

**Bylaws of the Association**  
**CKBG**  
**Collaborative Knowledge Building Group**

**Article 1 - Name and headquarters**

A cultural association called "Collaborative Knowledge Building Group" is established with unlimited duration.

(C.K.B.G.) - based in Bari at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of Studies of Bari - at the office of Prof. Maria Beatrice Ligorio via Quintino Sella 268, Bari 70100 - non-profit profit-making, without legal personality and independent of political or religious organizations or otherwise.

Executive Committee may establish, by resolution, Regional operating sections (one per region) and local and international operating headquarters.

The Association can use telematic communication tools (websites, videoconferencing, newsgroups, forums, chats) to carry out association activities, membership meetings, and Executive Committee meetings.

**Art. 2 - Aims and Objectives**

The Association aims to promote research, consulting, training, and scientific dissemination activities in the field of social research and distance learning mediated by new technologies and, in particular:

- Realize an international, interdisciplinary, and interprofessional organization for the promotion of critical research on the psychological, social, cultural, political, economic, and aesthetic aspects of communication mediated by computers
- create a space for discussion and activity on research and application problems inherent in new technologies in the field of education;
- develop synergies and research and application collaborations among the various participants and between them and external parties;
- create a space for comparison and cooperation with other communities of the same kind in foreign countries (with special attention and support to those in the global south);
- create tools to support teaching at different levels, from the university level to that primary education and middle school, to the world of work;
- encourage socially responsible scientific research in the service of the common good;
- promote the production and dissemination of open-source software

To achieve the above objectives, the Association may:

- Organize wherever it deems appropriate training activities, establish scholarships, also making use of volunteers, trainees, and/or people doing civil service;
- develop research activities on topics of its interest, establish scholarships, also in collaboration with institutional and non-institutional partners;
- promote and take care directly and/or indirectly of the drafting and publication, and dissemination of pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, texts, websites, and computer products to be included in websites and environments related to the objectives of the Association;
- conducting events, conferences, debates, and seminars face-to-face and online.

To attain said purposes, the Association may collaborate with educational, university, and academic Institutes or Bodies or join any public or private, local, national, or international

body, as well as collaborate with bodies or associations with which it deems it proper to have connections.

The Association may also perform all acts and enter into all contractual transactions necessary and valuable for realizing the purposes of the Association, whether directly or indirectly, about the same.

The income of the Association shall be spent for its sustenance as well as for carrying out those institutional nature activities necessary for realizing the objectives described above.

### **Art. 3 - Members**

The Association comprises the following Members:

- (a) Founders;
- (b) Ordinary.
- (c) Honorary
- (d) In-training Members.

Founding Members are those who participated in attendance at the founding act of the Association and those who, while not participating, have made written notice of membership. At the time of the birth of the Association, they pay a fee of 70 euros corresponding to the membership for two years; after the second year, they pay the same price as Ordinary Members unless otherwise provided by the Assembly.

Ordinary Members are those who, by submitting the appropriate application for membership following the procedures established by the Executive Committee, intend to pursue the purposes of the Association and participate in social activities. Their membership fee is set at 30 euros annually unless otherwise provided by the Assembly.

Honorary Members are those who are invited, for recognized merits concerning the Association's topics of interest, to be part of it without implying payment of a membership fee.

In-training Members are university students enrolled in a Ph.D. program, scholarship holders, and research fellows. Their membership fee is 15 euros per year unless otherwise provided by the Assembly.

### **Article 4 - Admission of New Members.**

To obtain the status of Member, each aspirant must submit an application for admission accompanied by a resume countersigned by two Members and have maintained irreproachable civil and moral conduct. Such application may be accepted only in the unquestionable judgment of the Executive Committee.

By signing the application for admission, the Member declares his or her acceptance of these Bylaws.

### **Article 5 - Termination of Membership.**

Membership shall be terminated:

- a) by resignation, to be submitted by November of each year;
- b) by default, due to more than four months' delay in the payment of dues;
- c) by the death of the Member.

