

Charter of the EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOUR THERAPY (EDBTA)

§ 1

The name of the association with legal capacity is: European Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Association, e.V. (EDBTA).

The European Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Association, e.V. is a registered association with legal capacity with its registered office in 79117 Freiburg, Germany. The EDBTA exclusively and directly pursues non-profit purposes within the meaning of the section "Tax-privileged purposes" of the German Tax Code.

The purpose of the association with legal capacity is the promotion of public health, science, and research in the European area. The EDBTA is an international, multidisciplinary scientific association dedicated to promoting the improvement, dissemination, and quality control of Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT), a scientifically proven effective psychotherapy.

The purpose of the statutes is realized in particular by:

(1) The promotion of education and training in DBT within Europe in accordance with current scientific knowledge and generally accepted principles and methods; (2) The support of the dissemination and application of DBT in the European public health system (publication of research results); (3) The promotion of international cooperation of people researching and working in the sense of evidence-based DBT (organization of clinically oriented congresses; promotion of the World DBT Association (WDBTA)); (4) the promotion and development of scientific research on DBT and related areas (holding of scientific congresses); (5) the promotion of communication, understanding and integration of research findings on the mechanisms and effectiveness of DBT (awarding of grants on regionally linked health care research); (6) the preservation of the integrity of treatment and the development of guidelines for treatment and training in DBT; (7) the expansion of the range of applications of DBT (awarding of grants and research funding).

§ 2

The EDBTA is selflessly active; it does not pursue its own economic purposes.

§ 3

The funds of the EDBTA may only be used for purposes in accordance with the statutes. Members shall not receive any benefits from the funds of the association in their capacity as members. No excessive membership fees may be charged (see § 8).

§ 4

No person may be favored by expenses which are alien to the purpose of the EDBTA or by disproportionately high benefits.

§ 5

In the event of the dissolution of the EDBTA or in the event of the discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes, the assets shall pass to the tax-privileged corporation "Dachverband Dialektisch Behaviorale Therapie" (DDBT) registered in Lübeck, Germany. The DDBT is a tax-privileged corporation in the sense of §§ 51 ff AO. exclusively and directly promoting public health and public health care (§52 para 2 sentence 1 no 3 AO).

The transfer of assets to the DDBT can only take place after the competent tax office has confirmed its compatibility with the provisions of the section "Tax-privileged purposes" of the German Fiscal Code (§§ 51 ff AO) (see § 26).

§ 6

ASSOCIATION YEAR

The association year coincides with the calendar year.

§ 7

MEMBERSHIP

1. There are two types of membership in EDBTA: Full Membership and Affiliate Membership.

Admission to the Association shall be by written declaration of membership by the applicant, endorsed by two full members and confirmed by the Board. The detailed criteria for membership shall be regulated by the Standing Orders (Bylaws).

Confirmed membership is valid for a period of five years, after which the membership must be reconfirmed by the Board. Should the membership not be confirmed after the expiry of 5 years, the membership shall automatically lapse.

Where in this charter reference is made to membership or members, this includes all categories of membership or members unless otherwise stated.

2. Full members can only be national DBT associations or natural persons from the European area who are committed to the aims of the EDBTA and who have been admitted as such by the General Membership Meeting (GM).

3. Affiliated memberships can be:

3.1 Non-European DBT Associations.

3.2 Less broad or specialized DBT associations of interest.

3.3 DBT Associations that have been in existence for less than 1 year.

3.4 DBT Associations that have less than 10 members.

4. The Board must keep a register containing all names and addresses of members. The members are obliged to inform the Board of a change of address forthwith. Each member must appoint a natural person as its permanent representative and must inform the Board of this in writing. In case of change of representative, the member must inform the Board in writing immediately.

§ 8

CONTRIBUTION

1. The General Membership Meeting (GM) may resolve that members must pay a contribution. Members may be divided into categories according to objective criteria and pay different contributions. The GM shall decide on the division of members and the amount of the respective contribution.
2. The Board is authorized to grant full or partial exemption from the obligation to pay a contribution. Such a decision requires the prior approval of the General Membership Meeting.

