



PCE Europe

European Network
for Person-Centred and Experiential
Psychotherapy and Counselling

Chapter of the World Association for
Person-Centered and Experiential
Psychotherapy and Counseling (WAPCEPC)

www.pce-europe.org

STATUTES

of PCE Europe.

European Network for Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counselling

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PREAMBLE

The Network was founded on 27 September 1998, in the City of Luxembourg on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of European Person/Client–Centred Organisations in Luxembourg. On July 5, 2009, the Network (generally referred to as PCE Europe) became a Chapter of the World Association for Person-Centered and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counseling (WAPCEPC).

The Statutes were agreed at the 2nd General Assembly on 26 September 1999 in Athens, Greece, revised at the 3rd General Assembly on 25 and 26 November 2000 in Salgótarján, Hungary, at the GA 2008 in Norwich, England (confirmed 2009 in Szeged), at the GA on June, 30, 2010 in Rome and revised at the Extraordinary General Assembly on 25 April, 2020 in an online session. In 2020 PCE Europe was registered as a non-profit association in Austria. Further amendments: online-GA on June 25 and 26, 2021, online-GA on July 07 and 08, 2023.

The terms "Person–Centred" and "Experiential" and the concepts and processes they encompass have an extensive, rich and evolving history. The choice of the phrase "Person–Centred and Experiential" is intended to promote continued dialogue and development; it is not intended to favour any particular understanding of these approaches and their relationship.

§ I. NAME, LOCATION AND ACTIVITY

1. The name of the Association is „PCE Europe (European Network for Person-Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counselling)“. Hereinafter referred to only as PCE Europe.
2. PCE Europe has its headquarters in Vienna and extends its activities all over Europe.
3. The accounting year is equivalent to the calendar year.

§ II. PURPOSE

1. As an NGO the Association, whose activities are not profit-oriented, politically neutral, non-religious and non-denominational, aims to promote personal development and the humanisation of interpersonal and social relationships in private and public life. Its purpose is to disseminate and promote the person-centred and experiential approaches in individual, societal and cultural life, especially in the areas of counselling and psychotherapy.
2. According to its statutes, the Association pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes and is therefore a non-profit association in the sense of the applicable tax regulations (§§ 34 to 47 of the Federal Fiscal Code – BAO).
3. The aim of PCE Europe is to provide a European-wide forum for those professionals in science and practice who
 - have a commitment to the primary importance of the relationship between client and therapist in psychotherapy and counselling;
 - hold as central to the therapeutic endeavour the client's actualising process and phenomenological world;
 - embody in their work those conditions and attitudes conducive to therapeutic movement postulated by Carl Rogers and his contemporate colleagues and validated by many others to the present day;
 - have a commitment to an understanding of both clients and therapists as persons, who are at the same time individuals and in relationship with others and their diverse environments and cultures;
 - have an openness to the development and elaboration of person-centred and experiential theory in light of current and future practice and research;
 - work in a cognate profession and embrace the purpose, principles and goals of PCE Europe.
4. This is congruent with the principles of the World Association for Person-Centered and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counseling (WAPCEPC) and in accordance with the non-discrimination accord valid within the framework of the European Union.

§ III. GOALS

The Association has the following goals:

- to further co-operation between person-centred and experiential associations, institutions and individuals in Europe, especially in the field of psychotherapy and counselling, e.g. through common projects;
- to support/facilitate European person-centred and experiential associations, institutions and individuals in their work;

- to promote the person-centred and experiential paradigm and to support and encourage scientific study as well as the improvement of practice in this paradigm, specifically in the fields of psychotherapy and counselling;
- to engage in socio-political processes to ensure the continued contribution of the paradigm in health, social insurance, education, academic contexts etc.;
- to have a commitment to support and/or organise European PCA conferences;
- to foster the exchange of research, theory and practice among a variety of language groups through existing journals and other means, including electronic means and social media;
- to exchange ideas with other psychotherapeutic and counselling orientations and to stimulate co-operation in the field of psychotherapy and counselling;
- to work closely with the WAPCEPC and other Person-/Client-centred associations and organisations;
- to work with other key Europe Wide associations, as appropriate, such as the European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP) and the European Association for Counselling (EAC).

