

## **Statutes of the RespectScience e.V.**

### **§ 1 Name, Registered Office, Registration, Fiscal Year**

1. The association bears the name "RespectScience e.V.".
2. The registered office is in Bonn.
3. RespectScience e.V. shall be entered in the register of associations and subsequently operate as a registered association.
4. The fiscal year is the calendar year.

### **§ 2 Purpose**

1. The association exclusively and directly pursues charitable purposes within the meaning of the section "Tax-privileged purposes" of the German tax code.
2. RespectScience e.V. is an association for the implementation of high-profile campaigns and projects.
3. The purpose of RespectScience e.V. is the promotion of science and research.
4. The purpose of the association is to identify and name problems in the science system by developing, planning, and implementing campaigns and public relations projects with the aim of uncovering grievances, building up a network capable of action and initiating long-term change in the science system.
5. The association is selflessly active; it does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes.
6. The funds of the association may only be used for purposes in accordance with the statutes.
7. The members shall not receive any benefits from the funds of the corporation.
8. No person may be favored by expenses that are alien to the purpose of the corporation or by disproportionately high remuneration.

### **§ 3 Executive Board**

1. The board of RespectScience e.V. consists of six members.
2. The Board of Directors is elected once a year by the active members. Members of the Board of Directors can only be members of the Association; membership in the Association also ends membership in the Board of Directors.
3. Board memberships can only be obtained if there has been at least six months of prior active membership.
4. The members of the Executive Board may individually legally represent the Association in accordance with § 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB).
5. The Board of Directors is the originator of the content of the Association's work and meets as needed.
6. The Executive Board is responsible for managing the day-to-day business of the Association.
7. The Board of Directors works in an honorary capacity, but the General Meeting may decide that it receives appropriate remuneration for its time expenditure, the amount of which shall be determined by the General Meeting.

### **§ 4 Membership**

1. RespectScience e.V. has the possibility of membership as:
  - a. an active member of RespectScience e.V.
    - i. Active membership may be requested via informal communication to the Board of Directors and will be voted on among all active members at the next scheduled plenary meeting.
    - ii. The membership fee can be chosen freely, but is at least 1.00 €.
    - iii. Active members may stand for election to all internal offices of RespectScience e.V..
    - iv. Active members are entitled to vote for all elections within RespectScience e.V..
    - v. Active members have access to all internal association documents and communication
    - vi. Active members plan and organize the events of the association and represent RespectScience to the outside world.
    - vii. Active members vote on internal regulations of the association, the bylaws and important documents and can request changes to them
  - b. a non-material member of Respect Science e.V.
    - i. Any natural or legal person who has an interest in the dissemination of RespectScience e.V. can become a non-material member.
    - ii. Ideal members are supporters of RespectScience e.V. without holding an office within the association themselves.
    - iii. Ideal members can inspect the current status and progress of the projects.
    - iv. Ideal members can support RespectScience e.V. with ideal work in the form of active support (via social media, at events or campaigns).
    - v. Ideal members can actively participate in the events and campaigns of RespectScience e.V. and help shape them by providing feedback on their content already during the development process.
    - vi. An ideal membership can be applied for via online form on the website of the association.
  - c. a supporting members of RespectScience e.V.
    - i. Every natural and legal person who has an interest in the dissemination of RespectScience e.V. can become a supporting member.
    - ii. The membership fee can be chosen freely, but is at least 1,00€.
    - iii. Sustaining members are supporters of RespectScience e.V. without holding an office within the association themselves.
    - iv. Supporting members can inspect the current status and progress of the projects.
    - v. Supporting members can actively participate in the events and campaigns of RespectScience e.V. and help shape them by providing feedback on their content during the development process.
    - vi. A supporting membership can be applied for via online form on the association's website.
2. All members have the right to receive a set of bylaws
3. Withdrawal from the Association is possible at any time by informal written notice to the Board of Directors.
4. Membership ends automatically upon the death of a member.
5. For the requirements for exclusion from membership, see § 7 on election.
6. The members of the association may be granted payment of remuneration in the amount of the honorary flat rate within the meaning of No. 26 a EStG.

