

## **STATUTE OF THE POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR GESTALT PSYCHOTHERAPY**

### **Preamble**

The Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy, hereinafter referred to as the Association, shall be hereby established.

### **Article 1**

#### **Name and logo**

##### **§. 1**

The Association shall be called the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy.

##### **§. 2**

The name and logo of the Association are protected by law.

##### **§. 3**

The Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy uses the abbreviated name PTPG.

##### **§. 4**

The Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy is an association of psychotherapists (Gestalt).

### **Article 2**

#### **Area of activity and registered office**

The area of activity of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy is the territory of the Republic of Poland and the registered office is in the city of Krakow.

### **Article 3**

The Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy may be a member of the Polish and international associations of similar nature, in particular the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT).

### **Article 4**

##### **§.1**

The Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy bases its activities on voluntary work of its members, and to conduct their work, it may employ workers.

## §.2

The Association may conduct business activity.

### Article 5

#### Goals of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy

The Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy shall pursue the following goals:

1. Promoting the humanistic and social ideology of Gestalt psychotherapy.
2. Promoting Gestalt therapy pro bono publico.
3. Responsibility for preserving contents and tradition of Gestalt therapy.
4. Ensuring development of theory and practice of Gestalt therapy.
5. Promoting exchanges and joint actions on professional issues of Gestalt psychotherapists in Poland and abroad.
6. Promoting various movements in Gestalt psychotherapy and professional contacts among their representatives.
7. Promoting scientific research oriented towards developing theory and practice of Gestalt therapy.
8. Promoting scientific exchanges with representatives of other theoretic approaches on national and international platforms.
9. Propagating training and continued training standards for Gestalt psychotherapists in Poland in line with EAGT standards.
10. Taking steps aimed to ensure high quality of Gestalt psychotherapy in Poland.
11. Supporting individual nature of institutes training Gestalt psychotherapists in Poland.
12. Promoting high standards of psychotherapy practice, professional ethics and training in Gestalt psychotherapy.
13. Propagating EAGT certificates in Poland and assisting Polish psychotherapists in qualifying for those certificates.
14. Promoting high quality of services in the area of psychotherapy, prevention, upbringing, counselling, education and supervision based on Gestalt psychotherapy principles.
15. Supporting contacts with related associations and professional groups.

16. Creating a forum for the exchange of experience, joint actions and scientific research for psychotherapists working in Gestalt psychotherapy, psychotherapist training in this approach, centres conducting psychotherapy and institutions training Gestalt psychotherapists.
17. Caring about professional ethics, ensuring and compliance with training and program standards of Gestalt psychotherapy as well as compliance of those standards with requirements of the European Union, and in particular EAGT standards.
18. Attention to maintenance and development of philosophical, social, ethical and substantive foundations of Gestalt psychotherapy.

## **Article 6**

### **Ways and means of achieving the statutory goals**

The Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy achieves its goals by:

1. Working out and establishing training standards for Gestalt psychotherapists, compliant with EAGT standards.
2. Supporting professional development and integration of the Gestalt psychotherapists environment.
3. Attention to high quality training for Gestalt psychotherapist in Poland.
4. Cooperation with associations, research, educational and health care institutions in the field of Gestalt therapy.
5. Organizing scientific sessions, conferences and lectures.
6. Publishing and popularization activities.
7. Inspiring and encouraging research in the field of Gestalt therapy.
8. Attention to high standards of professional practice and ethics of Gestalt psychotherapy in Poland.

## **Article 7**

### **Membership**

#### **§.1**

Members of the Association may have the following status:

1. Ordinary Member,
2. Extraordinary Member,

3. Supporting Member,
4. Honorary Member,
5. Full Member.

## **§.2**

An Ordinary Member can be a person holding a university degree, trained in Gestalt psychotherapy, having a certificate or another form of validation of professional skills, recommended by two Ordinary Members or Full Members.

