

„International Standing Conference for History of Education (ISCHE) e.V.“

CONSTITUTION

Statutes of 23 August 2013, revised on 26 June 2015, on 2 September 2022, and on 9 July 2025.

1. Name and seat

(1) The association has the name ‘International Standing Conference for History of Education (ISCHE)’. It shall be entered in the Register of Associations; after such entry its name shall be ‘International Standing Conference for History of Education (ISCHE), registered association’.

(2) The association’s seat is in Berlin.

(3) The business year shall be the calendar year.

2. Purpose of the association

(1) The association’s purpose is to foster and support academic research and education by

- promoting and providing support to academic research and teaching;
- providing opportunities for international academic exchange and cooperation

in the field of the history of education, with particular emphasis on the field’s contribution to the understanding of the nature of education.

(2) Specifically, the association fulfils its purpose by means of the following activities:

- organising academic events such as conferences, particularly the ISCHE annual conference; seminars; working and study groups and summer schools;
- conducting academic research projects particularly on the history and current state of historical education research. This purpose may also be fulfilled by means of contracting auxiliary persons as defined in section 57, paragraph 1, clause 2 of the German Tax Code (*Abgabenordnung*) to carry out research;
- publishing and promoting academic and specialist publications and information;
- operating a website for the purpose of supporting academic discussion and debate;
- recognising and celebrating outstanding academic achievement in the field of history of education by giving awards in accordance with the association’s criteria;
- supporting early career researchers, by i) providing opportunities for engagement with established academics, ii) promoting access to specialised publication venues, iii) structuring guidance for academic career development, iv) giving awards for outstanding work in accordance with the association’s criteria and v) strengthening networks among early career researchers.

In addition to these activities, the association may perform any other tax-privileged activities which serve the fulfilment of its purpose.

3. Non-profit status

(1) The association exclusively and immediately pursues tax-privileged purposes as defined in the section of the German tax code on “Tax-Privileged Purposes”.

(2) The association operates for charitable purposes; it does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes.

(3) The association's funds may only be used for purposes which are in accordance with the statutes. The members do not receive any allowances out of association funds.

(4) No person shall benefit from expenditure unconnected with the purposes of the association or receive disproportionately high remuneration.

4. Membership

(1) There are two forms of membership:

- individual membership for individuals;
- institutional membership for regional and national associations in the field of the history of education or correlated fields.

(2) The Executive Committee (EC) makes decisions on admission to the association at its discretion.

(3) Membership shall end upon:

- voluntary resignation from the association which has to be submitted in writing;
- removal from the Register of Members;
- the death of the individual or the dissolution of an institutional member.

(4) Resignations from the association will become effective as of the end of the calendar year in which they are submitted.

(5) A member may be removed from the Register of Members if he/she/it fails to pay membership fees.

(6) Membership fees for individuals and institutional members shall be payable per calendar year. Their amount and due date shall be proposed by the Executive Committee and agreed by the General Assembly. Membership fees are published on the ISCHE webpage. The Executive Committee may draw up specific regulations to determine further details of issues relating to membership fees.

5. General Assembly

(1) Each individual member of ISCHE who attends the General Assembly has a vote. institutional members do not have a vote in the General Assembly.

(2) The General Assembly is the association's governing body; its remit is, in particular:

- to elect and, where required, remove from office the members of the EC;
- to approve the budget drawn up by the Executive Committee for the following business year and the budget of the previous year;
- hear the Executive Committee's annual report and relieve the EC from liability;
- to determine the amount and due date of the annual membership fee;
- to pass resolutions on changes to the statutes and the purpose of the association and on the association's dissolution;
- to appoint an auditor for the association's accounts;
- to confer special membership status upon individuals of particular merit;

- to mandate the formation of standing working groups;
- to make recommendations to the Executive Committee on the organisation of future annual conferences and meetings.

In addition to these tasks, the General Assembly takes all decisions required for the fulfilment of the association's purpose.

