



## **Statutes of the International Society of Professional Heilpedagogic Organisations (IGhB)**

These statutes add to the IGhB's agreement of November 17, 2005.

Upon signing by the organisations' representatives the statutes shall replace the previous agreement as binding instrument for future cooperation.

### **1. Name, registered office, business year**

The society is called

International Society of Professional Heilpedagogic Organisations (Internationale Gesellschaft heilpädagogischer Berufs- und Fachverbände, IGhB)

The place of business shall be the country of the current executive board.

The business year corresponds to the calendar year.

### **2. Purpose of the IGhB**

Within Europe and world-wide, taking part in society is particularly important for people who are emotionally, socially, mentally and/or physically disabled, impaired or might face such conditions; this leads to the question of social responsibility for inclusion, individual help and support.

In fulfilling this responsibility national and regional governments and institutions focus on creating a social and humane community of values.

During the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003, the call to "realise participation, enforce equality, enable self-determination" crossed Europe and is carried on by the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

With their professional approach, heilpedagogues contribute to achieving this goal.

The organisations signing this agreement seek to work together on an international level regarding vocational issues, advocate the profession of heilpedagogues and strengthen, promote and spread heilpädagogik internationally.

This cooperation aims to

- find and express mutual views on relevant vocational issues
- promote professional exchange,
- reflect, strengthen and develop educational standards for heilpedagogues which are comparable internationally (EQF, CanMeds),
- support each other in creating institutional structures,
- provide supportive and critical assistance for heilpedagogic practice,
- adopt mutual professional ethics,
- further educate heilpedagogues in Europe regarding specific and interdisciplinary topics.



The organisations joined together in the IGhB express mutual statements on developments in national, European and international social politics, provided they are related to the Society's purpose and aims. The organisations consider themselves as competent points of contact regarding heilpädagogic issues and are a professional association for heilpädagoges.

The IGhB is ideologically and politically neutral.

### **3. Bodies of the IGhB**

- The General Meeting (all executive members of all professional organisations)  
The General Meeting meets as required to decide on fundamental and strategical tasks.
- The Executive Committee (up to 3 delegated managing directors or appointed persons of each professional organisation)  
The Executive Committee meets as required, but at least two times a year. The Committee decides on the Society's current tasks and acts in its name.  
If required, the Executive Committee summons the General Meeting of the IGhB.
- The Executive Committee is appointed for a period of four years.

### **4. Operating principle of the EC**

- The members of the EC elect a president from among their group to represent the Society in public.
- The president will be appointed for no more than two terms of office.
- Furthermore, the EC appoints the management which supports the president regarding operational tasks.
- The EC manages the IGhB's financial resources through the management and annually informs the member organisations' representatives about the use of financial means by providing a budget plan.
- The EC decides about the establishment of an administrative office where required.

### **5. Financing**

The member organisations bear expenses for committee work themselves (e.g. travelling expenses for meetings).

There is a pay-as-you-go funding for the Society's activities based on a yearly basic allowance for each organisation according to their number of members.  
The Executive Committee decides on the amount.

The EC needs to decide unanimously on all financing issues, including those of an administrative office.

Other financing regulations require the EC's voting.

### **6. Membership**

Other professional organisations are requested and cordially invited to take part in future international cooperation.



Any professional organisation representing heilpedagogues (used as a synonym for special educators, special needs pedagogues, rehabilitation pedagogues, ortho-pedagogues) working in the field of in-school or out-of-school-education can become a member of the IGhB.

The organisation has to be a legal entity.

The Executive Committee shall decide on the admission of new member organisations.

Guest memberships are possible for one year (i.e. two meetings), after which the guest membership is terminated; the organisation can apply to be fully admitted to the IGhB which is subject to a charge.

Individual representatives of the organisation can also take part in meetings of the EC.

### **7. Termination of Membership**

The termination of membership requires a written letter of resignation addressed to the managing director with six months' notice to the end of the year.

A 2/3 majority of all present members of the General Meeting is required to exclude a member organisation.

Utrecht, November 9, 2014

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BHS, Switzerland

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A.L.P.C., Luxembourg

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NVO, Netherlands

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PRO LP, Slovakia

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BHP e. V., Germany