



# 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 sustainable, ethical, and democratic academic forum in Europe for the promotion, development and dissemination of high quality, multidisciplinary 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 multidisciplinary research, practice and policy;
- 2.1.4 to offer interaction, development and support to those interested in early childhood education throughout the world;
- 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 peer reviewed, citation indexed, research journal, at least three times a year;
- 2.2.3 the establishment of a network of researchers and the facilitation of collaboration and communication between the European and international research community;
- 2.2.4 such other activities and publications and other knowledge platforms 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 In exceptional circumstances, membership may be refused or withdrawn by a majority decision of the Trustees and at their sole discretion.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 all issues of the Journal in each year and are entitled to other privileges and benefits, which can be found on the Association's website [www.eecera.org](http://www.eecera.org)

3.3 An annual general meeting (AGM) of the members of the Association must take place once a year. Notification of the meeting will be circulated to all members once a year.

3.4 All amendments to the Constitution agreed by the Board of Trustees must be recorded, and presented to the Membership at the 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 7 elected members. All Trustees must be current members of EECERA. Trustees, are appointed by the Electoral College in accordance with the Association's Internal Regulations attached as addendum to the Constitution. All Trustees hold office for a period of three years and may be re-elected.

4.2 The Trustees appoint from their number by secret ballot and majority vote a President, a Vice-President and a Coordinating Editor. They shall be in post for three years and may be reappointed. The roles and responsibilities and procedures for election of these posts is described in the Internal Regulations attached as addendum to the Constitution. Whilst in office, these officers are exempt from the usual three year voting cycle.

4.3 The Electoral College is composed of all current members of EECERA who have been members for three consecutive years. 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 that 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 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.

4.6 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.

#### **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 or early Summer. 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 all EECERA 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 by Trustees 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.

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 the more.

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 financial transactions will require joint signatures from at least two nominated Trustees. These Trustees are appointed by the Board. Either Trustee may delegate their power of signature to a Board approved nominee but at least one Trustee may sign all transactions.

## **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 principal 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 travel and subsistence costs to a Trustee 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.

This revised constitution has been approved and signed by all members of the Board of Trustees, Lisbon, December 2022. This version supersedes Constitution version 2008 and all its addenda.