



## **EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF SEXOLOGY (EFS)**

### **STATUTES (5<sup>TH</sup> VERSION 2026)**

#### **Chapter I Constitution**

##### **Article 1:**

**Under the name of the European Federation of Sexology, the Federation is established as a non-profit association pursuant to Chapter 2 (Articles 60-79) of the Swiss Civil Code. The Federation has been officially registered in Croatia in accordance with the applicable national regulations on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The Federation is linked with the WAS but at the same time, maintains jurisdictional and administrative independence.**

##### **Article 2:**

**The registered address of the Federation is Karlovac, Naselje Marka Marulića 10 e, Croatia. The bank account of EFS must be in the country of the Treasurer, in an international bank with European branches, and under the responsibility of the Treasurer.**

##### **Article 3:**

**The European Federation of Sexology will not discriminate based upon sex, gender, gender expression, religion, race, sexual preference, age or lifestyle.**

##### **Article 4:**

**The objectives of the Federation are:**

- 1. Coordination of European associations, societies and members working in the field of sexology and sexual health.**
- 2. Encouraging the study, the coordination and the development of the teaching of sexology, including professional training programmes in this domain, according to the directives of WHO (RT 574) which deal with the role of the trainer, the consultant and the therapist, as well as the sensitization of all professional groups which are concerned by human sexuality.**
- 3. Encourage research projects at a European level in the domain of sexology and sexual health.**

4. Encourage and/or realize organization of scientific meetings in this domain. In order to realize these objectives, the Federation should organize different types of meetings in various countries, and prepare the scientific sessions and cooperate both at regional and international level, with the societies associations and/or groups with similar objectives.

**Article 5:**

The duration of the Federation is unlimited.

**Chapter II Members**

**Article 6:**

**Memberships of the Federation:**

1. Society members
2. Individual members (including honorary members, founding members, past presidents and individual student members)

**Article 7**

*Society members* are the sexological societies or scientific associations connected with clinical sexology, sexuality education, training, research, and counseling primarily in Europe. They delegate to the General Assembly one single representative. Each Society member has a minimum of 1 vote to a maximum of 4 votes following the schema presented on table 1, subject to having paid the related fee for the current year (and having settled any outstanding arrears) at least one week before the General Assembly.

**Table 1**

Extra small society (up to 30 pp)	Small society (31-99 pp)	Medium society (100-400 pp)	Large society (more than 400 pp)
1 vote in the GA	2 votes in the GA	3 votes in the GA	4 votes in the GA

*Individual members* are individuals who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee that they are bone fide clinicians, researchers or educators working in the field of sexology. Individual members also include Honorary members, founding members, past presidents and individual student members. The Individual members are not granted voting rights at the General Assembly

Honorary members are persons with international merits in sexology. The General Assembly in accordance with a proposal of the Executive Committee appoints the Honorary members.

Founding members are the twelve persons that signed the 1991 statutes.

**Article 8:**

*Application for membership:* Requests for membership must be addressed via email to the official EFS address ([info@europeansexology.com](mailto:info@europeansexology.com)) and to the General Secretary and shall include the declaration of the desire of the candidate society/individual to become member of the Federation and agree with its

statutes and core values. Rulings as to acceptance or refusal of these requests will be taken by way of a vote of a majority of members of the Executive Committee. Upon decision of the Executive Committee, a specific subcommittee composed by members of the Executive Committee can be delegated to evaluate membership applications. The candidate society will be informed by email of the decision of the Committee.

**Article 9:**

Loss of membership status will result under the following circumstances:

- a) If a member decides voluntarily to resign. Such a decision must be communicated to the Executive Committee
- b) If fees are not paid for 2 consecutive years.
- c) In the case of death of an Individual member.
- d) In the case of dissolution of the assets belonging to the EFS.
- e) If the Executive Committee so resolves, specifying the grounds for the exclusion, at a meeting convened for this purpose. The resolution must be made by a special majority of 2/3 of all the members of the Committee.

The members who have been excluded can appeal the decision to the General Assembly through the General Secretary within 30 days following receipt of the written notification.

The General Assembly will have the final ruling by way of a majority of vote, specifying the grounds for the exclusion.

**Chapter III: Components of the Federation**

**Article 10:**

The components of the Federation are the General Assembly & the Executive Committee.

**Article 11:**

The General Assembly has the ultimate power of the Federation. It also has the following authority:

- i. To modify statutes in accordance with propositions of the Executive Committee by way of a special 2/3 majority of present voting members (whether in person or by proxy).
- ii. To elect and revoke members of the Executive Committee.
- iii. To approve President's and Treasurer's reports of accounts and budget.

- iv. To suggest dates and places of meetings and a Professional Conference Organizer (PCO).
- v. To approve the amount of the annual fee.
- vi. To rule on appeal of exclusions pursuant to Article 9e.
- vii. To dissolve the Federation by way of a vote of 2/3 of present voting members. There must be one month of notice of convening a meeting for such a vote and this must take place as an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- viii. In case of conflict, the General Assembly has the ultimate power of the Federation.

