



EUROPEAN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, 'EECERA'

THE GOVERNING CONSTITUTION

1. The Name

The name of the organisation shall be the 'EUROPEAN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION' and its acronym is 'EECERA'.

2. The Aims

2.1 The principal aims of EECERA are:

- 2.1.1 to provide a relevant academic forum in Europe for the promotion, development and dissemination of high quality research into early childhood education;
- 2.1.2 to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between European researchers in this field and the wider early childhood community across the World;
- 2.1.3 to encourage the clear articulation and communication of the links between research, practice and policy;
- 2.1.4 to offer interaction, development and support to those interested in early childhood education;
- 2.1.5 to raise the visibility and status of European research in early childhood education throughout the World.

2.2 These aims are achieved through:

- 2.2.1 the staging of an Annual Conference and other forums and seminars for debate;
- 2.2.2 the publication of a refereed, academic research journal, at least four a year;
- 2.2.3 the establishment of a European network of researchers and the facilitation of collaboration and communication between them;
- 2.2.4 such other activities and publications that might facilitate the development of research, policy and practice in early childhood education.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership of the Association is open to anyone who is actively engaged in, or has an interest in research into early childhood education. Membership lapses if membership fees are not paid. In exceptional circumstances, membership may be refused or withdrawn by a majority decision of the Trustees and at their sole discretion.

3.2 Members receive four issues of the journal in each year and to other privileges and benefits, which can be found on the Association's website www.eecera.org.

3.3 An annual general meeting (AGM) of the members of the Association must take place at the Annual EECERA Conference. Notification of the meeting will be included in the Conference particulars circulated to all the members.

3.4 All amendments and appendices to the Constitution agreed by the BoT must be recorded in the formal addendum presented to the Membership at the next AGM and made available in written form to members for their scrutiny.

4. EECERA's Trustees and Electoral College

4.1 The Board of Trustees (BoT) usually consists of 9 elected members. All Trustees must be current members of EECERA. Trustees, except those elected under clause (4.6), are appointed by an Electoral College in accordance with the association's Internal regulations posted on the Association's website. All Trustees hold office for a period of three years and may be re-elected.

4.2 The Trustees elect from their number by secret ballot and majority vote a President, a Vice-President and they also appoint a Coordinating Editor, who may or may not be an existing Trustees. Officers of the Association are in post for three years and may be re-elected or re-appointed. The roles and responsibilities and procedures for election of these posts is described in the 'Roles and Protocols' section in the EECERA website.

4.3 The Electoral College is composed of all former and current members of the Board of Trustees, all former and current members of the Editorial Board, all former Conference Chairs, all guest editors of Special Themed editions, and all Convenors of SIGs who have been 'active' during the past 2 years. The judgement of 'active' rests with the BoT on recommendation of the Trustee who has responsibility for SIG matters. Members of the Electoral College must be current members of EECERA and be formally registered each year. The President decides and notifies those each year who fulfil the criteria for membership of the Electoral College.

4.4 The Electoral College is chaired by the President, or the President's nominee and takes place at the Annual Conference.

4.5 The Association's first Trustees were the former Chairs of Annual Conferences between 1991 and 1996. Following the establishment of the Electoral College structure in 2006, they submitted themselves in turn for election, at a pace of one per year. By 2009, all the original Trustees had submitted themselves to the Electoral College or had resigned except those who still held executive posts. Trustees who have an executive post on the Board, the President, Vice-President or Coordinating Editor, submit themselves for election once they have finished their term (or terms if they are re-elected).

4.6 Additionally, one of the Board Members will be the Members' Trustee. The Members' trustee is not elected by the Electoral College but elected by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members for a term of three years with the possibility of re-election. This meeting is chaired by the President, or the President's nominee and takes place at the Annual Conference. The election will take place in accordance with the EECERA's Internal Regulations set out in the website. The Members' Trustee has full voting rights on the BoT but has a particular and sole role of representing Members' voice on the Board.

4.7 Exceptionally, members can be co-opted directly to the Board of Trustees for short periods and specific assignments but they do not become Trustees and do not have voting rights.

4.8 A Trustee may be removed at any time from his or her position as President, Vice-President or Coordinating Editor by resolution of two thirds of the Trustees. The Member's Trustee may only be removed by approval of members at their AGM.

5. The Powers of EECERA's Trustees

In addition to any other powers, which they may have, this Constitution empowers the Trustees of EECERA to exercise the following powers in furtherance of its objectives:

5.1 the power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions, providing that in raising funds the Trustees shall not undertake any permanent trading activities;

5.2 the power to buy, take on lease or in exchange, any property, and to maintain and equip it for use;

5.3 the power to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of, all or part of the Association's property, subject to complying with the restrictions usually imposed on charitable associations in European countries;

5.4 the power to borrow money and to mortgage all, or part of the association's property, as security for repayment of the money borrowed;

5.5 the power to provide indemnity insurance for themselves out of the income of the Association provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be in breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of duty or not;

5.6 the power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of EECERA's aims.

6. Meetings and Proceedings

6.1 The Trustees shall meet at least once a year. This annual meeting shall normally take place in late Spring. In principle a further meeting of the BoT will take place in the week of the annual conference. Emergency or special meetings may be called by agreement of two thirds of the Trustees.

6.2 The President will fix the date of the meetings, that is, the BoT Meetings, the AGM and the meetings of the Electoral College and draw up the agenda for these meetings in consultation with other Trustees. Items for inclusion in the agenda should be notified to the President at least one month before the meeting. The agenda must be circulated to every Trustee at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

6.3 Minutes will be kept of meetings and decisions will be made by majority vote. In the event of a vote for and against being of equal numbers, the President will have the right to a second or casting vote. Meetings normally will begin by the minutes of the previous meeting being formally approved and will end with an opportunity for any other business to be raised by any member of the Trustees and agreement on the date of the next meeting.

