



## **NETWORK OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATIONS FOR PERSON-CENTRED AND EXPERIENTIAL PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELLING**

**[www.pce-europe.org](http://www.pce-europe.org)**

Member of the European Association for Psychotherapy ([EAP](#))

Member of the European Association for Counselling ([EAC](#))

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

### **STATUTES**

#### **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) and at the GA on June, 30, 2010 in Rome.*

*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. Principles**

1. 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 first postulated by Carl Rogers
  - 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 practise and research.
2. This is in line 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.

## II. Goals

The Network has the following goals:

- to further co-operation between person-centred associations and institutions in Europe, especially in the field of psychotherapy and counselling, e. g. through common projects
- to support/facilitate European person-centred associations, institutions and individuals in their work
- to promote the person-centred paradigm and to support and encourage scientific study as well as the improvement of practise in this paradigm, specifically in the field 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
- to exchange ideas with other psychotherapeutic and counselling orientations and to stimulate co-operation in the field of psychotherapy and counselling
- to work together closely with the WAPCEPC and other person-/client-centred associations
- to work together with the European Association for Psychotherapy (EAP), the European Association for Counselling (EAC) and other key associations.

## III. Means

1. The purpose of the association will be realised through idealistic and material means.
2. Idealistic means are lectures, meetings, publications etc. Material means are admission fees, annual membership fees, contributions, donations, conference fees and other proceeds.

## IV. Structure

1. The structure of PCE Europe corresponds to person-centred principles.
2. The Network invites into its membership existing national person/client-centred and experiential organisations, training institutes and other institutions in Europe which
  - are current organisational members of the WAPCEPC
  - adhere to the Network's *principles* and its *goals* (see I. and II.),
  - are committed to clearly defined *ethical standards*,
  - have a commitment to psychotherapy and counselling *training* and/or further training according to *state of the art person-centred training standards* and *national* (if these exist) *psychotherapy and/or counselling 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 given 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 given period of time.

3. The principle of local autonomy is maintained. The authority of PCE Europe can only be applied to its composition, to its collaborative procedures and to its external relationships. It also applies to questions concerning the European Certificate of Psychotherapy. Any other decisions limiting the rights of national organisations require the ratification of the members to become effective.

## **V. Sections**

1. PCE Europe consists of two sections, the Section of Psychotherapy and the Section of Counselling.
2. Each member can be a member in one or both sections in accordance with the regulations in its statutes, the legal requirements according to national law and the guidelines of the EAP and EAC.
3. Decisions concerning either only psychotherapy or only counselling can only be made by members of the respective section.

## **VI. General Assembly**

1. The General Assembly (GA), consisting of the delegates of the members of PCE Europe, takes all essential decisions.
2. *Decisions* are made unanimously whenever possible, as striving for consensus and compromise is an essential part of putting the person-centred principles into action.
3. Each member can send up to two *delegates*. The delegates of one organisation have to agree on their vote on behalf of their organisation.
4. Network members with up to 100 members have one vote, with up to 1000 members two votes, with more than 1000 members three votes.
5. Whenever possible, a member of the board of the World Association takes part at the GA as a guest.

## **VII. Board**

1. The board consists of four to six people.
2. 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 if necessary.
3. The tasks of the board include (see also bylaws, III.):
  - preparing the General Assembly
  - being responsible for the organisation of the meeting of the General Assembly admitting new members who have fulfilled the membership requirement

- providing up to two signatories on any banking account opened by PCE Europe
- presenting a statement of the annual accounts and determining the budget for the next year, subject to the approval of the General Assembly
- presenting a report of its work during the last year to the General Assembly.

### **VIII. Auditors**

1. The General Assembly elects two auditors from different associations.
2. Their task is to examine all the financial affairs, including the annual financial statements of PCE Europe.

### **IX. Membership fee**

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

### **X. Dissolution**

1. The dissolution of PCE Europe needs a two thirds majority 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, is transferred to the World Association for Person-Centered Psychotherapy and Counseling (WAPCEPC) or a similar association, if the WAPCEPC does not exist.

