

Statutes of the Association for Central European Jewish History and Genealogy

§1 Name, registered office and area of activity

1. The association is called “Verein für zentraleuropäische jüdische Geschichte und Genealogie”, and in English “The Association for Central European Jewish History and Genealogy”.
2. It is based in Vienna and extends its activities to Austria and internationally.
3. The establishment of branch associations is not intended.

§2 Purpose

The Association for Central European Jewish History and Genealogy is dedicated to the collection and networking of researchers of Jewish history and genealogy who deal with the former Habsburg Empire or Austria-Hungary. The association invites researchers from all over the world, both academics and amateurs, who share a passion for these topics. Our main goal is to promote research and facilitate collaboration among members. We strive to develop better tools and databases to support such research and create a vibrant community for like-minded people. Whether you want to expand your knowledge, volunteer for related causes, or participate in an international network, you'll find a welcoming space here. We promote cooperation and collaboration in an inclusive and international environment, enriching the field through joint efforts and collective knowledge.

The association, whose activities are not aimed at profit, aims to:

- the promotion of scientific research and communication of Central and Eastern European Jewish history;
- the promotion of genealogical research on Jewish families from these regions;
- the organisation of regular meetings and conferences, the first of which to take place from 4 to 6 May 2026 in Vienna;
- the international networking of scientists, genealogists and interested parties.

§3 Means to achieve the purpose of the association

1. The purpose of the association is to be achieved by non-material and material means.
2. The following serve as ideal means:
 - Events (conferences, lectures, workshops);
 - Publications (print and digital);
 - Establishment of a website for the dissemination of research results and networking.
3. The necessary material resources are to be raised by:
 - Membership fees;
 - donations, subsidies, funds;
 - Income from events and publications.
 - Cooperation with scientific institutions, research institutes, museums and other associations, both regionally and internationally.
4. Hiring a Secretary-General to do the actual day-to-day work and organize the conference and activities.

§4 Types of Membership

1. Ordinary members actively participate in the association's activities.
2. Extraordinary members support the association financially or ideally.
3. Honorary members are appointed for special services to the association.

§5 Acquisition of membership

1. Individuals and legal entities can become members.
2. Membership can be applied for online and requires the approval of the majority of board members.
3. The board decides on admission. Admission can be refused without giving reasons. Individual members can be exempted from the collection of membership fees by majority decision.
4. Honorary members are appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Board.

§6 Termination of Membership

1. Membership ends by death, voluntary resignation or exclusion.
2. The Board of Directors must be notified of the resignation in writing.
3. The exclusion can be decided by the board for important reasons, e.g. in the case of conduct damaging to the association.
4. A majority of four out of five board members can remove any member, including one board member.

§7 Rights and Duties of Members

1. Members are entitled to participate in events of the association and to use the facilities of the association.
2. Members are invited to the annual general meeting and events and receive newsletters.
3. Members have the right to participate in the General Assembly and to submit motions.
4. Members have the right to vote on membership of the board.
5. Members are obliged to pay the annual fee.
6. The members are obliged to protect the interests of the association and to observe the statutes.
7. In accordance with the GDPR, members must agree to provide valid address and contact details (via the online form).

§8 Organs of the Association

1. The organs of the association are:
 - a. the General Assembly (§9);
 - b. the Board of Directors (§11);
 - c. the auditors (§14);
 - d. the conciliation body (§15).

§9 General Assembly

1. The ordinary general meeting takes place at least once a year.
2. An extraordinary general meeting will take place:
 - a. by decision of the Board of Directors;
 - b. upon written request of at least one tenth of the members.
4. Written invitations to the General Assembly must be issued at least two weeks in advance.
5. The General Assembly has a quorum if at least half of the members are present.
6. Resolutions are passed by simple majority.

§10 Duties of the General Assembly

In particular, the General Assembly shall be responsible for:

- Election of board members. Candidates who receive the majority of the votes of the General Assembly are forwarded by the Board of Directors for voting.
- Election of the auditors of the association.

- Receipt and approval of the accountability report;
- Vote on amendments to the association's statutes. If an amendment to the Articles of Association is adopted by a majority of the General Assembly, it is forwarded by the Board of Directors for a vote.
- Dissolution of the association.

