

**S.I.P.G.**  
**SOCIETA' ITALIANA PSICOTERAPIA GESTALT**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**SECTION I – INCORPORATION**

**Article 1 - Name**

The Association is hereby incorporated under the name “SOCIETA’ ITALIANA PSICOTERAPIA GESTALT (S.I.P.G.)”.

**Article 2 – Registered Office**

The registered office and organisational and administrative headquarters of the Association is located in Via San Sebastiano 38, Siracusa (Italy).

**Art. 3 - Term**

The term of the Association shall be unlimited.

**Article 4 – Purpose**

The purpose of the Association is to promote and develop the knowledge and practice of Gestalt therapy in Italy, to bring together Gestalt psychotherapists practising in Italy and

those engaged in the theoretical, methodological and applicational development of the approach in various clinical and social contexts, and safeguard professional practices.

The Association constitutes an opportunity for the exchange of scientific knowledge between members, a place of inspiration and support, and for professional updating, guaranteeing an open forum on scientific, institutional and cultural issues, both within the Gestalt methodology and with other approaches.

To this end, the Association promotes opportunities for study, for further theoretical and clinical training, the exchange of experiences, and the ongoing human and professional development of its members. It further promotes the organisation of study conventions, research, scientific trips, and scholarships which are pertinent to the statutory purposes of the Association, and publishes audio-visual materials, books and other literature pertinent to the purposes of the Association. The Association may produce at its discretion its official press organ. Such a decision is to be made by the Executive Board.

The Association is a non-profit making organisation.

### **Article 5 – Code of Ethics**

With regard to ethical and professional practices, the Association hereby adopts the Ethical Code of the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT), and the Ethical Code of the Federazione Italiana delle Associazioni di Psicoterapia (FIAP). Where conflict exists between the regulations set forth in the respective ethical codes, the Italian ethical code shall apply.

## **SECTION II – MEMBERS**

## **Article 6 – Membership Categories**

Membership to the Association shall be extended via one of the following categories:

- Honorary membership
- Ordinary membership
- Affiliated membership
- Student membership

## **Article 7 – Honorary Membership**

Honorary membership shall be awarded by the Body of Members, upon recommendation by the Executive Board, to persons of accepted national or international scientific renown, where such persons have made a contribution of particular note to promoting and accomplishing the statutory purposes of the Association.

Although not required to pay membership fees, honorary members shall be entitled to be called to general meetings and shall have full voting rights.

Life-long honorary membership shall be enjoyed by the founders of the Association.

## **Article 8 – Ordinary Membership**

Ordinary membership may be extended to qualified Gestalt psychotherapists that have completed a specialist masters course at postgraduate schools recognised by the Ministry for Education, Universities and Research pursuant to Law 56/89, and accredited by the Association.

Gestalt psychotherapists fulfilling the admission requirements set forth in the relevant regulations for ordinary membership shall be recommended for ordinary membership by the Executive Board, subject to the submission to the Board by candidates of a membership application enclosing letters of reference from four members of the Association who have been members for at least five years. Where uncertainty exists as to the application of the aforementioned regulations, the Body of Members shall vote on the admission of the candidate.

Ordinary members shall be required to pay membership fees and shall be entitled to be called to general meetings. Voting rights shall be subject to the effective payment of membership fees.

Ordinary members shall be admitted to the roll of Gestalt practitioners promoted and published by the Association.

### **Article 9- Affiliated Membership**

Affiliated membership may be extended to non-psychotherapists learned in Gestalt therapy.

Such persons may be recommended for affiliated membership by the Executive Board, subject to the submission to the General Board by candidates of a membership application enclosing letters of reference from four members of the Association who have been members for at least five years.

Affiliated members shall actively participate in the Association through the promotion of activities relevant to the purposes of the Association, thus contributing to the achievement of such purposes.

Affiliated members shall be required to pay membership fees and may be invited to participate in general meetings as observers.

Affiliated members shall not be entitled to voting rights or to admission to the roll of Gestalt practitioners promoted and published by the Association.

The Executive Board may prepare regulations setting forth more precise requirements for honorary, ordinary and student membership, to be submitted to the approval of the Body of Members.

### **Article 10 - Student Membership**

Student membership may be extended to masters students enrolled in specialist Gestalt programmes at postgraduate schools recognised by the Ministry for Education, Universities and Research pursuant to Law 56/89, and accredited by the Association.

Student membership shall be awarded by the Executive Board, subject to the submission of a membership application by candidates.

Admission as a student member shall be temporary, and as a rule shall be extended exclusively to masters students enrolled in their final year.

For the term of their membership, students shall not be required to pay membership fees and shall not be entitled to voting rights; however they may receive informative literature published by the Association.