6.4 The number of Trustees who need to be present if a meeting of the Board is to be valid is four, or one third of all current Trustees, whichever is the more.

6.5 The number of members of the Electoral College who need to be present if a meeting is to be valid is 10, or one third of all formally registered members of the Electoral College, whichever is less.

6.6 The minimum number of members required to be present at the AGM to constitute a quorum shall be 10, or one tenth of all the current members, whichever is less.

7. Accounts

The President of EECERA shall ensure that the Association complies with the financial obligations usually imposed on charitable organisations in European countries, with regard to:

- 7.1 the keeping of appropriate accounting records;
- 7.2 the preparation of an annual statement of the accounts of EECERA;
- 7.3 the auditing, or independent examination, of the statements of account of EECERA;
- 7.4 the preparation of an annual report for presentation to members and Trustees at the Annual Conference.

8. Bank Accounts

8.1 Bank and building society accounts are the responsibility of the President or the President's nominees, who will act on behalf of the Trustees and in accordance with their wishes.

8.2 All cheques and transactions will require joint signatures from at least two nominated Trustees.

9. Personal Interests

9.1 Subject to the provisions in clauses (9.2) and (9.3), as a general principle, Trustees of EECERA should not be placed in a position where any personal interest conflicts with her or his duties as a Trustee. No Trustee may:

- 9.1.1 receive any benefit in money or in kind from the Association;
- 9.1.2 have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to the Association;
- 9.1.3 acquire or hold any interest in the property of EECERA (except in order to hold it as a Trustee of EECERA).

9.2 However, there may be circumstances in which the general legal principle may be relaxed. Such circumstances might include:

- 9.2.1 reimbursement to a Trustee or his or her institution for the publication costs of EECERA's research journal or other academic publications;
- 9.2.2 reimbursement of reasonable costs including travel and subsistence costs for attending Board meetings.

9.3 Any Trustee may receive reasonable remuneration for services undertaken in the administration of the Association, provided that the Trustee withdraws from any meeting of the Trustees whilst his or her remuneration is being discussed. At no time may a majority of the Trustees benefit under this provision.

10. Power of Amendment

10.1 The Trustees may amend the provisions of this deed provided that:

10.1.1 no amendment be made to clause (2), clauses (9.1) and (9.2), clause (9.3), clause (12) or to this clause or the Trustees' power of investment without the prior written approval of the Board.

10.1.2 no amendment may be made which has the effect of EECERA ceasing to be an association in law.

10.2 The Trustees must:

10.2.1 promptly send to all Board Members a copy of any amendment made;

10.2.2 keep a copy of any such amendment with this deed of the Constitution.

11. Power of Dissolution

If the EECERA Trustees decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association, they shall realise any assets held by or on behalf of EECERA. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred by the EECERA Trustees to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of EECERA as the Trustees may decide, or, failing that, shall be applied by the Trustees for some other such charitable purpose.

ADDENDUMS

Addendum 1: Professor Tony Bertram is elected President of the Board of Trustees for three years with effect from September 1st 1999.

Addendum 2: Professor Dr. Christine Pascal is appointed Coordinating Editor of the Association's Journal for three years with effect from September 1st 1999.

Addendum 3: Following a ballot of members at the Helsinki Conference, Professor Dr Miguel Zabalza, Dean of Education, University of Santiago de Compostella, Spain is elected for three years as the Members' representative on the Board of Trustees from September 2000.

Addendum 4: Professor Tony Bertram is elected President of the Board of Trustees for three years with effect from September 1st 2002.

Addendum 5: Professor Dr. Christine Pascal is appointed Coordinating Editor of the Association's Journal for three years with effect from September 1st 2002.

Addendum 6: Following a ballot of members at the Malta Conference, Dr Mathias Urban, Institut für Pädagogik, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle, Germany is elected for three years as Members' representative on the Board of Trustees from September 2004.

Addendum 7: Professor Dr. Ferre Laevers is elected President of the Board of Trustees for three years with effect from September 1st 2005.

Addendum 8: Maelis Karlsson Lohmander is elected Vice President of the Board of Trustees for three years with effect from September 1st 2005.

Addendum 9: Professor Dr Christine Pascal is appointed Coordinating Editor of the Association's Journal for three years with effect from September 1st 2005.

Addendum 10: Professor Dr Tony Bertram has been re-elected as Trustee following a secret ballot at the meeting of the Electoral College in Reykjavik for a period of three years with effect from September 2006

Addendum 11: Dr Margy Whalley has been appointed as Trustee following a secret ballot at the meeting of the Electoral College in Reykjavik for a period of three years with effect from September 2006

Addendum 12: Professor Dr Christos Frangos was re-elected as a Trustee following a secret ballot at the meeting of the Electoral College in Prague for a period of three years with effect from September 2007

Addendum 13: Following a ballot of members at the Prague Conference, Dr Mathias Urban, Institut für Pädagogik, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle, Germany is elected for three years as Members' representative on the Board of Trustees from September 2007.

Addendum 14: Professor Dr Christine Pascal is elected by the Board to be President of EECERA with effect from 1st September 2008

Addendum 15: Maelis Karlsson Lohmander is elected Vice President of the Board of Trustees with effect from 1st September 2008 for a period of three years

Addendum 16: Professor Dr Tony Bertram is appointed Coordinating Editor of the Association's Journal for three years with effect from September 1st 2008.

Addendum 17:

Dr Sylvie Rayna was elected as a Trustee following a secret ballot at the meeting of the Electoral College in Prague for a period of three years with effect from September 2008

Attached is an approved diagrammatic representation of the electoral structure of EECERA