## **§.3**

1. An Extraordinary Member can be a person interested in the objectives of the Association, being in training or trained in Gestalt therapy, as well as students who wish to obtain education in psychotherapy.
2. An Extraordinary Member has all rights except the right to be elected.

## **§.4**

1. A Supporting Member can be an individual or organization that declares financial or professional support for the goals of the Association. This title is awarded by the Board of Executives to natural or legal persons that promote the objectives of the Association with their actions or financially.
2. Supporting Members do not have the right to vote or voting rights.

## **§.5**

1. An Honorary Member can be a person of particular merit for Gestalt psychotherapy in Poland.
2. Honorary membership is awarded by the Board of Executives by resolution.
3. An Honorary Member is not entitled to vote or stand for election, s/he is not obliged to pay membership fees.
4. Honorary membership may be awarded to a citizen of another country in recognition of his/her achievements in the field of psychotherapy or contribution to Gestalt psychotherapy in Poland.

## **§.6**

1. A Full Member may be a person who is an Ordinary Member of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy, trained in Gestalt psychotherapy at a level consistent with the standards of training recognized by the European Association for Gestalt Therapy (EAGT), who documented his/her training before the Accreditation and Certification Committee of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy and received a psychotherapist certificate, issued by PTPG.

2. A Full Member is entitled to vote and stand for election.
3. Full Membership is awarded by the Board of Executives of the PTPG by resolution.

#### **§.7**

Members of the Association are accepted by the Board of Executives on the basis of a written declaration and written recommendations of two Ordinary Members or Full Members.

#### **§.8**

##### **Rights and Duties of Members**

1. Members of the Association are obliged to:
  - a. participate in achieving the goals of the Association,
  - b. comply with provisions of the Statute and resolutions of the authorities,
  - c. comply with rules of the Code of Ethics of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy,
  - d. pay the membership fees on a regular basis.
2. Members of the Association are entitled to:
  - a. take part in the statutory activities of the Association,
  - b. put forward their demands at the General Meeting,
  - c. vote at the General Meeting,
  - d. elect and be elected to the authorities of the Association,
  - e. be members of the committees appointed by the Board of Executives,
  - f. receive information about the current activities of the Association,
  - g. have priority in participating in activities of the Association,
  - h. discounts in fees for participation in conferences organized by the Association.

#### **§.9**

##### **Termination of Membership**

Termination of membership may be due to:

1. Declaration of a Member to withdraw from the Association, submitted to the Board of Executives in writing.

2. Resolution of the Board of Executives:
  - a. on removal due to evasion of membership obligations,
  - b. finding falseness of information about professional qualifications, provided in the membership application form, in case providing true information would make it impossible to become a member,
  - c. adopted upon request of the Deontological Committee, in the event of finding by the Committee of a breach of the Code of Ethics of the PTPG or acting to the detriment of the Association.
3. Death of a member.
4. Termination of Supporting Membership takes place pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Executives, adopted in the event when the Supporting Member has ceased to support the objectives of the Association.

## **Article 8**

### **Authorities and Permanent Bodies of the Association**

#### **§.1**

The authorities of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy are:

1. General Meeting
2. Board of Executives
3. Audit Committee
4. Deontological Committee
5. Training Standards Committee
6. Accreditation and Certification Committee
7. Research Committee

#### **§.2**

1. The General Meeting of Members is the highest authority of the Association.
2. The powers of the General Meeting of Members shall include:
  - a. Electing the Board of Executives, Audit Committee, Deontological Committee, Accreditation and Certification Committee, Training Standards Committee and Research Committee.
  - b. Accepting reports of the Board of Executives.
  - c. Determining policy directions of the Association.