§11 Board of Directors

1. The board consists of five members:
 - the chairman;
 - the two deputies;
 - the secretary;
 - the treasurer;
2. The term of office of the board members is unlimited.
3. Each position is appointed by majority decision of the Board of Directors.
4. Vacant board positions are filled by nomination and election.
5. Every member of the association can be elected by the general meeting as a candidate for the board.
6. The nominations must be confirmed by the majority of the association members and the majority of the other board members.
7. The Board of Directors supervises the management of day-to-day business by the Secretary General.
8. The association is represented externally by the chairman or one of the deputy chairmen as well as at least one of the other board members.
9. The Board of Directors passes resolutions by a majority of the votes of its members.
10. The statutes of the association can be changed on the initiative of the general assembly or by board members.
11. Changes that are decided by a majority of the General Assembly are submitted to the Board of Directors for a vote.
12. The statutes of the association can be changed by a majority of four of the five board members.
13. Board members' votes are valid whether they are cast via email, phone, WhatsApp or in a meeting.

Section 11a Authority of the Chairman

The chairman represents the association externally (together with at least one of the other board members according to §11.8) and is authorized to make decisions and conclude agreements on behalf of the association, unless these are expressly reserved for the resolution of the general assembly or the board.

This decision-making authority includes, in particular, day-to-day business, organisational measures and the preparation of projects and events.

The Board of Directors may, by a simple majority decision, exempt certain matters of particular importance from this individual authority or extend the authority to other members of the Board of Directors.

The board of directors must be regularly informed about concluded agreements and decisions made.

§12 Duties of the Board of Directors

1. The board is responsible for the management of the association. He is responsible for all tasks that are not assigned to another body by the statutes. In particular, the following areas of activity fall within its sphere of activity:
2. Establishment of an accounting system that meets the requirements of the association with ongoing income/expenditure records and a list of assets;
3. Preparation of the annual budget, the report and the financial statements;
4. Preparation and convening of the General Assembly;
5. informing members about the association's activities, management and audited financial statements;
6. management of the association's assets;
7. admission and exclusion of ordinary and extraordinary members;
8. Admission and dismissal of employees of the association.

§13 Special Obligations of Individual Executive Board Members

- The secretary keeps the minutes of the general assemblies and board meetings.
- The treasurer is responsible for the proper financial management.

§14 Auditors and their tasks

1. Two auditors are elected by the General Assembly for a period of two years. Re-election is possible. The auditors may not belong to any body, with the exception of the General Assembly, whose activities are the subject of the audit.
2. The auditors are responsible for auditing the financial management of the association with regard to the regularity of the accounts and the use of funds in accordance with the statutes. The board of directors must submit the necessary documents to the auditors and provide the necessary information. The auditors must report to the board of directors on the result of the audit.
3. Legal transactions between auditors and the association require the approval of the general assembly. In all other respects, the provisions of Section 11 (8) to (10) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the auditors.

§15 Conciliation Institution

1. The association's internal arbitration institution is appointed to settle all disputes arising from the association's relationship. It is a "conciliation institution" within the meaning of the 2002 Association Act and not an arbitral tribunal under §§ 577 et seq. of the Code of Civil Procedure.
2. The arbitration institution consists of three ordinary members of the association. It is formed in such a way that a party to the dispute names a member as mediator to the board in writing. At the request of the board of directors within seven days, the other party to the dispute shall in turn nominate a member within 14 days. After notification by the board within seven days, the nominated members elect a third ordinary member as chairman within a further 14 days. In the event of a tie, the decision is made by lot among the nominees. The members of the conciliation body may not belong to any body, with the exception of the General Assembly, whose activities are the subject of the dispute.
3. The conciliation body shall make its decision after both parties have been heard, in the presence of all three members and by a simple majority of votes. It decides to the best of its knowledge and belief. Their decisions are final within the club.

§16 Dissolution of the Association

1. The voluntary dissolution can only be resolved by the General Assembly with a two-thirds majority.

2. In the event of the dissolution or cessation of the beneficiary purpose of the association, the association's assets will be transferred to an organization with a similar purpose (e.g. a Jewish educational or memorial site dedicated to Jewish history and/or the Jewish genealogy of Central Europe).