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## **BYLAWS**

*The Bylaws in their present form were agreed at the 2nd General Assembly on September 26, 1999 in Athens, Greece and modified at the GA on June, 30, 2010 in Rome.*

### **I. Membership, Delegates, Guests**

1. Persons can be delegated by up to two members.
2. Members have to nominate at least one delegate and notify the board of this nomination and any subsequent change.
3. Guests can be invited to the General Assembly, or parts of it, on the decision of the board or the General Assembly. They have no vote.
4. Delegates of European organisations which are not (yet) members of PCE Europe are welcome to participate as a guest at one General Assembly. They can be excluded from a part of the meeting by a decision of the General Assembly. They have no vote.
5. All applications for membership must be submitted to the board.

6. A member can leave at the end of each calendar year with three months prior notification.
7. It is the responsibility of the members to reimburse the expenses of their own delegates.

## **II. General Assembly**

1. Votes concerning the formal processing of the meetings including the agenda are done by simple majority vote (i. e. one round, simple majority).
2. If a consensus cannot be reached at elections or when changing the Statutes or the Bylaws a two thirds majority is required in the second vote. If there are more candidates than places those with the most votes will be admitted.
3. Other decisions are made unanimously whenever possible. If a consensus (a result without a vote against) cannot be reached one further voting will be necessary, with a discussion before the second vote is taken. In the second round a majority decision is accepted.
4. Members can give their proxy vote(s) in written form to one other member. Members can accept the proxy vote(s) of only one other member.
5. A quorum is constituted, if at least 50 % of the members are present (including proxy votes). If a quorum is not constituted the next General Assembly constitutes a quorum anyway which has to be announced together with the invitation to the next General Assembly.
6. The General Assembly meets every two years.
7. On demand of the board or of at least five members an Extraordinary General Assembly has to be convened by the board within a period of four months. The members have to be informed about the date at least three months in advance.
8. Items for the agenda, which can be proposed by any member, must be sent to the board not later than four months before the meeting in order to be put on the first provisional list. This first provisional agenda will be sent to members not later than three months prior to the General Assembly along with all necessary supporting information including the invitation to the next General Assembly. Later suggestions, which can be proposed right up until the beginning of the meeting, are put on a second provisional list. The final list of items for the agenda is decided by the General Assembly.
9. If an item was part of the first provisional list the delegates of the members are expected to have their organisations' mandate on the subject by the time of the General Assembly. If an item was not part of the first provisional list the delegates are free (a) to decide or (b) to request the postponement of the vote or (c) to decide provided that the association ratifies the provisional decision. In the latter case the vote becomes definite if the board is not notified otherwise in writing or by fax or email within two months of the General Assembly. Decisions limiting the rights of the members require the ratification of the members to become effective in any case.

## **III. Board**

1. The board members are elected in a secret vote for a period of two years.
2. Only three re-elections are possible.
3. If no new board is elected the present board continues until the next election.
4. The board can transfer tasks to other delegates of a member organisation.

5. In addition to the tasks mentioned in the statutes, VII, the board immediately after its election by the General Assembly designates
  - the co-ordinator (chair) of the board and
  - the treasurer (responsibilities for finances and bookkeeping)

Furthermore the board takes care of

- external relations
  - correspondence issues
  - membership issues
  - the contact to umbrella organisations
  - the preparation of the agenda of the General Assembly
  - the facilitation and leading of the General Assembly
  - the minutes of the General Assembly.
- 6. If a member of the board resigns his or her post the board can co-opt another person which must be ratified by the next General Assembly.
- 7. The board meets whenever necessary.
- 8. The board decides in the same spirit and process as the General Assembly.
- 9. Voting can also be carried out by mail, e-mail or fax.
- 10. Essential decisions which go beyond decisions of the General Assembly must be ratified by the next General Assembly.
- 11. The members of the board are granted a contribution towards their expenses provided that PCE Europe's financial situation allows it.

#### **IV. The auditors**

1. The auditors must not belong to the organisation of the treasurer.
2. They submit a report to the General Assembly with a proposal to accept or reject the financial statement and the budget.

#### **V. Admission and membership fee**

1. The membership fee is decided by the General Assembly at the suggestion of the board. If no decision is made the membership fee remains unchanged.
2. It has to be paid during the first three months of the calendar year.
3. New members have to pay an admission fee at the level decided by the General Assembly, at the suggestion of the board.

#### ***Note***

*Membership fee depends on the size of the organization. Starting 2010 it is 100 / 200 / 250 / 350 / 500 Euro annually, depending on the size of the organization.*

*The admission fee is 150 Euro.*