



# European Brief Therapy Association Statutes

Adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022.

## § 1 Name

The name of the association is 'European Brief Therapy Association' (EBTA).

## § 2 Registration

EBTA applied for registration in France on 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1993 and was accepted on 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1994. It is governed by the French law of 1901 July 1st and the Decree of 1901, August 16<sup>th</sup>.

The office of EBTA is in (Lyon) France. This may be changed by a decision of the Members Annual Meeting.

## § 3. Purpose

EBTA is an open organization for people interested in supporting solution-focused work in different contexts within the helping professions and communities in Europe in co-operation with other approaches, practices and research methods. EBTA supports the development of solution-focused ideas, theory and practice.

EBTA is a non-profit, civil society organization.

## § 4. Goals

EBTA promotes, advocates and develops solution-focused theory, research and practice within psychotherapy, counseling, education and related areas of work as well as in other professional contexts like rehabilitation, specialized fields of health and social care in Europe and beyond.

EBTA promotes dialogue with other solution-focused actors and other approaches.

## **§ 5. Membership**

Members shall be individuals in good professional standing in their country of origin, have basic exposure to solution-focused training or the equivalent (minimum 20 hours) and accept the purpose, goals and rules of EBTA.

A member is approved by the Board on the basis of a written application and by paying the membership fee.

A member can leave the association by submitting written notice to the Board. The membership is also terminated if the membership fee is not paid after a reminder. Membership is not transferable and no membership refunds are given.

## **§ 6. Fees and income**

To fund its operation, EBTA collects membership and conference levy. EBTA can also have incomes from publications and public appearances. EBTA can receive subsidies from public institutions as well as public donations.

The membership fee and conference levy are decided at the Members' Annual Meeting. The membership fee is to be paid in advance, while the conference levy is paid by the organizers after the conference.

The Board handles incomes and expenditures (up to 10 000 €) yearly, Expenditure over this amount must be proposed and voted for at Members' Annual Meeting.

EBTA funds will be administered in accordance with good management accounting practices appropriate in Europe.

## **§ 7. Empowerment**

All major decisions are decided in a Members' Annual Meeting as referred to in § 9. The proposals are prepared and decisions are actioned by the Board. The Board plans and co-ordinates the activities and handles the finances. The activities are carried out by Task-Groups.

## **§ 8. Fiscal year**

The fiscal year of the association is 1 June – 31 May. The financial statement shall be checked by an auditor in time for the Members' Annual Meeting which is usually held in September.

## **§ 9. Members' Annual Meeting**

The Members' Annual Meeting makes the general decisions about the purpose and the goals of EBTA. This includes but is not limited to issues to do with finances, changes in the statutes, elections of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, all other board members and appointment of the auditor. The Members' Annual Meeting decides the dissolution of the association. Major financial decisions (> 10 000 euro) are made by the Members' Annual Meeting.

The Members' Annual Meeting is comprised of members present.

All decisions except the dissolution are made with majority vote. Dissolution is done with two thirds majority and 1/3 of the members present. A motion is rejected, if there are the same number of votes.

An annual Members' Annual Meeting is held during the annual EBTA conference usually in September. In this Members' Annual Meeting the previous year's and the forthcoming year's plan of action and financial report, budget, including membership fees, must be presented and voted on to be accepted. The Board is elected and motions placed to the meeting are decided.

An extra Members' Annual Meeting shall be held when one third of the members make such a request to the Board, together with good reasons for the request. The Members' Annual Meeting shall be held within three months from the request being received by the Board.

The call for the Members' Annual Meeting shall be done by the Board to each member's known email address two months in advance. All motions made to the Members' Annual Meeting shall be issued by the Board one month before. Nominees for new members to the board are done to the election task-group. Motions placed later can only be put forward as recommendations.

The Members' Annual Meeting is chaired by the president or in his/her absence by the vice-president and if both are absent by any board member. The decisions are recorded in minutes signed by the chair and the secretary.

## **§ 10. Board**

The Board leads the association. It does the housekeeping, prepares and oversees the yearly plan of action within the limits of the budget as agreed in the Members' Annual Meeting. The Board appoints, coordinates and terminates the task-groups. The Board's term is the time between the yearly Members' Annual Meetings.

The Board consists of eight to twelve members. The broadest possible diversity is sought in the composition of the Board. Board members are elected annually by the Member's Annual Meeting. Reelection is possible. The Board constitutes itself in an internal rule (see §13).

The Board meets at least twice a year in person. Other meetings are held as teleconferences. Task-group members can be invited to be present at Board meetings.

A Board meeting has a valid quorum when half its members are present. The Board makes decisions by consensus and by majority vote, if no consensus is reached. In case of a tie, the president has the casting vote.

## **§ 11. Task-groups**

Most practical matters of the association are handled by task-groups. Task-groups are appointed, coordinated and terminated by the Board. Task-groups report to the Board and the Members' Annual Meeting.

Task-groups can be initiated by the Board or by members. Board initiated task-groups have at least one Board member. Member initiated task-groups have at least a Board member as a contact person, who supports and communicates about requests and any issues of concern between the Board and the task-group.

A task-group can have various numbers of persons depending of the task. All task groups can co-opt people who are not EBTA members to participate in task group work, when this is considered to be of benefit to EBTA. Task-groups can be open or closed. They can be permanent or time limited.

The task-group decides its own way of working together and ensures it respects and supports the work of other task-groups and are aligned with the purpose, goals and best interests of EBTA.

Further regulation of the task groups shall be decided by the Board in an internal rule (see §13).

## **§ 12. Representatives of the association**

The President and Vice-President act as the legal representatives of EBTA. This authority can also be delegated by the Board to other Board members for a specific purpose.

## **§ 13. Internal rules**

A set of internal rules may be established by the Board. These Internal rules specify matters within the statutes. In case of a conflict, the statutes overrule the internal rules. The Members' Annual Meeting can change the internal rules.

## **§ 14. Changes to the statutes and dissolution**

Changes to these statutes and dissolution of the association can be made in a Members' Annual Meeting with 2/3 majority vote.

In case of dissolution, one or more liquidators are chosen and any resources shall be vested in accordance with Article 9 of the French law of 1901, July 1st, and the Decree of 1901, August 6th.