

EUROPEAN TALENT SUPPORT NETWORK

ARTICLES

NAME AND OFFICES OF THE NETWORK

Article 1

I. The name and abbreviation of the European Talent Support Network is:

"EUROPEAN TALENT SUPPORT NETWORK" (generally used abbreviation: "ETSN"; abbreviation throughout this document: Network).

2. It is domiciled at Nijmegen (The Netherlands).

The Network has a collaborative office accommodating the joint organizations of the Council members ('Council' as defined in Article 5).

AIMS OF THE NETWORK

Article 2

I. The Network's aims are to:

a. increase the identification of highly abled young people in Europe;

b. provide different types of support to highly abled young people (educational, financial, moral, etc.) beyond what is currently provided in this field;

c. boost research activity in the field of high ability and related areas as well as to help transfer findings into practice;

d. extend the current Network members' framework of best practices (from policies to educational know-hows) to the field of high ability both in Europe and internationally;

e. demonstrate that persons involved in the field of high ability have reached a "critical mass" at the European level that needs to be taken into account when discussing EU and national policies related to high ability throughout Europe (such as education, research, innovation, social affairs, public health, etcetera);

f. help to further increase membership to the European Council for High Ability (ECHA) by increasing the number of people knowing

and acknowledging ECHA's activities in theory, research, and practice;

g. create a community that focuses on the different needs of the highlyabled that is not exclusively academic in its outlook;

h. develop a culture that promotes respect and celebrates diversity within this community.

2. The Network promotes all of these activities and avoids bureaucratic, micro-managerial, hierarchical measures, concentrating on indirect and direct aid to the highly abled. Sharing and giving, reciprocity and transparency are the major values of the Network. The Network is motivational in nature, and fosters trust through openness, colloquial, and intimate communication. The Network is a civic one that views the individual within the context of any age, with particular interconnections at the pre-school, secondary school and university level, irrespective of socio-economic status. The Network has an expectation of high ethical values amongst its members; as such, the Network, through the Council, can withdraw membership at any time for reasons of misrepresentation or for failure to adhere to a high ethical code of behaviour.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE NETWORK

Article 3

1. Network membership is open and limited to organizations-joint or otherwise-and to parts of organizations active in the field of high ability. They must be legal-entities or persons who represent a (part of an) organization, mentioned in the first first sentence, so that a (part of an) organization, which is not a legal-entity can participate through this person. When this person leaves the (part of the) organization the membership expires for this person and another person of the (part of the) organization will be installed as member.

2. Network membership may have three forms: that of a Talent Centre, of a Talent Point and Designated Organisations. Talent Centres or Points situated in Europe are called European Talent Centres or European Talent Points, respectively. Talent Centres or Talent Points situated outside of Europe are called Associated European Talent Centres or Associated European Talent Points, respectively.

3. Talent Centres organise activities in the field of high ability within a region or in the whole of a country (there might be more than one Talent Centre per country). A Talent Centre should be an organisation, a joint organisation or a distinct part of a larger organisation established for the purposes of fulfilling a role adjacent to the mission of the Talent Centre. Talent Centres are qualified by the Qualification Committee (henceforth known as 'Committee', which is appointed by the Council) having a chairperson, a secretary and five members with strong reputations and long-term (minimum t e n (10) years) expertise in the field of high ability. Committee members have a mandate of four years with a possibility of one re-election. As

part of the annual call for applications to become a Talent Centre, selection criteria, together with the application form and its scoring sheet, will be published. Organizations in the field of gifted education and/or talent support may submit a joint application for qualification as a Talent Centre. Qualified Talent Centres do not gain authority, but accept a community service of network creation and development. Talent Centres will be re-evaluated by the Committee in each third year to ascertain whether they still fulfil the qualification criteria.