§ IV. MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The purpose of the association will be realised through non-material (paragraph 2) and material (paragraph 3) means.

2. non-material means are:

- a) lectures, meetings, symposia, publications, the creation of a website and other electronic media etc. to promote, disseminate and further develop the person-centred and experiential approaches;
- b) stimulating, promoting and supporting personal initiatives and self-help groups;
- c) reflection and development of practice, theory and research and promotion of scientific work and publications in the field of the Person-centred and Experiential approaches;
- d) statements on health policy issues and on topics of psychosocial care and other publicly relevant issues related to the purpose of the Association;
- e) cooperation with institutions, associations and groups pursuing similar objectives, in Austria and elsewhere;
- f) other activities that are similar to the means referred to in a) to e) above.

3. material means are:

- a) annual membership fees,
- b) income from events
- c) contributions, donations, subsidies, admission fees, certificate fees and other grants.

§ V. MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

1. The structure of PCE Europe corresponds to person-centred and experiential principles.
2. The Association is open to organisational (paragraph a) and individual (paragraph b) members.
 - a) The Association invites into its membership existing national person/client-centred and experiential organisations, training institutes and other institutions in Europe which
 - adhere to the Associations principles, purposes and its goals (see § II. and § III.),
 - are committed to clearly defined ethical standards,
 - have a commitment to psychotherapy and counselling training and/or further training according to contemporary, local and international Person-centred training standards.

As far as psychotherapy, according to the EAP (European Association for Psychotherapy) regulations, is concerned, members acknowledge the standards of the EAP and, if not yet met, aim towards fulfilling them within a specified period of time.

As far as counselling, according to the EAC (European Association for Counselling) regulations, is concerned, members acknowledge the standards of the EAC and, if not yet met, aim towards fulfilling them within a specified period of time.

- b) 1. Individual membership is open only to members of organisational PCE Europe members. Individual members are required to embrace the principles and goals of the Association.
 2. If there is no existing person-centred or experiential national association, an individual may become a member for a maximum of five years. In this instance, he/she/they will be supported by PCE Europe to develop a national association according to the conditions mentioned in a).
3. The principle of local autonomy of all members is maintained, most of all concerning the specific rules and regulations of each country.

§ VI. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

1. All members of PCE Europe promote the aims of the Association in theory and practice. They have a seat and vote(s) in the General Assembly. The delegates of the Member Organisations and Individual members have the right to stand for election.
2. Members are obliged to pay the membership fees determined by the General Assembly when due.

§ VII. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership expires by disbandment of the member association, death or incapacity, voluntary resignation, cancellation or exclusion.
2. Voluntary resignation is only effective at the end of the calendar year.

3. If an Organisational Member has not paid the membership fee by six months after it is due, without a mutual agreement of exception by the Board and the Organisational Member, a reminder fee of 10% will be added to the membership fee. If the membership fee and the reminder fee are not paid by one year after it was due, the membership will be terminated after the Board has communicated with the member. If the former Organisational Member later applies for membership, the non-paid year, including the reminder fee, must also be paid.
4. The Board can suspend a member for exceptional reasons. The General Assembly can ratify the decision by expelling the member. Exceptional circumstances include gross violation of the obligations as a member and violation of the ethical framework and professional standards. The reason for exclusion must be communicated to the member in writing. Any objection must be submitted to the Board within six weeks.

§ VIII. ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Organs of the association are

- a) the General Assembly (§ IX);
- b) the Board (§ X);
- c) the Auditors (§ XI);
- d) any other committee installed by the Board

§ IX. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The General Assembly (GA), consisting of the delegates of the Organisational members of PCE Europe and the Individual members, takes all essential decisions.
2. The General Assembly meets every two years.
3. Votes concerning the formal processing of the meetings including the agenda are passed by a simple majority of vote (i. e. one round, simple majority).
4. Decisions are made unanimously whenever possible, as striving for consensus and compromise is an essential part of putting the Person-centred and Experiential principles into action.
5. If a consensus cannot be achieved there will be a vote. If the number of individual votes is fewer than the number of delegate votes, decisions will be made by simple majority. If the number of individual votes exceeds the number of delegate votes, a majority of both the Organisational and Individual members must be achieved.
6. Each Organisational member can send up to two delegates. The delegates of one organisation have to agree on their vote on behalf of their organisation.

