



CONSTITUTION 2005

Modified from 1999 version according to votes at AGM 2004 in Montreal and at AGM 2005 in Croatia. Changes were made in sections 1, 2, 3a, 3b.

1. NAME

The Society shall be named the European Society for Social Pediatrics and Child Health, ESSOP.

2. PURPOSE

The Society is a non-governmental, non-profit making, scientific body open to all child health professionals with the purpose of promoting knowledge of social paediatrics, to stimulate research in this field, to disseminate such knowledge at meetings and to work together with national and international agencies to use our skills, resources and knowledge to develop local and global strategies to improve the health and well-being of children and young people

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

- a) Membership is open to all professionals in child & adolescent health.
- b) Membership is open to professionals working for child and adolescent health from anywhere in the world.
- c) The number of members shall be limited as decided by the General Assembly.
- d) New members shall ordinarily be elected at the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Proposal for active membership should be made to the Executive Committee and should be accompanied by curriculum vitae and list of publications of the candidate. The Executive Committee can accept the candidate as a temporary member until elected at the next General Assembly.
- e) If a member of the research group in which he works has not submitted a paper to a meeting of the Society within a period of 5 years, the membership can be taken under consideration by the Executive Committee.
- f) In consultation with the Executive Committee, the organiser of the meeting may invite guests to attend the meeting, contributing or not to the scientific programme. Local guests may also be invited up to a certain number depending on local conditions.

4. MEETING

- a) The Society will hold annual or biannual scientific congresses for the presentation and discussion of papers by members and guests at a time and place to be decided by its Executive Committee.
- b) A General Assembly of members will be held during the days of the congress.
- c) The Executive Committee of the Society will meet before and after the General Assembly.
- d) Other meetings of the Society or of the Executive Committee may be convened.

5. LANGUAGE

The official languages of the Society will be English, French, German and Russian.

6. OFFICERS

The officers of the Society shall be the President, the Meeting President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer together with the immediate Past President whenever available. If an officer is incapacitated, the Executive Committee will appoint one of its members to act in his place till the next General Assembly.

7. THE PRESIDENT

The President shall be elected by the Assembly for 5 years among the candidates proposed by the authoritative bodies of the countries represented in ESSOP. The President shall represent the Society and preside at the meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Committee.

The Meeting President shall be elected by the assembly from amongst the candidates proposed by the authoritative bodies of the host country where the next congress is to be held.

The term of the Meeting President will start from the end of one General Assembly to the end of the next one.

The Meeting President shall appoint a local committee for organisation of the scientific congress.

The final decision on both scientific programme and financial situation shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

8. THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary General shall be elected by the Assembly for a period of 4 years. His or her term of office can be extended for another 4 years, after which she or he will not be eligible for re-election.

The Secretary General is the executive officer of the Society. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the administration of the Society and shall be working with the President in all the activities of the Society. He or she shall appoint the staff of the secretariat of the Society.

9. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President of the Society, the Meeting President or presidents, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and a number of committee members as decided by the general assembly, elected by the Assembly for a period of 4 years. At the first election, the term for 2 of these Committee members shall be 2 years.

The Immediate Past President of the Society shall be ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall appoint a Treasurer, who shall be an additional member of the Committee.

The President of the Society shall preside the Executive Committee and in his or her absence the Past President or another senior officer shall act as the chairman of the Committee.

The function of the Executive Committee shall be:

1. To assist the Meeting President in preparation of the next Congress and other meetings.
2. To assist the Secretary General in carrying out the policies of the Society.
3. To recommend the budget of the Society to the Assembly for approval.
4. To propose new members for election by the General Assembly.
5. To exercise such authority as may be delegated by the Assembly.
6. To launch any project susceptible to serve the aims of the Society within the limits of the budget and pending to ratification by the next General Assembly.
7. To co-opt any member of the Society for any specific project, pending to ratification by the next General Assembly.

10. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly shall be composed of all ordinary members of the Society, who have paid their dues in accordance with the regulation of the Society. The control of policies of the Society shall be vested in the Assembly. The President of the Society shall preside and the Secretary General shall in consultation with the President draft the agenda and shall keep the minutes of the meetings.

The function of the Assembly shall be:

1. To receive and consider the reports of the Secretary General.
2. To determine the location of the following Congress.
3. To elect the President of the Society and other members of the Executive Committee.
4. To adapt any amendment of the constitution in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Society.

5. To deal with any matter which may properly be brought before the Assembly.

11. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Voting and quorum

The quorum of the General Assembly is presence of at least 15 members. A simple majority of votes is needed for adopting any resolution except the amendment of the constitution in which 2/3 majority shall be needed.

Every members has one vote. In the event that the vote is tied, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

If quorum is not attained or then views of members not attending the General Assembly are requested, a mail poll may be used.

2. Dues

The Assembly shall establish the amount of the due each member has to pay, on proposal of the Executive Committee. Any member who has not paid his or her dues for the past 2-year-terms may not be allowed to take part in attending the Assembly or activities of the Society.

12. DISSOLUTION

If not scientific meeting have been held for a period of 5 years, the Society will be deemed to have ceased to exist and all its assets will be handed over to UNICEF.