**Article 12:**

**a) Procedures of the General Assembly: Resolutions of the General Assembly are adopted by a majority of the member societies present at the time of voting (whether in person or by proxy).**

**In the event of a dead-locked vote on the second ballot, the President has an additional vote.**

**Notwithstanding Article 12a above, the resolution of the General Assembly concerning the modifications of the statutes must be adopted by 2/3 of all the voting members present at the meeting (including by proxy votes). For dissolution, it is mandatory that 2/3 of the members (whether in person or by proxy) vote in favour of dissolution.**

**Article 13:**

**Convening of the General Assembly: The Ordinary General Assembly is convened by the Executive Committee, at least once every two years. A minimum of 30 days notice is necessary for its convening. Resolutions will only be taken concerning the items on the agenda.**

**10% of the society members of the Federation are required to demand the convening of an Extraordinary General Assembly. This request should be made in a written form to the Executive Committee underlining the urgency and purpose of this General Assembly. This request shall be examined by the Executive Committee and must be approved by the vote of 2/3 of the members of the Executive Committee. This Extraordinary General Assembly will take place within 3 months of the request. In the unlikely event that the Executive Committee does not approve, the question goes back to those who required in the first place for further information.**

**Article 14**

**Proposals of members: A member can make a proposal to place an item on the agenda of the General Assembly. This request should be made by email to the Executive Committee at least 8 weeks before the General Assembly.**

Any proposal received by the Executive Committee after the said date, or that would be raised at the General Assembly, will be discussed as an item in "any other business" on the agenda of the Assembly.

However, this proposal will not be voted on at this Assembly.

#### **Article 15**

The Executive Committee is composed of 11 members and a Past President, elected by the General Assembly, for a term of four years. The Committee should be pluri-disciplinary. The Executive Committee will include 4 officers: The President, President Elect, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. The candidates for officers should be proposed by the Executive Committee to the General Assembly and approved by the General Assembly. The President should hold the post for one term (four years) only.

The President Elect is appointed by the Executive Committee and then approved in the General Assembly after having served in the Executive Committee for a minimum of two years. The members of the Executive Committee can be re-elected for one additional 4 year term on the Committee, and for another additional 4 year terms (12 years total) if they have served in the role of the officer or are proposed to be in the role of an officer. If an officer is a candidate for the role of President, the candidate can be re-elected for one additional four year term (altogether four terms/16 years).

At least six countries should be represented in the 11 elected members and each country shall have a maximum of two members in the Executive Committee. There should be a gender balance on the Committee of maximum 60% of the majority gender.

If an officer resigns or is dismissed, the members of the Executive Committee shall elect a new officer among the members of the Executive Committee. This officer should be confirmed by the next General Assembly. If a member of the Executive Committee should resign or is dismissed, the next in line in accordance with the results of the prior vote in the elections at the General Assembly shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. However, even if the Executive Committee does not appoint a substitute, the remaining members are entitled to act legitimately.

#### **Article 16:**

##### **Authority of the Executive Committee:**

The Executive Committee is in charge of and responsible for the management of the Federation, and of any form of activity in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly. The Executive Committee will collect the membership fees and handle any other income. A bank account shall be opened for this purpose.

The Executive Committee elects a Scientific Committee for 4 years and appoints a chairperson. These members can be re-elected for an additional term.

The Executive Committee can assign and dissolve sub-committees for specific tasks.

One of the duties of the Executive Committee is to propose to the General Assembly a list of eligible candidates, every four years. The members of the Executive Committee who hold special positions will carry them out according to the purpose and power assigned to them by the Executive Committee.

**Article 17:**

**Procedure and Proceedings of the Executive Committee:**

Members of the Executive Committee shall meet regularly, at least once a year, and whenever necessary. Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of the members. Votes may be cast either remotely or by written proxy.

Any proxy must be made in writing and signed by the person granting it. It must be submitted to the Executive Committee before the start of the meeting at which the appointed person intends to vote.

Resolutions concerning amendments to the statutes or the exclusion of a member require a 2/3 majority of all Committee members.

Minutes of each meeting shall be recorded by the Executive Committee.

**Article 18:**

The General Assembly shall determine the annual membership fee for a period of two consecutive years. Such annual fees shall be determined based upon the number of members in the specific society or association.

The Honorary members do not pay any annual fee.

**Article 19:**

**The Federation's signature:** Any bank transactions or other activities can be authorized by the signature of the Treasurer. For transactions valued at more than €1000, the signature of the President is required.

**Article 20:**

The Federation shall have a stamp, and a logo. The Federation shall also be active on the social media.

**Article 21**

The authority of any sub committees and any other pending questions will be defined by bylaws. The bylaws shall be approved by the General Assembly.

**Chapter IV Dissolution**

**Article 22**

A resolution to dissolve the Federation can only be taken at a Special General Assembly convened for this purpose and must be approved by a 2/3 majority of votes of all of the Federation's members.

If this required number of votes is not reached, a second Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened, taking place at least a month after the first. The proceedings and votes shall be passed by a simple majority of the members present, whatever their number.

**Article 23**

In the event of the dissolution of the Federation, the Extraordinary General Assembly shall appoint a liquidation Committee composed of a minimum of three members. The President of the Federation shall be a member of the liquidation Committee.

The EFS is liable for its obligations with its assets. Such liability is limited to the assets only.  
The assets shall be transferred to another legal entity with a similar objective.

## **Chapter V Jurisdiction**

### **Article 24**

Any litigation regarding the present statutes shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the European Courts should any mutual understanding not be reached.

### **Article 25**

Original statutes established in Geneva, 1991  
Statutes modified in Cyprus, 2002  
Statutes modified in Prague, 2006  
Statutes modified in Dubrovnik, 2016  
Statutes modified in Lisbon, 2026

The previous statutes shall be maintained on the EFS website in their original form. The statutes can be modified by the General Assembly.

Lisbon date: 29/05/2026

**Esben Esther Pirelli Benestad**  
President

**The EFS Executive Committee:**

**Mehmet Sungur**

**Goran Arbanas**

**Filippo Maria Nimbi**

**Charmaine Borg**

**Sam Geuens**

**Patricia Pascoal**

**Tal Peleg-Sagy**

**Tiina Vilponen**