7. Organisational members of PCE Europe with up to 100 members have one vote, with up to 1000 members two votes, with more than 1000 members three votes.
8. Whenever possible, a member of the WAPCEPC Board will be present at the GA as a non-voting guest.
9. Members can give their proxy vote(s) in written form to one other member, detailed regulations see Bylaws § I, 3-4.
10. A quorum is constituted regardless of the number of members present.
11. The physical participation of a member in the General Assembly is encouraged. Participation via electronic media is possible. In exceptional circumstances the General Assembly can be an online-only meeting.

§ X. BOARD

1. The Board consists of three to seven people.
2. The Board members are elected for a period of two years.
3. Only three consecutive re-elections are possible.
4. If a new Board is not elected the present Board continues until the next election.
5. The legal representation of PCE Europe to the outside world is the duty of the Chair of the Board. In the event that the Chair is indisposed, the Treasurer acts on his/her behalf.
6. The legally binding signature for PCE Europe is that of the Chair and the Secretary together, and in financial matters, those of the Chair and the Treasurer together.
7. The functions of the board are threefold:
 - firstly to carry out the decisions and policies of PCE Europe agreed in the General Assembly,
 - secondly to manage ongoing matters and
 - thirdly to deal with matters which may arise between meetings of the General Assembly and require prompt action.
8. The tasks of the Board include (see also Bylaws, III.):
 - preparing for the General Assembly;
 - organisation of the General Assembly;
 - admitting new members who have fulfilled the membership requirement;
 - providing the signatories on any banking account opened by PCE Europe;
 - presenting a statement of the bi-annual accounts and determining the budget for the next two years, subject to the approval of the General Assembly;
 - presenting a report of the activities of the Board since the last General Assembly.

§ XI. AUDITORS

1. The General Assembly elects two auditors for a term of two years from different member Associations.
2. Their task is to examine all the financial affairs, including the annual financial statements of PCE Europe.

§ XII. MEMBERSHIP FEE

1. The members pay a membership fee to meet the expenses of the Association.
2. The level of the membership fee is decided by the General Assembly.

§ XIII. ARBITRATION OF ASSOCIATION DISPUTES

1. Disputes arising from the Association relationship shall be settled by an Arbitration Committee. It is a "conciliation body" in the sense of the Association Law 2002 and not an arbitration court according to §§ 577 ff ZPO.
2. All members of the Arbitration Committee shall be part of the PCE community. Each party to the dispute nominates, to the Board, an Arbitrator. After notification to the Board, the two nominated Arbitrators agree upon a third person, who will be the Chairperson of the Arbitration Committee. The Chairperson of the Arbitration Committee must be agreed within fourteen days.
3. If the two Arbitrators are unable to reach an agreement, the problem will be resolved within fourteen days by drawing lots among candidates proposed by the Arbitrators.
4. The Arbitration Committee shall make its decisions unanimously whenever possible, hearing the parties of the dispute in the presence of all members of the Arbitration Committee and striving for consensus. If a consensus is not achieved, then the decision will be made by a simple majority of votes. The result of the arbitration must be addressed in writing to all parties of the dispute. The decisions of the Arbitration Committee are final within the Association.

§ XIV. VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The dissolution of PCE Europe needs a two thirds majority of both the Organisational and Individual members in the General Assembly if a consensus cannot be reached.
2. In the event of the dissolution of PCE Europe all money, goods or property owned by PCE Europe, after satisfaction of all proper debts and liabilities, within the meaning of sections §§ 34 ff BAO, is transferred to (a) non-profit oriented association/s with like-minded goals, e.g. the World Association for Person-Centered Psychotherapy and Counseling (WAPCEPC).