



Preamble

The European Down Syndrome Association, (EDSA) hereafter referred to as the "Association" has been constituted as an international non-profit association incorporated in accordance with the law of June 27th 1921 , changed by the law of May 2nd 2002, concerning non-profit associations, international non-profit associations and corporations.

The association has since then worked as a network on issues which are common to all its member organizations and with full respect for the distinct and relevant roles of each of its member organizations.

Name and Headquarters

Article 1

- 1.The name of the association is the "European Down Syndrome Association", the acronym being "EDSA".
2. It is politically neutral, and non-denominational.

Article 2

1. The registered office is : 35 Meeuws Square. 1000 Brussels
The registered office may be transferred to any other place in Belgium by decision of the Board. The decision must be announced in the appendix of the " Belgian Official Journal(Moniteur Belge) within a month of the date on which it was taken.
2. The Association shall be of unlimited duration.

Article 3 - Purposes and Principles

The purposes of the Association shall be :

1. to promote the well-being of persons with Down syndrome in every possible way and area, and in every aspect of life : health, education, personality, self determination and inclusion in the society according to the individual's aspirations and capabilities.
2. to promote the human rights of persons with Down Syndrome as a united voice of organizations of persons with DS. The Association shall in particular

found its advocacy on the utilisation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights instruments.

3. to promote the self advocacy of people with Down Syndrome in every possible way by providing them with the necessary opportunities.
4. to encourage all scientific efforts towards advances and improvements in medical care, education, rehabilitation, vocational training, employment, leisure and independent living.
5. to further the interests of persons with Down syndrome by securing all necessary resources, support and services to that end.
6. to create a bond among all persons with Down syndrome, their families, friends, and associations.

Article 4 - Actions of the Association

1. The representation of all persons with Down syndrome in Europe; the co-operation with the European Commission, the European Parliament, other European Institutions with the aim of supporting people with Down syndrome or other forms of disabilities.
2. The cooperation with European organisations especially concerned by medical and scientific aspects related to DS.
3. The representation and advocacy of all persons with Down Syndrome and their families at all relevant international events as well as actions, organisations, bodies and authorities if deemed useful or necessary.
4. The support of national organisations of persons with Down Syndrome, providing them with information and advice, and give them access to an extensive data base.
5. The achievement of full inclusion of persons with Down Syndrome, of their unrestricted participation in all areas of society and adequate access to their rights as European citizens.
6. Providing a forum for discussion of relevant issues and dissemination of information.
7. Providing support to its members with special emphasis on the needs of people of different ages, with special focus on young people and their social inclusion.

Article 5 - Membership

The Association shall comprise the following categories of members:

1. Full members: national, regional or local non-profit organisations, corporations or associations of persons with Down Syndrome and representing persons with Down Syndrome active in one of the countries of the European Union.
2. Affiliate members: national, regional or local non-profit organisations, corporations or associations of persons with Down Syndrome and representing persons with Down syndrome active in Europe.
3. Associate members: national, regional or local non-profit organisations, corporations or associations of persons with Down Syndrome and representing persons with Down syndrome active in the areas adjoining the European Union and Europe.

The number of members is not limited. Membership fees are payable annually. The General Assembly decides on the membership fees up to a maximum of 3.000,- €.

Other participating issues are dealt with in the internal rules.

Article 6 – Non members' participation

Observers and Friends : any organisations or individuals which do not meet the conditions to become full, affiliate or associate members but showing a positive interest towards the goals of the association and are equally concerned with the well-being of persons with Down syndrome or any other disability or chronic disease, but without the right to vote.

Article 7 - General Assembly

1 The General Assembly is the Association's supreme authority. It is composed of all the full, affiliate and associate member organizations.

2. It shall hold an ordinary meeting once each year. It may also meet in extraordinary meeting whenever necessary, by decision of 50% the Board or at the request of 25% of the member organizations.