(3) The ordinary General Assembly takes place once a year, on the occasion of the association's annual conference. The Executive Committee convenes the General Assembly by inviting members at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled date by letter, fax or email and enclosing or attaching the agenda. The two-week notice period shall begin on the day following dispatch of the invitations to members or of the invitation's publication on the website. The two-week notice period shall begin on the day following dispatch of the invitations to members. The invitation shall be considered to have reached members once it has been dispatched to the last postal or email address or fax number made known by the member to the association. The agenda shall be jointly determined by the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

(4) Any member may submit motions to be discussed or voted upon to the Executive Committee, which shall issue a call for motions, disseminated to members by letter, fax or email, at least six weeks in advance of the General Assembly. Motions must reach the Executive Committee four weeks before the date of the General Assembly at the latest. The General Assembly shall take decisions on any motions on amendments or additions to the agenda which are brought during the General Assembly.

(5) Motions voted on by the General Assembly shall be carried by a majority of the valid votes cast. Abstentions shall be categorised as invalid votes. In the event of a tie of votes, the chair of the General Assembly shall have the casting vote.

(6) Resolutions concerning the expulsion of members and changes of the statutes shall require a majority of two thirds, concerning changes of the purpose of the association and the dissolution of the association a majority of nine tenth of the valid votes cast.

(7) The General Assembly shall be chaired by the association's President; should he or she be unable to attend, the Secretary shall take the chair, and if he or she is likewise unable to be present, the chair shall be taken by the Treasurer. Should all of these persons be unable to attend the meeting, the General Assembly shall elect a chair who shall appoint a minute-taker.

(8) The General Assembly is not held in public. ISCHE Annual Conference delegates who are not members are permitted to attend but not to vote; the chair may admit other persons as guests. The chair may decide whether to admit representatives of the press, broadcast and other media.

(9) The General Assembly shall be deemed quorate when at least 30 individual members are present. In the case of considering the dissolution of the association, the quorum must be at least two thirds of members.

(10) The proceedings of the General Assembly shall be minuted and the minutes signed by the chair and the minute-taker. The minutes shall contain the following information: the time and place of the Assembly, the names of the chair and minute-taker, the number of members in attendance, the agenda, the results of individual votes and the form in which the vote was conducted in each case. Where changes to the statutes are concerned, the minutes shall record changes to the statutes verbatim.

(11) The Executive Committee may call an extraordinary General Assembly at any time. It is obliged to convene such a meeting when the interests of the association demand it, when the AGM is not quorate, or when at least 25% of members call upon the Executive Committee to convene such a meeting in writing, by fax or email, giving their reasons for doing so and the purpose of the extraordinary General Assembly they seek. The regulations set out above shall apply to any meeting thus convened.

6. Executive Committee (EC)

(1) The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- the President;
- the Secretary;
- the Treasurer;

four further individual members of the association;
 one early career researcher (graduate or postgraduate student or a person who has completed a doctorate within five years) as a co-opted member;
 the current Editor of *Paedagogica Historica* or a representative nominated by him or her as a co-opted member.

Further, the EC may elect to co-opt one or two further additional member(s).

(2) The association shall be represented in and out of court by the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, by each of them individually. The liability of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, as defined in section 26 BGB [German Civil Code], vis-à-vis the association and its members shall be limited to willful intent and gross negligence.

(3) The Executive Committee is responsible for all affairs of the association, except those for which the association's statutes assign responsibility to another body of the association. The Executive Committee shall implement the resolutions passed by the General Assembly and submit proposals to the Assembly concerning the achievement of the association's purpose.

(4) Executive Committee meetings may be held at any time in person and/or online, provided that they are convened in advance jointly by the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, in writing, by telephone or email. The Executive Committee shall adopt its resolutions by a simple majority of the all members present in person and online. In the event of a tied vote, the chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote. The Executive Committee may pass resolutions by a written procedure or by email if all of its members agree to this. The Executive Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure, which shall require the General Assembly's approval.

