

Global Ecovillage Network of Europe e.V. Statutes of Association

Art.1. Name and Headquarters

1. The Association leads the name: „Global Ecovillage Network of Europe e.V.“ - abbreviated GEN-Europe.
2. The headquarter of the Association is in Bad Belzig, [Germany].
3. The Association is entered in the register of associations [in Potsdam, Germany]. (VR 8572 P)

Art.2. Aims and Goals

1. The goal of the Association is the promotion of education, culture, youth work, understanding between nations and environmental protection.
2. The purpose of the Statutes will be especially implemented by means of coordination of activities of national networks of ecovillages around the world (with a special focus on Europe). The Association operates as central coordinating headquarters for *information exchange and other international initiatives of many kinds – including conferences, meetings, educational programmes, fundraising and allocation of funds, formulation of principles and guidelines for ecovillages.*
3. An ecovillage is a settlement-community of at least eight persons who share the common goal of integrating human activities, sustainability, the use of environmentally friendly materials and supporting the holistic development of humankind.

Art.3. Charitable Status

1. The Association pursues direct charitable goals only according to the article „goals for tax concessions“ of the German tax law. The Association is run as a non-profit organization, and does not primarily pursue economic aims. Funds of the Association are only to be used for the goals described in the Statutes. Members may not receive any financial contributions from the funds of the Association. No person shall benefit from expenses that are not related to the goals of the Association or from disproportionate high compensations.

Art.4. Business year

1. The business year is the calendar year. The first business year ends on December 31st 2003.

Art.5. Members

1. Ecovillage networks and individual Ecovillages recognized and accepted by the Council of the Association, who are willing to implement the goals of the Association may become full members
2. Ecovillage initiatives and ecovillages as well as ecovillage networks in formation willing to implement the goals of the organisation wishing to work toward full membership may join as aspiring members by council decision or decision of the managing director.
3. Any individual, organisation or business willing to implement the goals of the Association can join as supportive individual or organisational member by council decision or decision of the managing director.
4. Membership lasts for a minimum of one business year.
5. Die Mitglieder entrichten den jährlichen Mitgliedsbeitrag, der von der Mitgliederversammlung auf Vorschlag des Vorstands festgelegt wird.
6. Jedes Vollmitglied kann der Mitgliederversammlung einen Beschlussvorschlag vorlegen. Beschlussvorschläge sollen mindestens 30 Tage vor der Mitgliederversammlung dem Vorstand vorgelegt werden, im Falle von Satzungsänderungen beträgt die Frist 60 Tage.

Art.6. Termination of membership

1. The membership ends:
 - 1.1. When a member does not pay the annual fee despite two subsequent reminders;
 - 1.2. When a member submits a written resignation to the Council of the Association;
 - 1.3. If a member violates the Statutes of the Association and is expelled by the General Assembly;
 - 1.4. Through death of a natural person or the resolution of a legal entity;
 - 1.5. When the Association decides to dissolve itself, according to Article 10 of these Statutes.

Art.7. Organs of the Association

1. The Organs of the Association are the General Assembly of members and the Council.

Art.8. General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Association. The General Assembly has all powers, that are necessary for achieving the Association's aims and goals.
2. Decisions of the General Assembly are made with a 3/4 majority of full members participating either physically or through electronic communication media. Each full member present or connected through electronic communication media has one vote.

3. The ordinary assembly of members
 - 3.1. Shall gather once a year.
 - 3.2. Shall be announced in writing by letter or email at least 21 days in advance of the Assembly. The invitation shall specify the date, time and location of the Assembly and the proposed agenda.
 - 3.3. Elect a meeting chair and secretary and a vote counter
 - 3.4. The initial convened General Assembly has a quorum when 40% of all members are participating either physically or through electronic communication media. A second convened General Assembly has a quorum independent of the number of members participating.
 - 3.5. Shall approve the annual report and annual accounts of the past year after having heard the Auditor's report.
 - 3.6. Shall discharge the Council's responsibilities for the last year.
 - 3.7. Shall decide about changes of the membership dues
 - 3.8. Shall decide how to handle the annual surplus or deficit
 - 3.9. Shall decide about the annual fee for the next financial year
 - 3.10. Shall approve the budget of the current year and next financial year, after having heard the proposal of last year's council
 - 3.11. Shall decide on the number of Council Members and then elect new Council Members from full members with the appropriate experience and knowledge of the Association and its activities. There can be a General Assembly without Council members election, for instance, if enough seats are already filled.
 - 3.12. May dismiss the whole Council with a 2/3 majority of full members. An election of a 3 people's council will be organised right away.
 - 3.13. May decide upon any topic on the agenda.
 - 3.14. May spontaneously decide on other minor issues not on the agenda that do not significantly impact negatively on the normal operations of the organisation.
 - 3.15. Shall elect one or two Auditors, with appropriate experience and knowledge of financial management and legal administration, from members for the period of one year.
 - 3.16. Shall decide upon any motion submitted timely by a full member as well as upon proposals that are the outcome of discussions during the Assembly.
 - 3.17. May expel a member with a 2/3 majority of full members, after giving the member the opportunity to defend him/herself.
4. The Extraordinary General Assembly::
 - 4.1. shall be convened in writing (also by email) at least 30 days in advance of the meeting date. The extraordinary General Assembly may be convened upon request of the council or of 10% of the full members.
 - 4.2. The extraordinary General Assembly has a quorum when 40% of full members are participating either physically or through elec-