3. The Board shall send notice of the meeting to the member organizations three months in advance. The convocation, including the proposed agenda, shall be sent to each member organization two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

4. The General Assembly is valid whatever the number of participants is as

long as the convocation has been sent as it is stated in the statutes

Article 8 – Functions of the General Assembly

The General Assembly :

1. Elects the Board. Elections shall take place on the basis of the nominations submitted by the members.
2. The general assembly is presided by the President of the Board or due to his absence by the vice-presidents.
3. May adopt amendments to the statutes of the Association.
4. Considers and approves the Treasurer's report and the budget of the Association.
5. May appoint and dismiss the administrators and the members of the admittance committee.
6. May appoint and dismiss auditors; and in the case they are allowed a salary, determine this salary.
7. Pays the administrators and the auditors.
8. Decides on the exclusion of members.
9. Decides on the dissolution of the Association.
10. It shall hold an ordinary meeting once each year. It may also meet in extraordinary meeting whenever necessary, by decision of 50% the Board or at the request of 25% of the member organizations.
11. The Board shall send notice of the meeting to the member organizations three months in advance. The convocation, including the proposed agenda, shall be sent to each member organization two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Article 9

The General Assembly can only conclude legitimately about the dissolution of the association or about amendments to the constitution if it complies with the the law of June 27th1921, modified by the law of May 2nd 2002 ruling non-profit associations, and the articles of association.

Article 10 - Amendment to the statutes of the association

Any amendment must be passed by a two-third majority of the members

attending the General Assembly.

Article 11 - The Board

The association is administrated by a Board of at least five and at the most eleven members, among whom the president, two vice-presidents, the Secretary-General and the treasurer.

At least two third of the Board members shall be persons with DS , parents or family members.

Their term of office may end at any moment by decision of the General Assembly with a majority of two third of the members present.

No more than one member of the board shall be from the same country.

Article 12

All deeds committing the association are undersigned legitimately in the name of the association, by the President of the Board and the Secretary-General, acting collectively.

They do not need to prove any conclusion of the Board or any authorization towards third parties. This way of representation also applies for lawful action.

Article 13

The board members do not enter into personal obligations concerning the commitments of the association.

Their liability is confined to the performance of their duty.

The term of office is honorary.

Presidency

Article 14 – the president

The President shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years. He shall preside over all meetings of the Board and the General Assembly.

The President can be either a parent or a professional.

Article 15 . the vice-presidents

Two Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years.

Article 16 - The Secretary-General

The Secretary-General shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years.

Should the Secretary General resign or be asked to resign, his successor

shall be appointed temporarily by a majority of two-thirds of the Board till the next General Assembly.

Article 17 - The Treasurer

The Treasurer is elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years.

The tasks of the president, the vice-presidents, the general secretary and the treasurer are detailed in the internal rules of the association.

Finances

Article 18

The financial year will be the calendar year;
After the end of each financial year the Board balances the accounts of the past year, and presents them to the Assembly for approval.
The accounts may be audited before a general Assembly.
At least two weeks before the Assembly accounts shall be sent to the members, who may then demand access to all documents on which these accounts are founded. These documents can be consulted at the Assembly.

Article 19

The credit balance enlarges the capital of the association and may by no means be distributed to the members as a dividend or by any other means.

Dissolution of EDSA

Article 20

The Association can be dissolved before term by a resolution of the general assembly or a judicial sentence .
A proposal for dissolution of the Association must be handed to the Secretary-General at least three months prior to a regular or exceptional meeting of the General Assembly.
A proposal to dissolve the Association may be submitted either by a two-third majority of the Board or by at least 50 % of the members.

In case of voluntary dissolution the general assembly, or in its absence the court, designates one or more liquidators, decides on their powers and stipulates how the debts will be paid off and the transfer of the remaining assets will happen.

Article 21

In case of dissolution the remaining assets will be transferred to the

association, foundation or institution aiming at the same objectives as the Association. When there are various qualified organisations the General Assembly will select one or distribute the assets , on its own discretion, among all qualified organisations .

When there is no institution known with a similar objective, the General assembly shall grant the property to one or more associations, foundations or institutions with a goal which is to some extent related to the goal of Edsa.