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For the legally binding version please refer to the German Charter
www.pikler-verband.org/impressum***

European Association for Training and Quality Assurance of Pikler Early Childhood Education

Charter
as of May 30, 2009

**Section 1
Name, Headquarters, Registration, Fiscal Year**

1. The Association is called the Europäische Vereinigung für Ausbildung und Qualitätssicherung der Pikler Kleinkindpädagogik/ European Association for Training and Quality Assurance of Pikler Early Childhood Education or Pikler Verband Europa/ Pikler Association of Europe for short.
2. Its headquarters are in Munich.
3. The Association shall be entered in the Register of Associations at the District Court of Munich and thereafter use "e.V." (registered association) to indicate its legal form.
4. The fiscal year is the calendar year.

**Section 2
Purpose**

1. The purpose of the Association is to advance education and training as defined in section 52, paragraph 2, no. 7 of the Fiscal Code of Germany.
2. The Association pursues its tax-privileged purposes in particular by developing and disseminating the teachings of Emmi Pikler as well as by ensuring standards of quality; building and operating an education centre for training and continuing education of teachers and educators, doctors, and therapists in the teachings of Emmi Pikler; publications on the subjects of teaching and education in accordance with the teachings of Emmi Pikler; and information on and documentation of the course of the history of the teachings of Emmi Pikler.
3. The Association is permitted to acquire special assets for the establishment of a nonprofit foundation for the purposes defined in Section 2.

**Section 3
Nonprofit Status**

1. The Association pursues exclusively and directly nonprofit purposes in the sense of sections 51ff. of the Fiscal Code: "Tax-privileged purposes." It is active altruistically. It does not primarily serve its own economic purposes.
2. Funds and any assets that flow to the association from its activities are to be used exclusively for the purposes of the Association in accordance with Section 2 of its Charter. Members may receive no allocations from the Association's funds.
3. The Association is permitted to enter into employment relationships. Payment shall not on principle exceed the compensation paid in public service; members of the board may be paid an appropriate compensation.
4. When leaving the Association or in case of its dissolution or revocation, members shall have no claim to the Association's funds.
5. No one may benefit from spending that is extraneous to the purposes of the Association or from excessive allocations.

**Section 4
Membership**

1. The Association has ordinary and supporting members. Whenever this Charter speaks of members with no further specification, both ordinary and supporting members are meant. Membership is not tied to any religious denomination.
2. Ordinary members are those whose professional lives are concerned over the long term with the subjects of the education and training of children and teenagers. Suitable proof of this shall be provided. The following are regarded as "long term" within the meaning of this definition:
 - proof of successful completion of training in accordance with the principles of Emmi Pikler or

- operating a childcare facility for children and teenagers (with at least 3 children and/or teenagers under care);
- a position as educator (teacher, care giver) or as director of a facility (with at least 3 children and/or teenagers under care);
- continued research in the field of the education and training of children and teenagers;
- continued publishing on the subjects of education and training of children and teenagers;
- similar activities that reveal a concrete occupation with the subjects of education and training of children and teenagers;

in each case, this must be combined with a declaration of intent to complete training in accordance with the principles of Emmi Pikler within 2 years of applying for recognition of ordinary membership.

3. Ordinary members must inform the Board if the requirements of ordinary membership are no longer fulfilled. The Board shall decide whether ordinary membership is revoked and converted into supporting membership.
4. Supporting members are those who wish to support the Association without being ordinary members.
5. Any natural person, any legal person, any partnership, and any nonregistered association in Germany or abroad can be a member of the Association if they respect the content of this Charter and support the purposes of the Association.
6. Every application for membership must be in written form and should be addressed to the Board. The Board rules on the application. In the case of rejection, it will be ruled on at the next General Assembly of Members if the applicant so wishes.
7. Members who have served the Association for a long period or in a very special way can be named honorary members. Honorary membership exempts the member from membership fees. Its term is unlimited, and it can only be revoked as a result of gross dereliction of duty and by special resolution of the General Assembly of Members. The rights of ordinary membership are associated with it.
8. Membership is ended:
 - a) by voluntary resignation submitted with at least 3-month-notice prior to the end of the year;
 - b) by death with immediate effect;
 - c) by loss of legal capacity from the time of its occurrence;
 - d) by the dissolution of the Association;
 - e) by expulsion that becomes final after a resolution by the Board;
 - f) by vote of the General Assembly of Members.
9. Expulsion is ruled on by the Board. It must occur whenever a member has grossly violated the purposes or interests of the Association. It can occur when a member has failed to fulfill his or her duties in accordance with the Charter or failed to pay membership fees for a period of more than one calendar year. The member must be given an opportunity to make a statement before the decision is made. The member can challenge the Board's decision within a month receipt and request a decision at the next General Assembly of Members. The latter's decision is final with a simple majority of votes cast.
10. A member's resignation from the Association should be addressed in writing to the Board. No explanation is required.