§ 9

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP, SUSPENSION

1. Membership ends
 - a. upon the dissolution of the Member;
 - b. upon termination by the member;
 - c. upon termination by the Association;
 - d. upon expulsion.
2. A member may terminate membership only in writing taking effect from the end of the Association's year and with due observance of a notice period of four weeks, always provided that:
 - a. A member may terminate its membership with immediate effect within one month of becoming aware of a decision to convert the Association into another legal form, to merge or to divide.
 - b. A member may terminate its membership with immediate effect within one month of becoming aware or being informed of a resolution by which its rights or its obligations - other than the obligations of a financial nature - are increased.
3. The membership or affiliated membership may be terminated by the General Membership Meeting. This may be the case when a member has ceased to fulfil the requirements for membership, if it does not fulfil its obligations towards the association, and if the association cannot reasonably be required to allow the membership to continue. Termination as referred to in this paragraph is with immediate effect.
4. Termination in breach of the provisions of paragraph 2 causes the membership to end at the earliest possible moment following the date of notification.
5. Members can only be disqualified by the General Membership Meeting. A member may only be disqualified if it has acted in breach of the Association's charter, standing orders or resolutions, or prejudices the association in an unreasonable manner. Disqualification causes the membership to end with immediate effect.
6. If membership ends during an Association year, the annual subscription for the entire year shall nevertheless be due.

§ 10

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Associate members shall have no voting rights.
2. Affiliated members have no rights and obligations other than those assigned and imposed on them by or pursuant to the charter or the standing rules.

§ 11

THE BOARD

1. The Board shall consist of (at least) 1. the President; 2. the Secretary; 3. the Treasurer; 4. the President-Elect; 5. the Past-President; and a maximum of 2 other Board Members. Duties shall be distributed among them within the Board. Only natural persons may be appointed as members of the Board. The Board members are elected by the General Membership Meeting (GM). The Past President will not be elected by the GM. Only full members of the Association may be elected to the Board.
2. Candidates for the Board may be proposed both by the Board and on the recommendation of at least one member of the GM.
3. The Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Executive Committee of the Board shall be entrusted with the day-to-day business of the Association. The provisions of § 13 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Executive Committee of the Board.

§ 12

TERMINATION OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP, SUSPENSION

1. Board members (not the President-Elect and not the President,) must resign not later than three years after their appointment in accordance with a rotation schedule to be drawn up by the rules of the EDBTA, provided always that they will stay in office if the vacancy of the officer resigning by rotation has not been filled. A resigning officer can be reappointed immediately, provided always that a resigning officer can be reappointed to his office for one consecutive period.
2. The President must resign not later than three years after the appointment. The President cannot be reappointed as President. He automatically becomes Past-President. The President-Elect automatically becomes President. President-Elect and Past-President shall be members of the Board during their term of office.
3. A member of the Board (Officer, not the President) who has been reappointed to an office and has thus held the same office for two consecutive terms may be immediately reappointed to another office. Persons appointed to fill a vacancy on an interim basis shall take the place of their predecessor in the rotation schedule.
4. An officer shall also resign
 - a. upon the termination of his membership in the National DBT Association;
 - b. if he is an officer as defined in the fourth sentence of § 9(1): by termination of his office and/or membership of such member organization;
 - c. if the membership of the member employing the officer concerned and/or of which he is a member, or of the member of which he is an officer, ends in whatever way;
 - d. if he loses the right to dispose of his property;

e. upon expiry of the time for which he was appointed.

5.If an officer is absent or unable to act, the other officers will be charged with the management. If one or more officers are absent, the remaining officers or the remaining officer will form a competent Board. Vacancies must be filled not later than at the next GM.

6. Any officer, even one appointed for a definite period, may be dismissed or suspended by the GM at any time. A suspension which is not followed by a resolution to dismiss, will end by the expiry of this period.

§ 13

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD

1. The Board will meet as often as this is required in accordance with the bylaws or as often as the President or another officer requires this.

2. At meetings only valid resolutions may be adopted if at least half of the officers are present or represented. An officer may be represented at a meeting by a fellow officer by written proxy. An officer may only act as an authorized representative for one other officer. The Board may also adopt resolutions in writing, provided that all officers have expressed themselves in writing on the motion concerned, including by electronic data carrier.

3. All Board resolutions must be adopted by an absolute majority of votes.

4. The Secretary must take the minutes of the proceedings at each meeting.

§14

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD

1. The Board shall be responsible for the administration of the Association. The Board may delegate one or more of its powers to others, provided that such powers are described clearly. The person, who exercises powers in this way, will act in the name of and under the responsibility of the Board.

2. Provided with the General Meeting's prior approval, the Board will be authorized to conclude agreements to acquire, dispose of and encumber property subject to registration as well as to conclude agreements in which the association binds itself as surety or joint and several debtors, warrants performance by or provides security for the debt of a third party.

3. Each year the Board must draw up activities plan before a time to be determined by the General Meeting, with a related budget, and must submit these documents to the General Meeting for approval.

4. The Board requires the prior authorization or approval of the General Meeting for assuming obligations and/or make expenditures if such an obligation and/or expenditure is not included in an activities plan approved by the General Meeting, as referred to in paragraph 4 of this §, or if the amount which is included for this obligation and/or expenditure exceeds the budget related to that plan.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 5, the General Meeting may subject Board resolutions to be described in detail to its approval or authorization, provided the Board has been given an exact description of the resolutions concerned.

