

Articles of Association

Swiss Network of Young Migration Scholars

Adopted 14th August 2014; amended 20th September 2015; amended 24th August 2020.

Article 1

Name, Domicile, Duration and Language

1. Under the name “Schweizer Netzwerk junger Migrationswissenschaftler*innen” / “Swiss Network of Young Migration Scholars” / “Réseau Suisse des jeunes chercheurs et chercheuses en études des migrations” exists a non-profit association in the sense of articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. The Association is an independent legal entity with legal capacity governed by the Articles of Association and by Swiss law. The Association is politically and confessionally independent.
2. The Association is domiciled in Bern with members all over Switzerland.
3. The duration of the Association is unlimited.
4. The official languages of the Association are German, French, Italian and English.

Article 2

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Association is:
 - a. To provide a platform for cooperation, discussion and exchange for academics within the Migration Studies Research-Field.
 - b. To disseminate information and share opportunities regarding Migration Studies Research.
 - c. To organize gatherings for academics within the Migration Studies Research-Field.
 - d. To function as a public resource on Migration Studies Research.
2. The Association may engage in all activities and take all actions necessary and appropriate to carry out the above objectives.

Article 3

Criteria for Membership

1. Membership of the Association may be acquired by:
 - a. PhD-students and Post-Graduates within the Migration Studies Research-Field either based in Switzerland or with a special relationship to Switzerland
 - b. Academic Staff and Professionals within the Migration-Field in Switzerland
 - c. Persons and Institutions with a special affiliation to the Migration-Field in Switzerland
2. The members undertake to promote the purpose of the Association.

Article 4

Beginning and End of Membership

1. Subject to Article 3, the founding members as per the Constituent General Assembly adopting the present Articles of Association, are the initial members of the Association.
2. Membership may be obtained through recommendation by a current member. New members are added to the distribution list of the Association.
3. Membership ceases on the date on which a member resigns or is removed by the General Assembly for good cause, i.e. when, in the view of the General Assembly, the member acts contrary to the purpose of the Association or displays conduct that may cause harm to the Association. Upon ceasing membership, the member is removed from the distribution list of the Association.
4. Members may resign from the Association at any time by notifying the association in writing.

Article 5

Resources

The Associations resources are derived from:

- a. Fees and contributions provided by its members
- b. Donations, grants and other payments
- c. Any other resources as allowed by the applicable law

Article 6

Liability

The association's financial obligations can be satisfied only from its assets. The members of the Association shall not be personally liable for the obligations or debts of the Association.

Article 7

Representation

The Association shall be validly bound by the acts of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee represents the Association by signature of two of its members.

Article 8

Organization

The bodies of Association are:

- a. The General Assembly
- b. The Executive Committee

- c. The General Assembly can create as additional body an external auditor by simple majority

Article 9

General Assembly

1. The General Assembly consists of the members of the Association.
2. The General Assembly has the following functions and powers:
 - a. To adopt and amend the Articles of Association
 - b. To appoint and dismiss the members of the Executive Committee
 - c. To resolve upon the expulsion of members according to Article 4, section 3.
 - d. To adopt resolutions discharging the members of the Executive Committee from all liabilities.
 - e. To approve or reject programs and activities submitted by members or external actors.
 - f. To review and approve the annual report prepared by the Executive Committee according to Article 13, section 5, letter b).
 - g. To fix the membership fee. The fee for the membership of natural persons shall be lower than the fee for Associations and Institutions.
 - h. To decide on the dissolution of the Association.

Article 10

Meetings

1. The General Assembly shall hold an ordinary meeting once per year. Further meetings may be convened whenever necessary upon request of the Executive Committee or at least 20% of the members.
2. The General Assembly shall take place upon invitation by the Executive Committee, by mail or any other written means. The notice of call shall state the place and time of the meeting and the items of the agenda. Meetings shall be called at least 30 (thirty) days in advance.
3. The General Assembly shall be chaired by a member of the Association other than a member of the Executive Committee.

Article 11

Voting Rights

1. Each member has one vote at the General Assembly.
2. Votes are not transferable to another member or a third person.

Article 12

Resolutions

1. Unless provided otherwise by mandatory provisions of the law or by the Articles of Association, the General Assembly shall adopt resolutions by a majority vote of the members present. The chairperson of the meeting shall have the casting vote.
2. Any amendment to the Articles of Association, as well as the decision to dissolve the Association, requires a majority of two-thirds of the members present.

Article 13

Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee is elected by the General Assembly according to Article 9, letter b) and consists of a minimum of two and maximum of nine members.
2. The members of the Executive Committee shall be members of the Association.
3. Each member of the Executive Committee shall serve for a two-year term following his/her election, such term ending on the day of the respective ordinary General Assembly. After expiry of term, they may be re-elected. Should a member wish to leave the Executive Committee before the finalization of his/her term, they are asked to announce their departure at least one month in advance and the board may co-opt another member of the Association, presented by the leaving member, by majority of the board. At the next General Assembly the co-optee's term is expired and he/she may be re-elected.
4. Members of the Executive Committee act voluntarily and will not receive any compensation.
5. The Members of the Executive Committee elect a Chairperson amongst the Members of the Committee. The Mandate of the Chairperson is hold by the same person for the term of a year and is renewable.
6. The Executive Committee shall have the following functions and powers:
 - a. To develop proposals, programs or activities for consideration and approval by the General Assembly.
 - b. Review the balance sheet and present to the General Assembly a written report on the annual activities.
 - c. To make recommendations to the General Assembly in connection with the possible expulsion of members pursuant to Article 4, part 3.
 - d. To take management decisions and all steps required to attain the purpose of the Association within the limits and scope of the approved activities.
 - e. To establish and amend the Association's organizational rules, to the extent required.
 - f. To establish councils and sub-committees.
 - g. To administer the resources of the Association.
 - h. To ensure compliance with the Articles of Association.

Articles 14

Meetings and Resolutions of the Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee meets as often as required.
2. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened upon invitation by the Chairperson of the Committee by mail or any other written means. Members may attend meetings in person or by telephone conference call.
3. If no objection is raised, meetings of the Executive Committee may be held without observing the above prescribed formalities related to the calling of the meeting.

4. The Executive Committee makes decisions by simple majority of the members present. The Chairperson of the Committee shall have the casting vote.

Article 15

Financial Year

The financial year of the Association shall start and end with its regular General Assembly.

Article 16

Dissolution and Liquidation

1. The Association will be dissolved:
 - a. Upon resolution of the General Assembly pursuant to Article 9, letter f) and Article 12 part 2.
 - b. In the circumstances provided for by the applicable law.
2. In case of dissolution of the Association, the Executive Committee shall proceed to its liquidation. The Executive Committee shall devolve any assets remaining after payment of all the debts of the Association to a non-profit organization having the same or a similar purpose.

Article 17

Entry into Force

The founding members have adopted the present Articles of Association by way of a Constituent General Assembly on 14 August 2014 at 18:15. The present Articles of Association shall enter into force on this same day.

Last amended on 24 August 2020.