4. Talent Points organise local activities in the field of high ability. Talent Points are organisations focusing on talent support (for example educational institutions), and/or on highly abled, young people, their parents, teachers, mentors, policy makers, etc. Talent Centres register European / Associated Talent Points. The Council registers Associated Talent Points from those countries where no Associated Talent Centres exist. Guidelines for Talent Point selection criteria are compiled by the Council and are finalized and accepted by Talent Centre representatives. Access to the Call for applications to become a Talent Point and to application forms and selection criteria will be made available on the ETSN website constantly.

Talent Point registration applications should be submitted in English via the Network's webpage. The area of registration responsibility of Talent Centres is determined by the Council. If it is asked for and in case of Associated Talent Points the Council can register Talent Points, too. The Council can register European / Associated European Talent Points must be able to communicate in at least one more European language in addition to a mother or national tongue. The summary of each Talent Point activities must be accessible in English on both the Talent Point's corresponding webpage and on the Network site. Organizations/networks etc. in the field of gifted education and/or talent support may submit a joint application to register as a Talent Point. Talent Points will be re-evaluated in each third year by the Talent Centres, or by the Network Council (if it is asked for) in case of Associated Talent Points by the Network Council to determine if they still fulfil the registration criteria. Talent Points may become Talent Centres if they apply to become one and if the Committee qualifies them as such.

5. Associated European Talent Centres or Associated European Talent Points must show evidence of regular and intensive cooperation with established European organizations in the field of high ability before applying to become a Talent Point.

6. Designated Organizations are organizations that want to participate in the European Talent Support Network and have substantial activity in the field of high ability that is neither restricted to one location (e.g. national or European umbrella organizations or networks), nor beholden to regional or national authority (horizontal rather than vertical integration). The Council registers designated Organizations.

7. The Council keeps record of names, addresses, email and web-access information of all Network members. In case of changes, Talent Centres, Talent Points are required to provide up-to-date information to the Coordinator of the Council.

8. The Council appoints the responsible administrators to the Network's website and Facebook page and the TalentWeb Newsletter.

9. a. Applications for membership of the Network or for admittance as an observer must be addressed to the Coordinator in written form.

b. Every application for membership is judged by the Council.

c. In case of non-admission as a member or as an observer, the General Assembly still can decide on admission.

10 a. 1. Membership expires:

a. with disbandment (legal entity);

b. with a member's resignation from membership, expressed in writing to the Coordinator;

c. with ending by the Network. Such decision may be passed:

i. if a member ceased to comply with the statutory requirements for membership;

ii. if a member does not fulfil his or her obligations towards the Network

iii. if the Network cannot reasonably be required to allow membership to continue;

d. by expulsion.

b. Ending by the Network and expulsion from membership is decided upon by the Council.

c. In case of ending by the Network because the Network cannot reasonably be required to allow membership to continue or in case of expulsion, appeals against the decision may be put forward by the member in question, within one month after receipt of notification, to the General Assembly. The member is given immediate written notification of the decision and the grounds for removal. Pending the appeal, the member in question is suspended from membership.

11. Members are obliged to pay a membership fee proposed by the Council and determined by the General Assembly. The membership fee can be zero.

12. If the number of Council members has decreased to less than five the Council remains in authority, with the proviso that, as soon as possible, the General Assembly be convened in order to fill the vacancy or vacancies, in accordance with the provisions in Article 5. If the vacancy concerns the Coordinator the General Assembly fills this vacancy as soon as possible.

REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

Article 3A

1. The Network year starts on the first of July and ends on the thirtieth of June the next year.

2. The Council keeps account of the Network's financial assets in such a way that these accounts allow for the Network's rights and obligations to be known at all times.

3. The Council submits not later than six months after the ending of the Network year, except for prolongation of this period by the General Assembly, its report concerning the previous Network year to the General Assembly and gives an account of its activities during the previous Network year with submission of a financial report plus an asset and liabilities account. After this period each member of the Network can demand these rights and obligations from the Council by rights.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE NETWORK

Article 4

1. Representatives of all Talent Centres and Talent Points, as well as of the Council of the Youth Platform (as defined in Section 6.3.) will be invited to vote at a General Assembly. The Council requests a General Assembly through a written notice delivered fourteen (14) days prior to assembly, designating a time and place, as well as a proposed agenda for the meeting. 2. The General Assembly is organized as a part of the biannual International ECHA Conference.