§15

REPRESENTATION

1. The Association shall be represented by the Board. President and Treasurer each represent the Association individually.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 5, the General Meeting may subject Board resolutions to be described in detail to its approval or authorization, provided the Board has been given an exact description of the resolutions concerned.

3. The Board must report the granting of continuing authority to represent to the Trade Register of the Chamber of Commerce and the German Tax Administration.

4. If an officer has a conflicting interest with the association, he may nevertheless represent the association, unless the General Meeting appoints one or more persons for this purpose.

§16

ANNUAL REPORT - ACCOUNTS

1. The Board is obliged to keep records of the financial position of the association and of everything concerning the association's activities, in accordance with the requirements arising from these activities, and to keep the books, documents and other data carriers in such a way that the association's rights and obligations can be known from them at any time.

2. The Board must publish its annual report on the course of events and the policy conducted by the association at the General Meeting within three months of the end of the association year, except where this period has been extended by the General Meeting. It must present the balance sheet and the statement of assets and liabilities with an explanation to the General Meeting for approval. These documents must be signed by the officers; if the signature of one or more of them is lacking, the reason for this omission must be given. Upon expiry of this period any member may demand from the joint officers at law that they fulfil these obligations.

3. The General Meeting must appoint an auditing committee from the ordinary members of at least two persons who may not be members of the committee. The auditing committee must audit the documents referred to in the second sentence of paragraph 2 and must report its findings to the General Meeting.

4. If the auditing of the account rendered requires special knowledge of accounting, the auditing committee, subject to the approval of the Board, may be assisted by an expert at the association's expense. The Board is obliged to provide the auditing committee with all information required for its auditing work, if requested to show it the cash journal and the assets and to make the association's books, documents and other data carriers available for consultation.

5. The Board is obliged to keep the books, documents and other data carriers referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 for a term of seven years.

§17

GENERAL MEETING

1. At least two General Meetings (GM) must be held each year: the 1st GM (spring) and the 2nd GM (autumn). Both General Assemblies can be held in person or online, or as hybrid meetings.

At the 1st GM, the following topics will be discussed, among others:

a. the annual report and the statement of accounts according to Â§16 with the report of the auditing committee mentioned therein as well as the activity plan with the corresponding budget for the next association year.

b. the appointment of the auditing committee referred to in Â§16 for the next Association year.

c. the filling of vacancies.

d. motions of the Board or members announced in the notice of the meeting.

2. Further meetings of the members shall be held as often as the Executive Committee deems this desirable.

3. The Board shall also be obliged to convene a General Meeting if members holding together at least one tenth of the votes so request in writing at least four weeks before the date of the meeting or if such members so request on a date more than four weeks after the date of convocation. If the request is not complied with within fourteen days, the proposers may convene the meeting themselves in accordance with Â§18.

§18

METHOD OF CONVOCATION AND ACCESS

1. General Membership Meetings (GM) must be convened by the Board (exception see §17; 3). The meeting is convened by sending notices to the addresses of the members listed in the membership register. Notice must be given at least three months before the date of the meeting, not counting the date of the notice and the date of the meeting.

2. The invitations to the GMs must contain the topics to be discussed at the General Meeting.

3. Admission to the GM is open to all delegates nominated by the member unions. The GM decides on the admission of persons other than those mentioned above.

4. The GM shall decide on the number of delegates representing a Member Association at the GM; and shall determine this in the bylaws of the Association.

§19

VOTING RIGHTS AND DECISION-MAKING

1. All non-suspended Representatives of Membership Associations are entitled to vote at meetings. Each of these Representatives may cast one vote. An affiliate member is not entitled to vote at

meetings. Each member is authorized to appoint a proxy in writing. Each member may only cast its vote for one other member.

2. Resolutions must be adopted by an absolute majority of the votes validly cast, unless provided otherwise in this charter. Blank votes will be considered as not having been cast.

3. If the votes are tied on a motion not concerning the appointment of persons, the motion will be rejected.

4. Matters concerning persons will be voted on in writing unless the meeting decides to vote by acclamation. If no absolute majority is obtained in the voting on the appointment of persons, a second vote will be taken between the proposed candidates. If then again no one has obtained an absolute majority, revote will be taken, until either one person has acquired an absolute majority, or if the vote has been between two persons and the votes are equally divided. On the aforementioned repeated voting (not including the second vote), voting will each time be between the persons voted for in the preceding vote but leaving out the person obtaining the fewest votes in the preceding vote. If the smallest number of votes was cast for more than one person, it will be decided by lot which of these persons may not be voted for anymore at the new vote. If there is a tie in the voting between two persons, it will be decided by lot which of them has been elected.