(5) The President is elected by the General Assembly in a separate vote in person and/or online, for a term of office lasting three years and commencing on the day of election to office. His or her term of office shall continue until his or her successor has been elected. When finishing the term past presidents will continue to serve ex-officio on the Executive Committee during one year. Eligibility to stand for office as President shall be restricted to members who have been serving on the Executive Committee for at least one year at the time of their election as President.

(6) The remaining further Executive Committee members shall be elected by the General Assembly in person and/or online; their term of office shall last three years, commencing on the day of election to office. Their term of office shall continue until their successors have been elected. The members of the Executive Committee may be re-elected once for an immediately consecutive second term of office by the General Assembly. Eligibility to stand for election is restricted to individual members of the association.

(7) The Executive Committee shall elect a Secretary and a Treasurer from among its members.

(8) One person may not hold more than one named office within the Executive Committee.

(9) The election of a member as President or to another position on the EC requires the majority of valid votes cast. Where more than one candidate is standing for election to the Executive Committee, the candidate with the most votes shall be considered elected,

(10) The graduate student shall be co-opted to the Executive Committee for a period of three years. His or her term of office shall commence on the day of co-opting, and shall continue until his or her successor has been co-opted. Co-opting of the same student to a further term of office is not permitted. This shall not affect the student member's ability to be elected to another position on the Executive Committee at a later date.

(11) The term of office of any additional member the Executive Committee chooses to co-opt to itself shall be three years, commencing on the date of co-opting. Co-opting of the same member to a further term of office is not permitted. This office shall not affect the member's ability to be elected to another position on the Executive Committee at a later date.

(12) In the event of an Executive Committee member leaving office before his or her term of office has expired, the Executive Committee shall co-opt a replacement for the remaining term of office. An Executive Committee member may leave office through death, by resignation of his or her position, or due to repeated non-attendance, without good reason, at consecutive Executive Committee meetings taking place in the period between the ordinary General Assemblies.

(13) In the event that an elected member of the Executive Committee is accused of offences so grave that the association can no longer be reasonably expected to keep the accused in office, the remaining members of the EC may provisionally prohibit the accused from further discharging his or her office. A resolution to vote the Executive Committee member concerned out of office may only be passed by the General Assembly. Should the co-opted Early Career Researchers representative or the co-opted additional Executive Committee member be accused of such serious offences, the Executive Committee may remove him or her from office with immediate effect. Sentence 1 of this section shall apply where such allegations are made against the Editor of *Paedagogica Historica* or his or her nominated representative. The Executive Committee whom the allegations concern shall not have the right to vote in such a case.

(14) A member of the Executive Committee elected by the General Assembly can only be voted out of office by the election of a new Executive Committee member for the remaining period of office of the member who is to be removed from office.

7. Ad hoc Committees and Working Groups

The EC may set up ad hoc committees and working groups for the fulfillment of certain specific tasks. The EC may adopt rules of procedure for such ad hoc committees and working groups.

8. Auditor

The General Assembly shall appoint an external auditor qualified for this profession. The auditor's tasks shall be to examine accounting records and check them for compliance with

the requirements defined in the statutes and in the association's resolutions. The auditor shall present to the Treasurer at least once a year an audit report to be presented by the Treasurer to the next General Assembly. The auditor must be neither a member of the Executive Committee nor an association member or a member's legal representative; the auditor should be a publicly appointed person authorised to perform and confirm business audits, especially audits of the annual accounts of businesses, and to advise and represent his or her clients on and in tax matters.

9. Dissolution / Loss of Tax Privilege

(1) Any resolution to dissolve the association shall be passed by a majority of the valid votes cast at the General Assembly. The quorum should follow what has been stipulated in 5(6) and 5(9).

(2) In the event that the association is dissolved or that its tax-privileged purpose no longer exists, the association's assets shall accrue to a legal entity under public law or another tax-privileged corporation for the purpose of being used for the promotion of history of education.