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- 4.3. communication media.
 - 4.4. decides upon a change of the Statutes and standing orders with a 3/4 majority of full members participating either physically or through electronic communication media.
 5. All members have to be informed about the resolutions. Resolutions of the General Assembly are recorded in the minutes and are signed by the chairperson of that meeting. The minutes are made available to the members on the website.

Art.8a. Electronic Communication Media

1. **Definition:** Electronic communication media is defined as any Information Technology that allows for a real-time, bi-directional visual and audio connection.
2. **Process of Application:** Any member who wants to participate in the General Assembly through an electronic communication media, must ask the council in writing by letter, fax or email for permission at least 2 weeks before the General Assembly and state his/her reason(s) for wanting to do so. The council is not obliged to permit participation by electronic communication media and will consider each application on its own merit and as an exception to the regular rule of being physically present at the General Assembly.
3. **Operational availability:** If the council approves a member's request to participate by means of electronic communication media, the Council will take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that such a media connection is available at the time and location of the General Assembly.
4. **Risk of disconnection:** If the electronic communication media is not established or disconnects during the General Assembly, the member is excluded from the General Assembly. In this case, the chairperson of the General Assembly will interrupt the General Assembly to verify the quorum. If the quorum is still met, the chairperson shall continue the General Assembly. If the quorum is no longer met, the General Assembly is suspended and finally postponed if the electronic communication media cannot be restored within the agreed scheduled time allocated to the General Assembly and through any reasonable remedial actions.

Art.9. Council and General Coordinator

1. The Council of the Association is composed of at least 3 and not more than 12 full members. The Council represents the Association in all judicial and extrajudicial matters of the Association and all council members are entitled to act individually. All work within the council is volunteer work but Council members may be paid to do project-related work to a maximum of 1,000 EUR/year each.
2. The Council members will be elected by the General Assembly for an

office term of 4 years. Each member stays in office until new elections take place. Should a member cease to hold office before the expiration of his/her term, the Council may fill the vacancy with a substitute member elected by the General Assembly. The new Council member shall hold office until the expiry of the term of the replaced member.

- 2.1. No individual may serve more than two consecutive terms as a Council member. After serving two consecutive terms (8 years), a break of at least one full term (4 years) is required before the individual may be re-elected.
- 2.2. Dismissal of one council member can be brought as a proposal by council members or the General Coordinator, or the staff second link to the Council meeting. It is subjected to a vote and passes with at least 2/3 of the council voting. The Council member objecting to the dismissal cannot vote in this process, but can be heard beforehand.
3. The Council meets at least once a year and whenever the majority of Council members consider it necessary.
4. The Council has a quorum, when 2/3 of the Council members are present either physically or are included in the resolution process through communication media.
5. Decisions are taken by consensus. In exceptional situation the Council may decide with a majority of "consensus minus one" if consensus cannot be achieved after repeated attempts.
6. The Council, acting in accordance with the general aims and goals described in article 2 of the Statutes, has all powers of ordinary and extraordinary administration and disposal of assets; and it supervises organization and financial management
7. The Council may transfer the management of the current business to one of its members or to a third person (General Coordinator/ Managing Director).
8. The General Coordinator is authorised to represent the association in and out of court.

Art.10. Resolution of Association

1. In case of the resolution or discontinuation of the „goals for tax concessions” the assets of the association shall be assigned to a corporate body under public law or another tax-privileged corporation for the purpose of promotion of environmental protection.

Art.11. Youth Branch: NextGEN Europe

1. The youth activities and youth work of GEN EU are coordinated and implemented through its official youth branch: NextGEN Europe. NextGEN Europe operates in alignment with the aims and goals of the Association, especially the promotion of youth work, education, international understanding, and sustainability. As a youth branch NextGEN Europe has one voting delegate in the

General Assembly.

NextGEN Europe acts autonomously, with its own youth-led organisational structure, while remaining under the legal and financial umbrella of GEN Europe.

The Council, in agreement with NextGEN delegates, may delegate specific responsibilities and activities, including financial and administrative functions, to NextGEN Europe. The formal structure of this collaboration is detailed in the (Cooperation Agreement between GEN Europe and NextGEN Europe).

The Council/Staff may invite a representative of NextGEN Europe to attend Council/Staff meetings in an advisory capacity to strengthen intergenerational collaboration.

The activities and finances of NextGEN Europe are reported to the Council and Financial Administration annually and will be included in the Association's annual reporting.

Last change: 11.08.2025 (Decision General Assembly)