## § 5 Plenum and General Meeting

1. A plenum of active members and a general meeting of potentially all members of the association are distinguished.
2. A plenum of active members is convened regularly via the current internal association communication platform.
3. General meetings are scheduled by the Board of Directors and sent via email to all Association members. Membership entitles the holder to attend the general meeting.
4. Sustaining members may request to attend the plenary session by informal communication to the Board of Directors.
5. Prior to each plenary meeting, TOPs (agenda items) are collected from all participating active members of the plenary, which are then discussed in order of urgency. For orientation purposes, there is an agenda for each meeting, which defines the time frame and content of the meetings.
6. RespectScience e.V. is organized on a grassroots democratic basis:
  - a. The dynamics of the association shall not be dominated by individual authority figures and each participant shall have an equal say.
  - b. Important decisions shall be made (as far as time permits) with all active members.
7. Each plenary session is recorded in writing and minutes are taken according to an internal Association template, as well as being collected and made available to all active members.
8. RespectScience e.V. uses gender in texts: (as here in the statutes).
9. Voting in plenary session
  - a. Decisions made by the entire association during the plenary session count as votes. The following count as votes not the cases dealt with in §7.
  - b. A quorum of the plenum shall consist of six or more voting members.
  - c. The majority required for a successful vote is 50% of those present plus two additional people. If there are more than two options to choose from, in the event of an inconclusive vote, the option with the fewest votes will be eliminated and voted on again. In addition, all options for which no person voted will be eliminated.
  - d. Voting is not anonymous. For each participant in the plenum there is the possibility to verbally request an anonymous vote beforehand.
10. The plenary moderator is responsible for orderly communication during the plenary.
11. The minute taker is appointed at the beginning of each plenary session and is supposed to document the decisions during this plenary session. Taking on this task is also voluntary.
12. Certain hand signals can be used to improve communication during plenary sessions. In particular, apply:
  - a. Agreeing with what is said: applause in sign language.
  - b. Comment directly on the previous speaker's point: report with both hands.

## **§ 6 Offices**

1. In order to distribute the responsibilities in the group, some offices are defined. The person who holds the office is responsible for the tasks described below until further notice, but otherwise has no higher position in the group compared to plenum members who do not hold an office.
2. There are four offices:
  - a. The Communications Officer (one person) is responsible for an overview of RespectScience e.V. email traffic.
  - b. The plenary moderator:in (one person) is responsible for the organization of the plenary, determines the coordinators for individual projects and enters them in the agenda.
  - c. Treasurer (one person) is responsible for managing the financial resources of the Association.
  - d. The Secretary (one person) makes and certifies important minutes.

## **§ 7 Elections, exclusion of members and amendment of the Articles of Association**

1. All elections described below will be conducted anonymously and must be announced two weeks in advance to allow as many members as possible to participate.
2. For each election, the month of the next election is first determined in order to clearly define the term of office. At least two weeks before the election, the exact election date is announced, which must be within the previously determined month.
3. All persons who are deemed to be entitled to vote in accordance with § 3 shall be entitled to vote.
4. The total votes shall include the votes of all persons present and entitled to vote who have not abstained.
5. Election of offices
  - a. If an office is vacant, a vote shall be held to fill it.
  - b. Offices held by one person:
    - i. The respective office fills the person with 1/2 of the total votes.
    - ii. If more than two persons are available for selection, a runoff election shall be held between the top two persons in the event of an inconclusive vote.
  - c. Offices held by more than one person:
    - i. During the election, two votes are cast anonymously for the desired candidate(s). These votes count equally.
    - ii. The office shall be filled by the two persons with the most total votes.
    - iii. If there is no clear result, a run-off election shall be held between the persons with the same number of votes.
6. Amendments to the Articles of Association
  - a. Amendments to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member of the Association at any time.
  - b. A majority of 2/3 of the voting members of the Association is required to amend the Articles of Association. The consent of all members is required to amend the purpose of the Association.
  - c. If there are more than two options to choose from, the option with the fewest votes will be eliminated in the event of an inconclusive vote and will be voted on again in addition, all options for which no person has voted are sorted out.
7. Dissolution of the Association: The Association may be dissolved by a majority of 3/4 of the voting members of the Association, including abstentions. Abstentions shall be counted as no votes. Absent members may sign out in advance, in which case their vote shall count as an abstention.
8. In the event of the dissolution or termination of the corporation or in the event of the

discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the corporation shall pass to a legal entity under public law or to another tax-privileged corporation for the purpose of promoting science and research.

9. Election on anonymous voting: During the election of the offices it is also newly elected whether the votes in the plenum should be anonymous (or the vote whether the vote is anonymous), see § 4.5 lit. c.

## **§ 8 Data protection**

All membership data must be treated confidentially and may not be disclosed to unauthorized third parties. The exact provisions are set out on our homepage and are available online at any time on the association's website.