

# Statutes

## International Association for Collective Dynamics

### §1 Name, Registered Office, Fiscal Year

- (1) The name of the association is  
**International Association for Collective Dynamics e.V.**
- (2) Its registered office is in Düren.
- (3) The fiscal year is the calendar year.

### §2 Purpose of the Association

- (1) The association exclusively and directly pursues non-profit purposes within the meaning of the section “Tax-Privileged Purposes” of the German Fiscal Code (§§ 51–68 AO).
- (2) The purpose of the association is to promote science and research (§ 52 para. 2 no. 1 AO), as well as civic and professional education including student support (§ 52 para. 2 no. 7 AO) in the field of collective dynamics, particularly pedestrian dynamics, evacuation research, traffic dynamics and related areas through the organization, support and content development of scientific conferences such as the *Pedestrian and Evacuation Dynamics (PED)* and the *Traffic and Granular Flow (TGF)* conferences.
- (3) The purpose of the association is realized in particular through:
  - organizing and hosting scientific events (e.g., conferences, symposia, workshops such as PED and TGF),
  - promoting international scientific cooperation and good scientific practices,
  - publishing scientific knowledge and results,
  - supporting young researchers through scholarships, prizes, and funding programs,
  - fostering exchange between science and practice.

### §3 Selflessness

The association acts selflessly; it does not primarily pursue its own economic interests. Members do not receive any benefits from the association’s funds in their capacity as members.

## §4 Membership

- (1) Any natural person who supports the aims of the association may become a member.
- (2) The association may provide for different categories of membership, in particular voting and non-voting members as well as members paying a reduced fee (e.g. students and early-career researchers). Unless otherwise determined upon admission, members are voting members. Details of the categories and their assignment are governed by Admission Guidelines adopted by the Executive Board; the amount of any reduced fees is governed by the fee schedule (§4a).
- (3) Applications for membership must be submitted in writing (including electronically) to the Executive Board. The Board will decide on admission in a timely manner. There is no entitlement to admission.
- (4) Membership ends upon resignation, expulsion, or death.
- (5) A member may be expelled if they:
  - seriously violate the objectives or reputation of the association,
  - grossly violate the statutes or any regulation adopted by the association (e.g. a Code of Conduct).
  - are more than six months in arrears with their membership fees despite receiving a reminder.
- (6) Expulsion from the Association may occur following the procedures set out in the Code of Conduct. The Executive Board decides on the termination of membership after the member concerned has been given the opportunity to be heard. The member may lodge an appeal in writing within one month; the General Assembly decides finally on the appeal.

### §4a Membership Fees

- (1) Membership fees may be charged.
- (2) The amount and due date of membership fees shall be determined by the General Assembly in a fee schedule.
- (3) Upon justified request, the Executive Board may reduce or waive fees.
- (4) Additional donations are welcome at any time.

## §5 Bodies of the Association

The bodies of the association are:

- the General Assembly,
- the Executive Board,
- the Steering Committee (scientific advisory body).

## §6 Executive Board

- (1) The Executive Board in accordance with §26 BGB consists of:
  - the Chairperson,
  - the Deputy Chairperson,
  - the Treasurer.
- (2) A member of the Executive Board may not hold several of the following offices at the same time: chair, deputy chair, treasurer.
- (3) The association is legally represented by any two board members acting jointly.
- (4) The Executive Board is elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years. Re-election is permitted. The Executive Board remains in office until a new board is elected.
- (5) The Executive Board conducts the day-to-day business of the association. Further details may be regulated by rules of procedure.
- (6) The Executive Board decides on the organization of conferences under the responsibility of the association based on recommendations of the Steering Committee, as detailed in §10 and §11.

## §7 General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Board at least once per year, with a notice period of at least three weeks indicating the agenda, in writing or by email.
- (2) It may be held in person, by means of electronic communication (e.g., video or telephone conference), or as a hybrid event. Voting rights may also be exercised electronically.
- (3) The general meeting shall constitute a quorum if it has been duly convened. No minimum number of participants is required.
- (4) Minutes shall be taken of the General Assembly, documenting at least the resolutions passed, the location, time, and participants. The minutes must be signed by the chair of the general assembly and the recorder.
- (5) The General Assembly decides in particular on:
  - amendments to the statutes,
  - the election and discharge of the Executive Board,
  - the election or confirmation of members of the Steering Committee.
- (6) The General Assembly passes resolutions by a simple majority of valid votes cast, unless otherwise provided in the statutes; amendments to the statutes and the dissolution of the association require a two-thirds majority of valid votes cast.