Upon completing their studies, student members may apply for ordinary membership of the Association, in the manner set forth in Article 8 hereof.

### **Article 11 – Cancellation**

Cancellation of membership shall be determined by the Executive Board, with communication thereof to be given to the Body of Members, upon the grounds of:

- a) failure to comply with admission requirements;
- b) inability to contribute to pursuing the purpose of the Association;
- c) failure to comply with the provisions set forth herein and in the Association's Code of Ethics, with Association regulations, or with resolutions legally carried and adopted by the bodies of the Association;
- d) failure to pay membership fees for two consecutive years or other debts owed to the Association;
- e) actions or attempted actions that compete or conflict with the interests and purposes of the Association.

Appeals against the cancellation of membership may be submitted to the Body of Members within 30 (thirty) days from the decision of the Executive Board.

Upon the cancellation of membership, no claim may be laid to past membership fees paid or to the assets of the Association.

### **SECTION III - BODIES AND OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **Article 12 - List of Bodies and Offices**

The Association shall consist of the following bodies and offices:

- the Body of Members
- the Executive Board
- the Honorary President

### **Article 13 - Body of Members**

The Body of Members shall comprise only those members who enjoy voting rights.

Other, non-voting members may also participate in meetings of the Body of Members.

The Body of Members shall be responsible for:

- a) setting forth the steering policies for the activities of the Association;
- b) determining the number of members of the Executive Board and the appointment of such members;
- c) awarding honorary and affiliated membership, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board, and ordinary membership in cases submitted to its approval by the Executive Board;
- d) appointing commissions and work groups, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board;
- e) approving regulations proposed by the Executive Board for the purpose of improving the functioning of the Association;
- f) approving budgets and annual financial reports;
- g) approving the level of membership fees, at the recommendation of the Executive Board;
- h) making amendments to the Articles of Association;
- i) passing resolutions on other matters pertinent to the management and development of the Association, moved by the Executive Board or by other Association bodies;
- j) deciding upon the dissolution of the Association;
- k) deciding upon appeals submitted against cancellation of membership.

### **Article 14 – Calls to Meetings**

The Body of Members shall be called to meeting by the Executive Board by written notice sent, also by electronic means, at least fifteen days prior to the scheduled meeting, to be signed by the President or by an acting president.

The Body of Members shall be called to meeting at least once a year to approve the budget and annual financial report, and whenever requested by at least one-third of the voting members.

### **Article 15 - Validity of Meetings and Resolutions**

Meetings shall be chaired by the President or, where absent or unable, by the Vice-president, or by an honorary or ordinary member appointed by the Body of Members.

The meeting shall be deemed validly convened upon first calling when at least 2/3 of voting members are in attendance, and validly convened upon second calling independently of the number of voting members in attendance.

Amendments to the Articles of Association and decisions concerning the dissolution of the Body of Members shall be subject to Article 21 of the Civil Code.

Minutes recording resolutions carried by the Body of Members are to be signed by the chairperson and the secretary.

Members may only delegate other voting members to represent them in meetings via written and signed proxy. Members may represent by proxy a maximum of two other members.

### **Article 16 - Executive Board**

Administrative responsibility for the Association shall lie with the Executive Board, comprising between three and nine board members appointed by the Body of Members for a



term of four years, each of whom may be re-elected to the Board for no more than two consecutive terms.

### **Article 17 - Duties of the Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall be responsible for:

- a) calling the Body of Members to meeting and setting forth the relative agenda of the meeting;
- b) electing, amongst its members, a President and Vice-president;
- c) appointing a Secretary and Treasurer;
- d) setting forth the programme of activities to be pursued by the Association;
- e) appointing committees, commissions and work groups;
- f) appointing leaders for committees and work groups, communication of which is to be made to the Body of Members;
- g) establishing the level of membership fees, to be submitted to the approval of the Body of Members;
- h) setting forth the budget and annual financial report, to be submitted to the approval of the Body of Members;
- i) recommending candidates to the Body of Members for honorary and affiliated membership;
- j) setting forth member admission regulations and all other regulations for the purpose of improving the functioning of the Association, to be submitted to the approval of the Body of Members;
- k) extending ordinary, affiliated and student membership to candidates;
- l) deciding upon the cancellation of membership, subject to the conditions set forth in Article 11 hereof;

- m) establishing and delegating signatory powers;
- n) pursuing the purposes of the Association as necessary, excluding therefrom those actions for which responsibility lies with the Body of Members subject to laws in force and the provisions set forth herein.

### **Article 18- Meetings and Resolutions of the Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall meet at least twice a year, or as deemed necessary by the President, or at the request of at least one-third of the board members.