5. A unanimous resolution of all the members, whether or not a meeting is held, will have the same force as a resolution of the General Meeting if it is passed with the prior knowledge of the committee.

6. The judgement pronounced by the chairman of the meeting (the President of the EDBTA) that the meeting has adopted a resolution will be decisive. The same applies to the contents of a resolution which has been adopted, in as far as voting was on a motion which had not been set out in writing.

7. If the correctness of this opinion is challenged immediately after it has been pronounced, a new vote will be taken if the majority of the meeting or, if the original vote was not taken by roll call or ballot, a person present and entitled to vote so desires. This new vote will nullify the consequences of the original vote.

§20

PRESIDENCY - MINUTES

1. The General Meeting must be chaired by the current President. If the President is absent, one of the other officers to be appointed by the Board will act as chairman. If the President should not be provided for in this manner, the meeting itself will provide for its chairmanship.

2. Minutes must be kept of the proceedings of each meeting by or on behalf of the secretary or another person appointed for this purpose by the President, which must be signed by the President and the secretary after adoption by the General Meeting. The members must be informed of the contents of the minutes.

3. If a meeting is convened at the request of members with due observance of the provisions of §17(3) of this charter, those who have requested the meeting may appoint persons other than committee members in charge of the meeting and of preparing the minutes.

§21

COMMITTEES

1. The General Meeting and/or the Board may set up and abolish one or more committees.
2. The General Meeting and/or the Board will determine the duties and powers of the committees.
3. The General Meeting may appoint to and dismiss from the committees its own members or other persons.

§22

STANDING ORDERS (BYLAWS)

1. Anything for which further rules are required may be regulated by Bylaws. The Bylaws shall not contain any provisions which are in conflict with the law or the Charter.
2. the Bylaws shall be adopted and amended by the General Meeting. For the adoption and amendment of the bylaws, the provisions of the next two articles on the amendment of the Charter shall apply mutatis mutandis.

§23

AMENDMENTS TO THE Charter, MERGER AND DIVISION

- 1.No amendments may be made to the association's charter other than pursuant to a resolution of the General Meeting convened with notice that an amendment to the charter will be proposed at this meeting. A copy of the motion in which the proposed amendment is set out verbatim must be sent to the members and the representatives together with the notice convening the meeting.
- 2.A copy of the motion in which the proposed amendment is included must be submitted for inspection by the members at a suitable place at least five days before the General Meeting until the end of the day on which the meeting is held.
- 3.A resolution to amend the charter may only be adopted by a majority of at least two thirds of the votes validly cast. At least two thirds of the members must be present or represented at the meeting.
- 4.Unless at least two thirds of the members are present or represented at a meeting at which a motion for amendment to the charter comes up for discussion, a new meeting must be convened. At this meeting a valid resolution to amend the charter may be adopted by a majority of at least two thirds of the votes validly cast irrespective of the number of members present or represented.
- 5.The provisions of this article apply mutatis mutandis to a resolution for a merger or division.

§24

The provisions of §23 shall not apply if all members entitled to vote are present at the General Meeting and the resolution to amend the statutes is passed unanimously.

§25

The amendment to the Charter shall not become effective until it has been entered in the Register of Associations.

§26

DISSOLUTION

1. The Association may be dissolved by a resolution of the General Meeting. The provisions of §23 and §24 shall apply mutatis mutandis.
2. The Association shall continue to exist after its dissolution to the extent necessary for the liquidation of its assets. Documents and notices sent out by the Association must contain the words 'in liquidation' after its name. The liquidation shall be completed when the liquidators are satisfied that all assets have been accounted for.
3. The assets of the Association shall be liquidated by the Officers. The provisions on the appointment, suspension, dismissal and supervision of the officers shall remain applicable. The other provisions contained in the statutes (in particular § 5) shall remain in force as far as possible during the liquidation.
4. The transfer of the assets can only take place after the competent tax office has confirmed the compatibility with the provisions of the section "tax-privileged purposes" of the tax code (§§ 51 ff. AO).

This charter in its current form has been accepted by the General Meeting of the EDBA on October 16th, 2023

Kirsti Akkermann, Estonia

Ieva Bite, Latvia

Martin Bohus, Germany

Mikka Häkkinen, Finland

Cesare Maffei, It

Wolfdieter Scheinecker, Austria

Michaela Swales, UK

Magda Skuza, Poland

Joaquim Soler, Spain

EDBTA Charter as proposed to the MV 1-2023; MB 13.8.2023