2. The General Assembly can designate a fiduciary office as Monitoring Committee instead of electing a Monitoring Committee in accordance with paragraph 1.
3. The Monitoring Committee audits the accounts annually and subsequently submits a report addressed to the General Assembly with the Executive Committee.

**3D Working Parties<sup>5</sup>**

**Art. 16**

1. The Society accredits working parties that are active in educational research.
2. Working parties are accredited by the Executive Committee following presentation of a working plan and stipulation of one or more responsible parties who are individual members of the Society. Should a working party have shown no activity for two years, the Executive Committee can, after having conversed with the responsible parties of the working party, reassess whether this working party should be continued.<sup>7</sup>
3. Any group (informal groups, associations, societies) may apply for accreditation as an SSRE working party. Accreditation entitles the group to feature in the Society's publications and on the SSRE website. Like all other working parties, accredited groups are entitled to basic funding. Working parties may also submit applications via the Society for financial support of their activities.
4. Each working party compiles an annual report of its activities during the past year. This report is published in the SSRE annual report and newsletter.

**4. Financial resources**

**Art. 17 Financial resources**

1. The financial resources available to the Society are derived from
  - membership dues,
  - contributions from public authorities
  - and other contributions.
2. The Treasurer is responsible, together with the Executive Committee, for the allocation of the Society's financial resources and ensures that any assets are responsibly managed.

## **5. Final provisions**

### **Art. 18 Dissolution**

Any assets available upon dissolution of the Society will be transferred to another scientific organization with similar objectives in accordance with a resolution passed by a majority of the voting members.

### **Art. 19 Revision of the Articles of Association**

A revision of the Articles of Association can be passed by the General Assembly provided that it receives the affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of the members present.

### **Art. 20 Entry into force of Articles of Association**

These Articles of Association were adopted on June 28, 1975.

For the Founding Meeting:

The President: Prof. M. L. Goldschmid

The Vice-president: Dr. U. P. Lattmann

The Treasurer: Dr. L. Hürsch

### **Notes:**

- (1) Revision passed at the 1976 General Assembly, Zürich
- (2) Revision passed at the 1978 General Assembly, Lucerne
- (3) Revision passed at the 1983 General Assembly, Lucerne
- (4) Revision passed at the 1986 General Assembly, Bellinzona
- (5) Revision passed at the 2001 General Assembly, Aarau
- (6) Revision passed at the 2002 General Assembly, Lausanne
- (7) Revision passed at the 2010 General Assembly, Geneva
- (8) Revision passed at the 2011 General Assembly, Basle