- d. Approving membership fees.
- e. Making decisions in the cases provided for in the Statute.
3. Voting on personnel matters is always confidential.
4. The General Meeting shall be attended by all Full, Ordinary and Extraordinary Members.
5. The General Meeting shall be convened by the Board of Executives. Information about the date and place of the Meeting must be sent to Members no later than three weeks before the meeting.
6. Resolutions are adopted by a simple majority of votes in the presence of at least half of those entitled to attend the General Meeting unless the statute provides otherwise. In the absence of a quorum, the General Meeting shall be convened for the second time regardless of the number of the Members present.

### **§.3**

1. The Board of Executives of the Association shall be elected by the General Meeting in a secret vote.
2. The Board of Executives shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.
3. The term of office of the Board of Executives shall be for 3 years.
4. The Board of Executives represents the Association on the outside as well as in the relationships between the Association and its Members. The Board of Executives is authorized to make declarations of will on behalf of the Association.
5. If, during the term of office, the membership of the President is terminated, his/her duties shall be taken over by one of the Vice Presidents, in accordance with the resolution of the Board of Executives.
6. If, during the term of office, the membership of one of the members of the Board of Executives is terminated, the Board of Executives shall appoint a deputy in his/her place, who shall hold the office until the next General Meeting.
7. Resolutions of the Board of Executives are adopted by a simple majority of votes in the presence of at least half of the members of the Board. In case of equal distribution of votes, the vote of the President shall be decisive.
8. The Committees, with the exception of the Audit Committee shall inform the Board of Executives about the progress of their work at least once a quarter. With the exception of the Audit Committee, Members of the Board of Executives have the opportunity to participate in the work of the Committees.

9. With the exception of the Committees whose members are appointed in accordance with the Statute by the General Meeting, the Board of Executives shall appoint working groups, project groups and other teams according to the needs of the Association.
10. All working groups, project groups and other teams are subject to the Board of Executives and closely cooperate with it.

**§.4**

President of the Board of Executives shall preside over the work of the Board.

**§.5**

President, together with another member of the Board or Vice President, together with another member of the Board is authorized to represent the Association and assume liabilities.

**§.6**

The Board of Executives shall present the financial statements, signed by the Treasurer, to the General Meeting.

**§.7**

The Board of Executives may open an office whose work is managed by the General, in accordance with the guidelines of the Board of Executives.

**§.8**

1. The Audit Committee shall be elected by the General Meeting in a secret vote.
2. The Audit Committee shall consist of 3-5 people, who elect the Chairman from among themselves.
3. The Audit Committee shall monitor the activities of the Association.
4. The Audit Committee shall adopt resolutions by a simple majority of votes in the presence of at least three members.
5. The term of office of the Audit Committee shall be 3 years.
6. New members shall be appointed to the Audit Committee by resolution of the General Meeting.

**§.9**

1. The Deontological Committee shall consist of 3-5 Ordinary or Full Members, elected by the General Meeting in a secret vote, who elect the Chairman from among themselves.
2. The Deontological Committee shall decide on compliance of conduct of Members with the principles of the Code of Ethics and the objectives of the Association.



3. The Deontological Committee shall resolve conflicts between Members.
4. The Deontological Committee may request the Board of Executives to exclude a Member from the Association.
5. The charter of the Deontological Committee shall be adopted by the Board of Executives.
6. The Deontological Committee shall investigate complaints of patients according to the complaints procedure adopted by the Board of Executives.
7. The Deontological Committee shall adopt resolutions by a simple majority of votes in the presence of three members of the Committee.
8. New members shall be appointed to the Deontological Committee by resolution of the General Meeting.