3. The General Assembly is entitled to all competences within the Network, including those that are not or have not yet been assigned to the Council by the law or by the Articles. Every year, not later than six months after the ending of the Network year, a general assembly - the annual assembly - will be held. The meeting includes the following:

a. the report and accounts as meant in Article 3A, plus the report of the sub-committee mentioned in this article;

b. the appointment of the sub-committee mentioned in this article for the next Network year;

c. the filling of vacancies, if any;

d. proposals of the Council or the members, announced in the call to

the assembly.

Other general assemblies will be held as often as the Council deems desirable.

In addition, the Council convenes a General Assembly at the written request of at least such a number of members that have a vote, as at least one tenth of the number of voting members, within thirty days at the most. If the request is not granted within fourteen days, the requestors themselves may convene a General Assembly in the manner in which the board convenes the general meeting or at advertisement in at least one in place where the Network is established, much read daily newspaper

4. The Council proposes a General Assembly agenda that contains a report of the Council, including sections concerning the Youth Platform and the financial activities of the Network itself.

5. On an annual basis, the General Assembly will appoint a sub-committee of two persons selected from the pool of Network representatives that do not belong to the Council. The sub-committee examines the Council's accounts and reports the findings to the General Assembly.

If the examination requires special bookkeeping knowledge, the sub-committee can receive expert support. The Council is obliged to provide all of the required information, to achieve financial transparency via sound account and bookkeeping.

6. A Network representative or another member of the Council will chair the General Assembly.

7. Minutes of the General Assembly are drawn up by the Coordinator or another person appointed by the Chair. The contents of the minutes will be brought to the attention of the members.

8.

a. All members of the Network have admittance to the General Assembly. Suspended members and suspended Council members have no admittance.

b. The General Assembly decides upon admittance of others than those meant in Article

c. It is allowed to vote by authority.

d. Voting rights of members can be exercised through an electronic means of communication.

9.

a. The General Assembly is chaired by the Network's Chairman or a substitute. In the absence of the chairperson and his substitute, one of the Council members, to be indicated by the Council, will act as the Chair. When such provision fails, the General Assembly itself makes provisions for the temporary appointment of a chairperson.

b. Minutes of the debated in each meeting are drawn up by the Coordinator or another person, appointed by the Chair, which are determined and signed by both the Chair and the minutes Coordinator. The contents of the minutes are brought to the members' notice.

10.

a. The Chair's judgement, pronounced during the meeting of the General Assembly, that a decision has been made by the meeting is final. The same holds for the content of a decision in as far as the meeting voted on a subject not based on a written proposal.

b. If the correctness of the judgement as meant in Article 4.10.a is contested immediately after pronouncement, a new vote shall be taken if requested by a majority of the meeting's members, or, if the original vote was not taken by a show of ballot, by a voting member present.

c. Unless decreed otherwise by law or by the Articles of Association, all decisions of the General Assembly are made by an absolute majority of the votes cast.

d. Abstentions are considered as not casted.

e. In case of a tied vote concerning the election of a person, a second voting is organised, or in case of a binding nomination, a second voting is organised between the nominees. If then again an absolute majority is not obtained, there will be voted again, until either one person obtains the absolute majority, or there is a tied vote between two persons. In case of these repeated votings (not included the second one) there will be voted again between the same persons as in the preceding voting, with exception of the person who obtained the least number of votes in the preceding voting. If the least number of votes in the preceding voting is given to more than one person, there will be decided by lot, which one of the candidates will be excluded from the next voting. In case of a tied vote between two persons there will be decided by lot.

f. In case of a tied vote not concerning the election of persons the proposal will be rejected.

g. All votings are decided by a show of hands, unless the Chairman considers a ballot to be desirable or this is asked for, previous to the voting, by one of the voting members. Ballots take place by unsigned, closed papers. Decision making by acclamation is possible, unless one of the voting members demands voting by call.

h. As long as in a General Assembly all the members are present, valid decisions can be made, but only unanimously, concerning all subjects coming up for discussion - thus including a proposal to change the Articles of Association or disbandment - even if the meeting was not called for in the appropriate way, or any other prescription with respect to the call and the holding of meetings or a related formality has not been considered.