## **Article 6 - Organs of the Association.**

The organs of the Association are

- a) the Members' Meeting,
- b) the President,
- c) the Executive Committee.

## **Article 7 - General Meetings**

The tasks of the General Assembly are:

- a) the appointment of the Executive Committee;
- b) the appointment of the President of the Assembly;
- c) discussion of the report on the Association's activities presented by the President of the Association;
- d) discussion of the Final and Estimate Budgets;
- e) the revision of membership fees;
- f) the proclamation of Honorary Members;

The Association year runs from 1 January to 31 December of each year.

The Ordinary Annual General Meeting must be convened within the terms of the law to approve the Budget and the Final Balance Sheet for the relevant financial years.

Extraordinary General Meetings, in addition to those convened by the Executive Committee, may be requested by one-third of the Members, who must submit their request to the President of the Association, proposing the agenda; in this case, the General Meeting must be convened within thirty days.

The Shareholders' Meeting shall be convened by letter, fax, e-mail, or telephone in case of urgency or impediment.

The convocation may also be made by posting a notice at the Association's headquarters or telematic means at least four days before the date set for the meeting.

The convocation notice shall indicate the agenda, date, time, and place of the first and possible second convocation. The costs for the convocation shall be borne by the Association, while for the premises if they do not coincide with those in the Association's possession, the person requesting it shall provide them. All current members with membership fees may attend the Association's Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meetings. Meetings are considered valid in the first call with the presence of half plus one of the Members, while in the second call, they are considered valid whatever the number of those present. Written proxies are allowed at General Meetings with a maximum of three per Member. The meetings may be held electronically using multimedia support if special organizational needs are required. In any case, at least one Ordinary General Meeting in the physical presence of the Members shall be organized for each social year.

## **Art. 8 - Attributions of the Assembly.**

The Ordinary Assembly deliberates on the following:

- a) the budget and balance sheet presented by the Executive Committee;
- b) the report of the Executive Committee;
- c) all proposals made by the Executive Committee and the Members placed on the agenda;
- d) appointment of the Scientific Committee members at the Executive Committee's proposal.

The Extraordinary General Meeting deliberates on the following:

- a) proposals to amend the Statute,
- b) proposals for the dissolution of the Association,

c) all proposals the Executive Committee and the Members put forward on the agenda. Proposals for inclusion on the agenda must be submitted to the Executive Committee and briefly explained in writing.  
A request for an extraordinary meeting to be convened must be sent by registered letter to the Executive Committee accompanied by the agenda and a report countersigned by the applicants.

#### **Art. 9 - Tasks of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee consists of three to seven members elected by majority vote. The Assembly shall determine the number of members of the Executive Committee, who shall be elected from among all the Members. Each Member, in the election of the Executive Committee, may express a maximum of three preferences.

The Executive Committee shall:

- a) examine and decide on applications for the admission and resignation of Members;
  - b) adopt disciplinary measures within its competence concerning Members;
  - c) provide for the administrative and organizational functioning of the Association;
  - d) appoint the Scientific Committee composed of three to five members with specific competence about the purpose of the Association;
  - e) to oversee full compliance with the Articles of Association and regulations;
  - f) presenting the final and budget budgets to the General Assembly of Members for approval;
  - g) issuing regulations and rules for the smooth running of the Association
  - h) proposing the members of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.
- The President must convene the Executive Committee by letter or other means as outlined in Art. 7 - General Meetings.

#### **Art. 10 - Positions of the members of the Executive Committee.**

At its first meeting after its election, the Executive Committee shall elect from among its members

- a) the President of the Executive Committee, who is also President of the Association;
- b) the Vice-President of the Executive Committee, who is also the Vice-President of the Association;
- c) the Secretary-Treasurer. Each Member of the Committee casts one vote for each of the three offices.