Section 5 Bodies

The bodies of the Association are:

- a) the General Assembly of Members (in accordance with Section 6 of the Charter)
- b) the Board (in accordance with Section 7 of the Charter)
- c) the Pikler Council (in accordance with Section 8 of the Charter).

Section 6 General Assembly of Members

1. The Ordinary General Assembly of Members shall be convened by the Board at least once a year.
2. An Extraordinary General Assembly of Members shall be convened if requested by one quarter of the ordinary members in writing with the reasons stated.
3. The Board convenes the General Assembly of Members in writing at least four weeks in advance, providing the agenda. Fax and e-mail are acceptable as written form. By providing the Board with a fax number or e-mail address, members consent to receiving the invitation in this way. Members themselves are responsible for keeping contact information current.
4. The General Meetings of Members can pass resolutions regardless of the number of members attending.
5. Ordinary members have an unrestricted right to vote.
6. Supporting members audit the General Assembly of Members. They have neither active nor passive voting rights. They

should participate in the process of forming opinions and are permitted to speak on the subjects of the General Assembly of Members. Their right to speak can be restricted by the head of the General Assembly of Members. They have no right to vote.

7. Legal persons are represented by a natural person. This is also true of partnerships and unregistered associations.
8. The General Assembly of Members is the supreme body. Specifically, it makes decisions about:
 - basic business dealings, such as the purchase and sale of real estate,
 - the principles of the Association's activities, and
 - the framework of the Board's business activities, and
 - the approval of all orders of business and contributions;
 - the annual budget and
 - the election of the Board and approval of its actions;
 - rejecting applications for membership approved by the Board
 - members' appeals of the Board's decision to expel them;
 - changes to the Charter, and
 - the dissolution of the Association.
9. As a rule, the General Assembly of Members decides with a simple majority of votes cast. Abstentions are treated as votes not cast.
10. Changes to the Charter require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. The agenda must explicitly mention a vote on a change to the Charter. The new and old text must be distributed to members with the invitation to the General Assembly of Members.
11. Dissolution requires a three-quarters majority of the votes cast. To dissolve the Association, a meeting must be convened with dissolution as the sole agenda item.
12. It is not permitted for an absent member to transfer his or her vote to a member present.
13. Minutes are to be taken of the General Assembly of Members. They must be signed by the Keeper of the Minutes and by a Member of the Board. They should be distributed to the members in an appropriate way.
14. The Chairperson of the Board need not chair the General Assembly of Members him- or herself. Direction of the meeting can even be delegated to someone who is not a member of the Association.