#### **§.10**

1. The Training Standards Committee is a standing committee of the Association.
2. The Training Standards Committee shall consist of 3 to 5 people elected by the General Meeting in a secret vote, who elect the Chairman from among themselves.
3. The Training Standards Committee shall be composed of Ordinary Members or Full Members of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy, who have at least 8 years of practice as psychotherapists and experienced in teaching Gestalt psychotherapy and having a supervisor's certificate of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy or a supervisor's certificate of another Polish or foreign Association or Association of Gestalt psychotherapists or conducting scientific and academic activities.
4. The term of office of the Training Standards Committee shall be 3 years.
5. The charter of the Training Standards Committee shall be adopted by the Board of Executives.
6. The Training Standards Committee carries out the statutory objectives of the Association, related to training standards for Gestalt psychotherapists, and other objectives specified in the charter and ensures compliance of these standards with the EAGT standards.
7. The Training Standards Committee shall adopt resolutions by a simple majority of votes in the presence of at least three members.
8. New members shall be appointed to the Training Standards Committee by resolution of the General Meeting.

#### **§.11**

1. The Accreditation and Certification Committee shall consist of 3-5 Members and is a standing committee of the Association, appointed by the General Meeting.

2. Ordinary or Full Members only may be appointed to the Accreditation and Certification Committee, who have a minimum of 8 years experience in Gestalt psychotherapy and a supervisor's certificate of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy or a supervisor's certificate of another Polish or foreign Association or Association of Gestalt psychotherapists.
3. The term of office of the Accreditation and Certification Committee shall be 3 years.
4. The charter of the Committee shall be adopted by the Board of Executives.
5. The Accreditation and Certification Committee shall adopt resolutions by a simple majority of votes in the presence of at least three members.
6. New members shall be appointed to the Accreditation and Certification Committee by resolution of the General Meeting.
7. The powers of the Accreditation and Certification Committee shall include:
  - a. following the accreditation procedure and requesting the Board of Executives to grant accreditation or extend accreditation to centres training Gestalt psychotherapist,
  - b. carrying out the certification procedure,
  - c. granting and extending validity of certificates to psychotherapists,
  - d. granting and extending validity of certificates to supervisors.

#### **§.12**

1. The Research Committee is a standing committee of the Association.
2. The Research Committee consists of at least 3 Ordinary or Full Members with scientific experience, elected by the General Meeting in a secret vote, and who elect the Chairman from among themselves.
3. The Research Committee issues opinions on the professional quality of proposals and research projects, scientific publications, scientific conferences and patronages conducted or signed by the Polish Association of Gestalt Psychotherapy.
4. The Research Committee may apply to the Board of Executives for implementation of the proposals and research projects, scientific publications, scientific conferences and patronages conducted or signed by the Polish Association of Gestalt Psychotherapy.
5. The Research Committee shall adopt resolutions by a simple majority of votes in the presence of at least three members.
6. New members shall be appointed to the Accreditation and Certification Committee by resolution of the General Meeting of the Polish Association for Gestalt Psychotherapy.

7. The term of office of the Research Committee shall be 3 years.

## **Article 9**

### **Assets of the Association**

#### **§.1**

Assets of the Association come from membership fees, donations, legacies, bequests, income from own business activities, income from the assets of the Association and from the generosity of the public.

#### **§.2**

The Association, under the existing regulations, may accept donations, legacies and bequests and benefit from the generosity of the public.

#### **§.3**

The Association may engage in business activities according to the general principles set out in separate regulations. Income from business activities of the Association shall be used for achievement of the statutory objectives and may not be distributed among its members.

## **Article 10**

### **Amendments to the Statute of the Association.**

Amendments to the Statute shall be proposed by the Board of Executives or upon written request of fifteen Members of the Association, adopted by the General Meeting by a simple majority of votes in the presence of at least half of the Members of the Association entitled to vote.

## **Article 11**

### **Dissolution of the Association**

#### **§.1**

A resolution to dissolve the Association shall be adopted by the General Meeting in the presence of at least half of those entitled to vote, by a 2/3 majority of votes, appointing 1-3 liquidators.

#### **§.2**

Assets of the liquidated Association shall be distributed to the objectives in line with the statutory objectives, specified in the dissolution resolution.

## **Article 12**

### **Interim provisions**

#### **§.1**

The first General Meeting must be held not later than 3 months after the registration.