- (7) The general meeting may adopt rules of procedure that contain supplementary provisions on the implementation of the association’s purpose, the work of the committees, and internal procedures and the distribution of tasks. These rules are not part of the articles of association and may be amended by a simple majority.
- (8) Elections may be conducted in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format. All ordinary members who have fulfilled their membership obligations, in particular the payment of membership dues, are eligible to run for office in the association. Nominations may be made by members or by committees appointed by the board. The candidate who receives a simple majority of the valid votes cast is elected; in the event of a tie, the decision is made by lot.

## **§8 Use of Funds**

- (1) The association’s funds may only be used for purposes in accordance with the statutes.
- (2) Members shall not receive any benefits from the association’s funds.
- (3) No person may be favored through expenses unrelated to the purpose of the association or through disproportionately high compensation.

## **§9 Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution or termination of the association or the cessation of tax-privileged purposes, the association’s assets shall pass to a legal entity under public law or another tax-privileged body to be used for the promotion of science and research. The specific recipient organization shall be determined by the General Assembly with the approval of the responsible tax office.

## **§10 Organization of Conferences**

- (1) The scientific conferences *Pedestrian and Evacuation Dynamics (PED)* and *Traffic and Granular Flow (TGF)* shall be organized in the name and under the responsibility of the association.
- (2) At least one member of the local organizing committee must be a member of the association. The organizing committee shall submit a formal application to the Executive Board for approval.
- (3) The Executive Board shall decide on hosting rights based on a recommendation from the Steering Committee in accordance with [§11](#). Criteria include scientific qualification, organizational competence, and alignment with the association’s goals. There is no entitlement to hosting.

## **§11 Steering Committee**

- (1) A Steering Committee shall be established to ensure the long-term strategic planning and scientific oversight of the PED and TGF conferences.

- (2) The members of the Steering Committee shall be elected or confirmed by the General Assembly. The Steering Committee may consist of both association members and external experts. Members of the Executive Board may be part of the Steering Committee. Geographical, professional, and gender diversity shall be taken into account in its composition. Members should generally have participated regularly in the PED or TGF.
- (3) Members of the Steering Committee shall serve for a term of two years. Reappointment is permitted.
- (4) The Steering Committee provides strategic guidance and adopts recommendations regarding the conferences, in particular the selection of organizing teams, the content orientation, and the composition of scientific committees.
- (5) Further details regarding the internal procedures of the Steering Committee shall be governed by rules of procedure adopted by the Executive Board.

## **§12 Financial Audit**

The General Assembly elects two financial auditors for a term of two years. These auditors may not be members of the Executive Board. They audit the accounts and the annual financial report and report to the General Assembly.

## **§13 Interpretation of the Statutes**

These statutes are maintained in both German and English. In the event of legal interpretation, the German version shall prevail.

## **§14 Limitation of Liability**

- (1) Members of governing bodies and other members entrusted with tasks on a voluntary basis shall only be liable to the association for damages caused in the course of their voluntary activity in cases of intent or gross negligence.
- (2) The same applies to third-party claims arising in connection with such voluntary activities.
- (3) The association may take out liability insurance for further protection.

## **§15 Remuneration for Services Rendered to the Association**

- (1) Positions within the association are generally held on a voluntary basis.
- (2) The Executive Board may, within the framework of tax regulations, approve appropriate compensation for services rendered on behalf of the association. This applies in particular to the application of the volunteer allowance or trainer allowance as defined in §3 Nos. 26 and 26a of the German Income Tax Act (EStG).
- (3) Remuneration within the meaning of this paragraph does not conflict with §8, provided that it is within the limits permitted by tax law and serves the purpose of the association.

- (4) The right to reimbursement of expenses in accordance with §670 of the German Civil Code (BGB) remains unaffected.