Section 7 Board

1. The Founding Board of the Association is comprised of three Executive Board Members and two additional Board Members. After four years, the two additional Members will be added to the Board. After four years, two more Members will be added to the Board, to be elected at the General Assembly of Members.
2. The Board in accordance with Paragraph 1 includes as **appointed** Board Members:
 - one representative of the Pikler-Hengstenberg-Gesellschaft, Vienna;
 - one representative of the Verein Wege der Entfaltung e.V., Munich;
 - one representative of the Pikler-Gesellschaft e.V., Berlin;
 - one representative of the Emmi Pikler Stichting Nederland, Amsterdam;
 - one representative of the Pikler-Lóczy-Gesellschaft für Kleinkinder, Budapest.
3. **Appointed** Board Members lose that function when the activity of their institutions is actually and definitively ceased. A change in legal form has no effect. The institution of bankruptcy proceedings has no significance as long as actual work continues.
4. The Board within the meaning of Section 26 of the German Civil Code (Representing Board) is the three Executive Board Members. Each has the right to sole power of representation.
5. Managing the current business of the Association is the responsibility of the Board. It carries out the decisions of the General Assembly of Members. It makes decisions in particular about the admittance and expulsion of members of the Association and in other matters to the extent it is permitted according to this charter.
6. With the exception of the **appointed** Board Members, the Board is elected by the General Assembly of Members. The elected and founding Members of the Board then elect from among themselves the three Executive Board Members.
7. The Members of the Board serve for 4 years. The members named in Paragraph 2 decide for themselves whom to place on the Board to represent them. Members elected by the General Assembly of Members can be reelected.
8. If an elected Member of the Board leaves, the Board can appoint a replacement member to serve until a member is elected by the General Assembly of Members. If an **appointed** Board Member departs for the reasons in Paragraph 3, the Board can replace him or her with a member from the circle of Ordinary Members.
9. The Board establishes rules of business and assigns a function and tasks to each of the Members of the Board.
10. The resolutions of the Board are in general made in the board meeting, which the Chairperson must convene at least twice a year after coming to an agreement orally, by telephone, or in writing.

11. The Board passes its resolutions with a simple majority of votes cast. Abstentions are treated as votes not cast. Every Member of the Board has one vote. In the case of an equal number of AYE and NAY votes, a motion is treated as rejected.
12. The activity of the Board and of individual Board Members can be compensated. The actual availability of budgeted funds must be considered. The Board is responsible for its own decisions. It has to take the General Assembly of Members into account.
13. The Board can at any time employ working groups and project teams. It has the right to assign them rights and duties.
14. The Board has the right to make editorial changes to this Charter at any time; that is the case particularly when requested by a notary, a legal advisor, or a tax office. Editorial changes are changes that do not affect the rights of members, serve the purposes of clarity and better understanding, and do not necessitate a General Assembly of Members.

Section 8 Pikler Council

1. The Pikler Council is composed of at least 3 and at most 6 people. They are initially appointed for an unlimited term by the Founding Assembly. Reappointments are made by the Pikler Council itself. The Board has a veto right.
2. The tasks and authorities of the Council are
 - advising the Board on substantive issues,
 - decisions regarding extracurricular appointment/recognition of Pikler educators and Pikler lecturers
 - supervising and checking all substantive issues on the teaching, training, and evolution of Emmi Pikler's pedagogy
3. The Pikler Council establishes its rules of business.

Section 9 Fees and the Financing of the Association

1. The Association funds its activities from the membership fees of Members of the Association. The General Assembly of Members makes decisions about the liability for and amount of membership fees.
2. The Association also funds its activities from grants and public subsidies available for the purposes identified in Section 2.
3. The Association further funds its activities from donations and pecuniary advantages made available to it by the Association's members and supporters to fulfill the purposes of its charter.
4. The proper use of funds is documented for Members and third parties in the form of appropriate and professional records within the meaning of Section 259 of the German Civil Code.

Section 10 Dissolution, Abolition, and Loss of Nonprofit Status

1. If the Association is dissolved or abolished or loses its nonprofit status, the Association's assets shall be transferred to Wege der Entfaltung e.V., Munich, for the exclusive and immediate use for nonprofit and charitable purposes; if the latter association no longer exists at the time of the dissolution, abolition, or loss, then to its legal successor if it is recognized as a nonprofit.
2. To the extent that individual members have transferred intellectual property rights to the Association, in the case of the dissolution or abolition of the Association they shall revert to the members who transferred them or to their legal successors. The reversion of these rights shall also take place in the case of a loss of nonprofit status that is not merely temporary.

Section 11 Mediation

Conflicts and legal disputes between Members, whether in their function as ordinary or supporting member or in their function as a member of a body, should be resolved based on consensus and extrajudicially. To that end, mediation should be sought before involving legal aid as long as there is no imminent danger.