1l. a. General assemblies are convened by the Council. Calls are in writing to the addresses of the members, according to the membership records. The term for a call is at least thirty days.

b. In the call the subjects to be discussed are stated, without prejudice to the statement of Article 7.

THE COUNCIL OF THE NETWORK

Article 5

1. The Council of the Network (abbreviated as 'Council') consists of five members. Talent Centre representatives will nominate Council members. Council members will then be elected by Talent Centre Talent Point and Designated Organisations representatives via email to the Caretaker of the vote. The representatives of the Talent Centres, Talent Point and Designated Organisations will elect the Caretaker (who cannot be a nominee of the election). Council members must have a residency in five different countries participating in the Network.

2. To compensate for the uneven distribution of Talent Points, Talent Centre votes will have a weight of ten (10) when compared to the weight of one that constitutes a Talent Point vote.

3. During the first meeting of the new Council, members will elect a Chairman, Coordinator, and Treasurer to the Network, the last of which will be responsible for Network accounts as well as for the preparation of the Annual Statement of Account and Balance Sheet by the 31st day of December. Following its routine audit and in anticipation of the Annual General Meeting, the Network's Statement of Account and Balance Sheet will be printed and circulated among Council members who in turn, will confirm Network membership numbers.
4. Council members are elected to serve for two years. Council members may be re-elected, but for no more than eight consecutive years. The preparation of Council elections is the responsibility of the current Council in consultation with Talent Centre representatives. Elections must take place at least two months before the expiration of the mandate of the Council.
5. Except for limitations outlined in the Articles, the Council represents and coordinates the affairs of the Network.
6. The Representative of the Youth Platform (as defined in Section 6.3) is an invited member of Council meetings and discussions.
7. The Coordinator accounts for Council meeting minutes, time that is determined and signed for by the Representatives and Coordinator. The contents of the minutes will be available to members.
8. The Council may promote the formation of committees and Special Interest Groups in specially defined aspects of the Network's activity.
9. The Council may decide whether the Network is to join an organization or other network operating within the field of high ability. The Council includes these decisions in its report to the General Assembly.
10. The Council is obliged to keep documents regarding membership records, General Assembly and Council meetings, as well as to account for financial activity over a period of ten years.
11. Any Council member, also those appointed for a limited period, may at any time be dismissed or suspended from Council membership by the Talent Centre, Talent Point and Designated Organisations representatives who appointed him. If suspension is not followed by a decision of dismissal within three months, the term of suspension is deemed to have ended. Council membership may also be terminated by: termination of membership of the Network of resignation.

THE YOUTH PLATFORM OF THE NETWORK

Article 6

1. The Network established a Youth Platform to promote the participation of highly abled young people in sustained international cooperation, as well as to foster development and social responsibility. The Youth Platform's aims are to:

a. aid in the development of gifted education from a youth perspective within in-Network countries (by making surveys, organizing and participating in discussions, assisting policy making, providing feedback, etcetera);

b. support the development of the Network (by having a continuous connection with Network representatives, organizing European Youth Summits, and holding other events beneficial to Network cooperation);

c. support the collaboration of highly abled young people in Europe and in the rest of the world (by supporting related projects, organising its own online and in-person projects involving international collaboration);

2. Talent Centres and Talent Points will nominate members of the Youth Platform. Eligibility requirements for nomination are as follows:

a. Every nominee should be between the ages of 14 and 30 years at the start of what would constitute a term in office.

b. Nominees should be able to communicate effectively in English.

c. Nominees should commit themselves to participation and promotion of the international cooperation of highly abled young people as described in Section 6.1.