Meetings shall be deemed valid where the majority of board members are present.

Resolutions of the Board shall be carried by the absolute majority of members present; in the event of a hung vote, the casting vote shall be made by the President.

Where contemplated by laws in force, resolutions may be adopted by the Executive Board via written decision-making procedures, involving the expression of approval in writing.

In such cases, the President shall provide each and every board member with the exact text of the resolution to be approved, along with the grounds for the resolution and all the documentation necessary to enable informed decisions to be made. In the relevant communication, the President shall also notify board members of the deadline by which replies are to be submitted to the Association and the manner in which such replies are to be submitted.

The President shall be responsible for collecting all replies sent and notifying all board members of the resulting decision.

Resolutions carried by the Executive Board are to be recorded in a Minutes Book and signed by the President and the Secretary.

## **Article 19 - Honorary President**

The Honorary President shall be an ordinary member that has lent his/her experience and expertise to the Association in performing administrative duties at the registered office of the Association and in the representation of the Association. The Honorary President shall be responsible for co-ordinating secretarial duties and representing the Association in the event that the President and the Vice-president are unable to undertake such duties.

The Honorary President shall be appointed by the Body of Members at the recommendation of the Executive Board. The Honorary President shall enjoy an unlimited term of office and may only be replaced upon the resignation of the Honorary President or at the justified request of at least two-thirds of voting members. The Honorary President may participate in the meetings of the Executive Board and the Body of Members.

## **Article 20 – The Ethic Committee**

The members are elected for four years by the General Meeting. They are a minimum of three and a maximum of five. The members can't delegate another person into the committee. When elected they state that they abstain in case there is a conflict of interest. The office of the Ethic Committee is the same that the SIPG, Via S. Sebastiano 38, Siracusa.

## **Article 21 – List of the members**

The Ethic Committee elect a Chair and a deputy among its members. The Chair organizes the meetings and prepare the agenda. He calls for the meeting at least 30 days before the gathering via snail mail or email. In case of urgency, he can call for a meeting at least 3 days before. The meetings can be hold also via internet or Skype.

The Ethic Committee elect a Secretary and a deputy among its members. The tasks of the Secretary are:

- take the minutes of the meetings
- send to the members the needed documentation before the meetings
- send the minutes and documents of the meetings to the members, to the President and to the Secretary of the SIPG

### **Article 22 – Functions**

Ethic Committee, in autonomy and independency,

- a) gives recommendations, suggestions, guidelines on the members' researches or projects;
- b) gives recommendations, suggestions, guidelines on the members' clinical and psychotherapeutic activity;
- c) realizes projects and initiatives in order to sensitise members on the ethical issues regarding research and psychotherapy;
- d) promotes and realizes researches into the field of the ethic in psychotherapy;
- e) contributes to spread via SIPG website and newsletter interesting information regarding ethical issues;
- f) promotes connections with national and international Ethic Committees, particularly with the Ethic Committee of NAO and EAGT, in order to be updated and collaborate on ethic issues
- g) verifies that the ethical issues of the SIPG are in line with the Ethical Code of the EAGT

### **Article 23 – Decisions**

The vote of the Committee is valid when at least 2/3 of the members are present. The decisions are taken by the majority of the members. In case of equal number of votes, the decision of the Chair prevails. The members can't delegate another person to vote. The decisions and their motivations are written into the minutes, signed by the Chair and the Secretary.

### **Article 24 – Abstention**

The member that is not independent from who is requiring advice must abstain and not vote.

### **Article 25 – Meetings**

The Ethic Committee has at least one meeting per year, on demand of the Chair or at least a half of its members. The Chair (or if he is not present the deputy) leads the meeting. The call for the meeting can be done via internet.

### **Article 26 – Annual Report**

The Ethic Committee presents every year to the Annual General Meeting a report describing the work made and the initiatives for the following year.

## **SECTION IV- ASSETS – FINANCIAL YEAR**

### **Article 27 – Composition of Assets**

The financial assets available to the Association include:

- a) membership fees, whose level shall be set forth from year to year by the Executive Board and approved by the Body of Members;
- b) grants and donations from Foundations, public and private bodies, Institutes, and legal and natural persons.

### **Article 28 – Financial Year**

The financial year for the Association shall be closed on 31st December of every calendar year.

## **SECTION V – Final Provisions**

### **Article 29 – Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution of the Association, the Body of Members shall appoint one or more liquidators, with full powers granted, and shall decide upon the destination of the Association's assets, within the limits of laws in force.

### **Article 30 – Jurisdiction of Law**

All matters not governed by these Articles of Association shall be subject to relevant laws in force.

Società Italiana  
Psicoterapia della Gestalt  
is a non-profit making  
association of  
professionals.