#### **Art. 11 - Meetings and Resignation of the Executive Committee**

The President of the Association chairs meetings of the Executive Committee; in his absence, the Vice-President presides. The President presides in his absence. They may also be held electronically. The Executive Committee remains in office for two years, but no later than 31 December of the year when the term of office expires. Resignations of individual Board members are integrated according to the ranking in the elections. Executive Committee meetings are considered valid in the first call when the majority of its members are present; in the second call of its members; in the second call, they are considered valid when at least three members are present.

#### **Art. 12 - Powers of the President**

The President shall:

- a) take all decisions deemed necessary for the smooth running of the Association,

- b) provide for and decide on the tasks of the Executive Committee by Statute in urgent and exceptional cases, reserving ratification by the Board itself at the first meeting;
- c) presiding over meetings of the Executive Committee, signing jointly with the Secretary the relevant minutes.

### **Art. 13 - Secretary-Treasurer.**

The Secretary shall:

- a) take care of the ordinary administration;
- b) implement the resolutions of the President and the Executive Committee;
- c) draw up the minutes of the meetings;
- d) see to the regular running of the Association. The Secretary shall assume the responsibilities in Article 14 - Treasurer, letters a, b, c.

### **Article 14 - Treasurer.**

The Treasurer shall:

- a) administer the assets of the Society and account for them to the Executive Committee;
- b) prepare cash budgets or final accounts;
- c) maintain relations with Bodies, Companies, and Credit Institutions to attain the economic support necessary for achieving the Association's purposes.

### **Article 15 - Scientific Committee**

The Association has the faculty to set up a Scientific Committee composed of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 11 members with advisory powers. The members of the Committee will be selected from personalities from scientific and political associations and entrepreneurs with documented expertise in the Association's fields of interest. The Committee will be the guarantor of the scientific quality of the Association's activities and will express opinions at the request of the Executive Committee and the Assembly. The members of the Scientific Committee are appointed by the Assembly upon the proposal of the Executive Committee and hold office for three years with the possibility of renewal and participation free of charge. The Executive Committee, in the event of justified and exceptional circumstances or activities requiring additional commitment on the part of the members of the Scientific Committee, may establish forms of reimbursement at the request of the Committee members.

### **Art. 16 - Fees and reimbursements**

The Executive Committee shall decide the amount and modalities of remuneration for social offices each year. Any reimbursements for expenses incurred by members in activities directed towards realizing the Association's purposes will be considered case-by-case and must be authorized by the Executive Committee.

### **Article 17 - Income of the Association and Assets**

As a non-profit organization, the Association's income consists of the following:

- a) compulsory membership contributions
- b) contributions, donations, gifts, legacies, and bequests;
- c) any allocations and contributions decided by the State, the European Union, the Region, Local Local Authorities, and other public or private bodies;

- d) contributions paid by participants in courses or seminars and conferences organized by the Association;
- e) from any annual operating surplus deriving from the activities mentioned in Article 2;
- f) income from movable and immovable property owned by the Association;
- g) income from promotion or sponsorship contracts.

The Association's Assets consist of the movable and immovable property owned and, in any case, acquired or coming from legacies or donations.

#### **Art. 18 - Financial Year and Budget**

The financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December. The first financial year will end on 31/12/2005.

The budget is annual and must be submitted by the Executive Committee to the General Assembly for approval by 31/3 following the financial year covered by the budget. For anything not written in this deed, the provisions of the Civil Code shall apply. Civil Code shall apply.

#### **Article 19 - Deferral**

For anything not provided for in these Articles of Association, reference shall be made to current Italian State legislation provisions.

#### **Art. 20 - Dissolution and liquidation**

In the event of cessation of activity for the causes provided for by the Italian Civil Code, the dissolution of the Association shall be decided by the Members' Assembly, which shall appoint one or more liquidators, determine their powers and allocate the net assets resulting from the liquidation to another Association with similar purposes and in any case for purposes of general utility, following the provisions of Article 111, paragraph 4 quinquies, letter b) of Presidential Decree No. 917/96