

ESHE

European Society for the study of Human Evolution

Translation of German Statutes

Note that only the German Statutes are Legally Binding

Preamble

The society promotes the broad field of research which investigates how humans evolved both biologically and culturally. It aims to stimulate communication and scientific cooperation between scientists, and to improve public understanding of human evolution. Contributing scientific disciplines typically include hominin palaeontology and genetics; comparative and functional studies of extant primates; palaeolithic archaeology; archaeological sciences, palaeoecology and palaeogeography, as well as any other field of science addressing biological or cultural evolution of hominins prior to the emergence of agriculture.

Article 1

Name and Seat

1. The society is called "European Society for the study of Human Evolution". Its acronym is "ESHE".
2. ESHE is provisionally located in Leipzig (Germany). The Society is to be registered as such. When European legislation to cover societies and private charities is enacted, ESHE will be governed by European law.

The financial year shall be the calendar year.

Article 2

Objectives

The purpose of ESHE is to support science and research in the field of biological and cultural evolution of hominins. Its aims and objectives are exclusively and directly of public utility as defined in the relevant sections on tax exemption in the Federal German taxation legislation. In particular, the society

fulfils the mission of its articles of association through the implementation of the following core activities:

1. to organize yearly meetings based on a scientific programme and to organize a public-outreach event or a public lecture,
2. financial support of international and interdisciplinary research proposals and research projects,
3. public relations activities to increase the public and political awareness and understanding of this research field.
4. The society is primarily a non profit organisation.
5. The society's budget may only be used to support statutory aims. Members do not receive financial benefits from the society.
6. No person shall benefit from expenditures which are not in accordance with the aims of the society, or benefit from disproportionately high remuneration.
7. If the society is dissolved, or loses the tax-privileged status, its assets shall be transferred to a corporate body under common law or a different tax- privileged body. The funds are to be used for science and research in den the field of biological and cultural evolution of hominins.

Article 3

Membership

1. Ordinary membership is open to academic professionals and students of all nationalities from the fields of research outlined in the preamble.
2. Honorary membership can be bestowed by the Board based on special merit in relation to the objectives of the Society.
3. Supporting membership is open to individuals, enterprises, public bodies, societies of public utility and other legal entities that support the study of human evolution.
4. Membership applications shall be submitted in writing to the board for consideration. Membership acceptance requires a simple majority vote by the board. Rejection of a membership application requires no explanatory statement.
5. Membership fees are collected from the members. The board fixes the amount of the yearly fee and the due date. Details are regulated in the contribution rules.
6. Honorary members are not required to pay fees.

7. Membership ends in one of the following circumstances:

- the member gives written notice of termination to the Board
- the death of the member
- exclusion after a simple majority vote by the Board.
- exclusion from the list of members.

Article 4

Elements of the Society are

- the general assembly
- the Board

Article 5

General assembly

1. A general assembly of the ordinary members shall be organized at least once a year by the Board. Moreover, a general assembly shall be organized if at least a third of the members request a general assembly in writing and provide a reason. Invitations need to be sent out in written form, or via e-mail, at least six weeks before the fixed date, including information about location, date, time, and agenda. The letter of the invitation is considered delivered to a member, if it was sent to most recent postal address or email address that was provided by the member in writing.
2. Only ordinary members who have paid their membership fees before the time of the general assembly can vote.
3. The duly convened general assembly can vote, irrespective of the number of members present.
4. In the general assembly resolutions may be passed by the simple majority of the members with voting-power in attendance.
5. Amendments to the statutes require an obligatory postal ballot. Amendments to the statutes require a two-thirds majority of the returned postal ballots. The motion and suggested changes to the statutes must be sent to the members at least 6 weeks before in written form.
6. The Society may only be dissolved by an obligatory postal ballot; this requires a two-thirds majority of the of the returned postal ballots. The motion must be available to the members at least 6 weeks before in written form.
7. The general assembly has the following responsibilities:
 - Definition and changes to the statutes (5.5 applies)
 - Decision to dissolve the society (5.6 applies)
 - Acceptance of the budget-report and accounting-report of the board, as well as the report of the audit commission, and to give formal approval of the actions of the board and the audit commission
 - Election of the board
 - Election of the audit commission

8. The general assembly is chaired by the President; in his/her absence by the vice-president or by a chairman elected by the general assembly. The secretary is responsible for the minutes of the meeting; in his/her absence the general assembly elects a recording secretary.
9. Decisions of every assembly have to be recorded. The minutes of the meeting have to be signed by the chairman and the recording secretary.

Article 6

The Board

1. The Board consists of 5 board officers and up to 12 additional regular board members.
2. The board officers according to § 26 BGB consists of:
 - the President
 - the Vice-President
 - the Treasurer
 - the Secretary
 - the Adjunct

These people represent the society in legal relations and sign contracts for the society. Two members of the board are authorized to represent the society; one always has to be the president.

3. The board officers shall be members of the Society and academic professionals employed in the European Union (EU) in the fields of research outlined in the preamble.
4. The regular board members shall be members of the Society and academic professionals or PhD students in the fields of research outlined above. At least half of them should be employed in the EU.
5. The Board can designate regular board members to fulfil specific responsibilities.
6. The board officers serve a three-year term and are elected by the general assembly. The regular board members serve a 2-year term and are elected by the general assembly.
7. If a board member resigns during their term, the board can co-opt new board members until the next general assembly.
8. The board is responsible for all duties of the society, as long as these duties are not assigned to a different body of the society by the statutes.

Article 7

Election of the Board

1. The election of the Board is organized during a general assembly by an election supervisor, who is elected by the general assembly.
2. The board officers are elected for three years, starting from the day of the election; however, it stays in power until the next election of the board officers. Every board member is elected individually. Eligible to vote are the attending members with voting power according to §5.2.
3. The term is renewable. If requested, voting will be conducted by secret ballot. If no candidate obtains more than 50% of the votes in the first round of voting, a second round will be held which is limited to the two candidates with the largest number of votes in the first round.
4. The regular board members are elected for two years by the general assembly. Eligible to vote are the attending members with voting power according to §5.2. The term is renewable. The rules of §7.2 apply.

Article 8

Board meetings

1. A formal board meeting shall be organized at least once a year by the board officers.
2. The announcement and the agenda of the formal board meetings should be sent to the Board at least 6 weeks in advance in writing or via email. Board votes require a quorum of 9.
3. The Board can be called for informal meetings by the Board officers on short notice, including via teleconference.

Article 9

Scientific meetings

1. The organization of scientific meetings of the Society shall be delegated by the board to a local group of organizers who will handle the venue(s), the programme, and the interactions with local institutions.
2. Papers submitted for participation in the scientific meetings will be selected through peer review conducted by the Board.
3. The programme and the budget of the scientific meeting must be approved by the Board officers prior to the meeting.

Article 10

Audit commission

1. The general assembly elects at least two audit commissioners for the term of the board. The audit commissioners check, as they see fit, the accounting journal, cash on hand and receipts of the society.
2. The audit commission provides the general assembly with a current report.
3. Members of the auditing commission must not be members of the board.

Article 11**Amendments to the Statutes**

The Board is entitled to modify these statutes, should this be required by German law or tax law. This also applies to restrictions or amendments to these statutes requested by the district court Leipzig and/or the tax authority, as long as the nature of these changes is not essential.

Article 12**Languages**

The official language for communications of the Society, congresses, the Board, the Management and the minutes of the meetings is English.

Article 13**Effective date**

These statutes come into effect once the society is registered in the register of associations.