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1. Name

An international non-profit association according to articles §21 – 79 BGB Germany has been established under the name of **European Literacy Policy Network** and with the official abbreviation **ELINET**.

The association exclusively and directly follows non-profit purposes in the sense of the clause “tax sheltered purposes” of the tax code.

2. Legal status

2.1. This non-profit association is domiciled in Cologne, Germany

2.2. The status of ELINET as an association is regulated by these statutes.

3. Vision and objectives

3.1 ELINET’s vision is that everyone in Europa shall be literate. The term ‘literacy’ covers all forms of reading and writing (written communication) in print and digital media.

3.2 ELINET’s objectives are

a) to improve and advocate literacy policies and practices across Europe to support all European citizens’ and residents’ lifelong rights to engage critically and creatively with communication and learning.

b) to build and maintain a network of literacy experts (researchers, practitioners and policy makers)

c) to provide a communication platform to strengthen and foster collaboration and cooperation between different stakeholders in the field of literacy promotion.

4. Activities

With and through its members the association will

4.1. build thematic working groups (TWG) to foster and initiate joint research and evaluation projects and knowledge exchange.

4.2. provide network services by building up a public database of literacy experts and member profiles on the platform www.eli-net.eu and holding an annual member meeting.

4.3. make available information services around topics, events, projects and development in the field of literacy on the platform www.eli-net.eu and a regular newsletter.

4.4. offer publication services on the platform www.eli-net.eu and a printed yearbook to update and disseminate reports, articles and policy briefs.

5. Membership

Membership of ELINET is open to natural and legal persons.

5.1. Full Members

Full members are individuals working in the area of literacy. They have a vote at the annual General Assembly (GA) and are eligible for the (EC).

5.2. Associate Members

Associate members are institutions in the area of literacy; each institution can nominate up to three contact persons, but can cast only one vote at elections and are not eligible for the Executive Committee (EC).

Types of institutional members are:

- Ministries and governmental agencies (GOV)
- Regional educational authorities and agencies (REG)
- Research institutions and universities (RES)
- National provider associations (NP)
- Relevant NGOs at significant policy providing level (NGO)
- International institutes and agencies (INT)
- European and national networks (NET)
- Relevant international associations and networks (INET) and relevant institutions outside Europe (NE)
- Educational and research institutions, companies and other bodies concerned with literacy in one or more European countries.

5.3 Supporting Members

Supporting members are individuals or institutions in the area of literacy who support the association financially. Their logo will be displayed on the Association's platform and on printed materials. Supporting members have no right to vote.

5.4. Establishment and ending of membership

5.4.1. Membership shall be obtained by written application using forms prepared by the Executive Committee (EC). Approval or rejection of membership is by simple majority of the EC.

5.4.2. Membership starts officially at the date of acceptance by the EC. New members will pay 50% of the annual fee during their first year of membership.

5.4.3. Membership ends by dissolution of the member institution, withdrawal from the association or by expulsion. Withdrawal of membership must be declared in writing by giving six months' notice. It becomes effective at the end of the respective calendar year.

6. **Structure and organisation**

The Association includes the following organs:

- ❖ the General Assembly (GA)
- ❖ Thematic Working Groups (TWG) and their speakers
- ❖ the Executive Committee (EC) consisting of the speakers of the TWG and 2 additional members elected by the GA.

The GA governs the association and delegates its authority and the administrative running to the EC.

6.1. **General Assembly**

6.1.1. The affairs of the association shall be ordered by resolution in a meeting (General Assembly) of members. Even without a meeting, a decision is valid if all members declare their agreement to the decision in writing.

6.1.2. The Executive Committee shall give all Members of the Association notice of such a regular meeting at least three months before the actual date; the invitation shall enclose the agenda to be discussed.

6.1.4. Except if otherwise specified in these statutes, for all decisions and elections a simple majority is decisive.

6.2. Thematic Working Groups

All members of the Association are encouraged to join a thematic working group according to their expertise and thematic interest. Each groups elects a speaker by simple majority who represents the group in the Executive Committee. All groups are responsible to give input to the association as described in *Activities*.

6.3. Executive Committee

6.3.1. The Association shall be administered by an Executive Committee consisting of the speakers of the TWG and 2 more members elected by the GA.

6.3.2. The term of the EC is two years.

6.3.3. The Executive Committee is accountable to the GA and responsible for policy advocacy and monitoring all activities related to the platform and the quarterly newsletter.

6.3.4. The Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Secretary are chosen by the GA among the elected members of the EC.

6.3.5. The Chairperson represents the association as a spokesperson, the Treasurer is responsible for the financial liaison and the Secretary coordinates the activities of the association.

7. Finance

7.1. The income of the association consists of membership subscriptions paid by its members and donations and funding for projects and activities of the TWGs.

7.2. The rate and method of payment of fees shall be determined by the annual GA on the recommendation of the EC.

7.3. An annual budget shall be prepared by the EC for consideration and approval by the annual GA.

7.4. The annual budget shall cover the running costs of the platform and other expenses.

7.5. The financial year is the calendar year.

8. Amendments and Dissolution

- 8.1. These statutes may be amended or altered with the support of at least 2/3 of the members voting.
- 8.2. Amended statutes shall be signed by the sitting Executive Committee.
- 8.3. The ELINET association can be dissolved by decision of the annual GA or at an extraordinary GA called for that purpose. For the dissolution of the association a two thirds majority of the members is required. Once any assets have been called in and any debts have been cleared, any remaining funds shall be donated to an organisation with similar objectives.