3. Nominated talents persons submit a CV along with a short 'motivational letter' in which they introduce themselves and their hobbies; specify the reason or reasons why they are interested in joining the Youth Platform; as well as the ways in which they envision participation in the Youth Platform. Membership is discussed amongst and decided by the Youth Platform Council ('Council' as defined by Section 6.3). Selection criteria include the quality, creativity, and enthusiasm exhibited through the motivational letter.

4. In special cases, the Youth Platform Council ('Council' as defined in Section 6.5) may decide to accept young persons who have not been nominated by a Talent Centre or Talent Point for Youth Platform membership. The maximum number of Youth Platform members that can be given this special status is four per country of residence.

5. The Youth Platform Council consists of five members. Youth Platform members nominate and elect the Youth Platform Council members via email correspondence with the Caretaker of the vote. Youth Platform Council members must have a residency in one of the different countries participating in the Network. Youth Platform Council members are elected to serve for two years. Youth Platform Council members may be re-elected, but for no more than four consecutive years. The preparation of Youth Platform Council elections is the responsibility of the current Youth Platform Council. Elections must take place at least two months before the expiration of the Youth Platform Council mandate. Youth Platform Council members will elect a Representative and a Coordinator to the Youth Platform at the first meeting of the new Youth Platform Council.

6. At his or her own discretion, a Council member may resign. They must inform other Council members as well as the Network Council at least three weeks before resignation is to take place. In the case of highly unsatisfactory performance or inappropriate behaviour, a Council

member may be impeached by vote of the other four members of the Council. Any Council member can initiate an impeachment vote on any other Council member. For an impeachment vote to be initiated, a reason must be published and presented to both Youth Platform members and the Network Council at least three weeks in advance. The vote can take place only if the reason is still valid at the time of the vote. A Council member who resigns or is impeached remains a member of the Youth Platform; a by-election will be held to replace him or her in the Council. This by-election must be held within two months of the Council member's impeachment or resignation. In the case of a Representative's impeachment or resignation, the Coordinator becomes interim Representative until the by-election is held. In the case that both a Representative and Coordinator are impeached or resign, the Council members will elect an interim Representative.

7. The Council of the Youth Platform may extend these rules alongside internal rules (called Standing Orders of the Youth Platform). Changes to Standing Orders must be approved by a Youth Platform member vote.

CHANGES IN THE ARTICLES

Article 7

1. Changes to the Articles cannot be made other than by decision of a General Assembly that was called upon for the express purpose of addressing proposed changes to the Articles.

2. Proposed changes to the articles can be made by the Council and/or Talent Centres. Any person who calls a General Assembly to discuss proposed changes to the Articles of Association must send an email correspondence outlining said proposal, including a written account addressed to all members of the proposed changes, at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting is to take place.

3. Decisions to change the Articles require at least two thirds of the General Assembly votes casted.

4. A change in the Articles of Association does not come into effect until they have been drawn up by a notarial deed. Every Council member is authorised to have the deed executed.

DISBANDMENT

Article 8

1. The Network can be disbanded by decision of the General Assembly.

2. On disbandment, the Council settles the accounts.

3. In the case of a financial surplus on disbandment, monies will be distributed to a charity or non-governmental organization (NGO) related to gifted education in accordance to the laws of the host country at the time of disbandment.

4. After disbandment, Network books and documents will remain in the custody of whomsoever the General Assembly appoints for the legally prescribed period.

UNFORSEEN CASES

Article 9

The Council has governing power in all cases not circumscribed within the Articles of the Network.

Final statement

The Council currently consists of:

1. mr. Prof. Dr. Dr. Albert Otto Ziegler, as chairman;
2. mr. Antonios Apostolou, as member;
3. mr. Dr. Colm O'Reilly, as treasurer;
4. ms. Fuszek Csilla Eva, as secretary.
5. ms. Prof. Mojca Juriševič, as member.