

Statutes

§ 1 Name, Registered Address, Financial Year

The Association has the name “European Low Gravity Research Association (ELGRA)”.

ELGRA has its registered address in Munich and is entered in the Association Register of Munich District Court, register number: 9702.

The financial year of the Association is the calendar year.

§ 2 Purpose of the Association

The purpose of the Association is the promotion of science and research.

The Association is an international organisation of primarily scientists from European institutions who carry out research on altered gravity phenomena.

The purposes of the Association are in particular:

- a) the stimulation and promotion of research in Europe that examines the influence of gravity on various phenomena and technical processes under altered gravity.
- b) the stimulation of the coordination of endeavours in this field, particularly with respect to the definition, preparation and execution of experiments in space.
- c) the promotion of cooperation between research groups of various scientific disciplines.
- d) the promotion of the participation and active inclusion of students in aerospace activities.
- e) the representation of the shared interests of the members of ELGRA.



§ 3 Objectives of the Association

The Association attempts to achieve the purposes under § 2 through:

- a) the organisation of scientific conferences, lectures, colloquia and other scientific or technological activities related to research in altered gravity.
- b) the provision of a forum to discuss research programmes.
- c) the stimulation of scientific / technological exchange and distribution of information.
- d) the consultation of scientists and research groups.
- e) the exchange of information for national and European authorities as well as industrial companies, particularly the aerospace industry.
- f) the composition of commissions for special tasks.
- g) the stimulation and promotion of the establishment of national associations.



§ 4 Non-profit Status

- a) The Association exclusively and directly pursues non-profit purposes within the meaning of the section “Tax-privileged purposes” of the German Fiscal Code (*Abgabenordnung*).
- b) The Association operates altruistically; it does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes.
- c) The Association funds may only be used for the purposes according to these Statutes.
- d) The Association members may not receive any allowances from the Association funds in their capacity as members.
- e) The members may not receive any shares of the Association assets upon their departure or upon the dissolution or discontinuation of the Association.
- f) No person may be favoured by expenses extraneous to the purpose of the Association or by means of disproportionately high remuneration.

§ 5 Membership

- a) Membership may be granted to individual persons and legal entities, such as scientific institutions and laboratories, who actively work in the field of ELGRA. Membership applications must be sent to the Management Committee in writing.
- b) Student membership may be granted to any officially registered student who demonstrates interest in the field of work of ELGRA.
- c) The Management Committee may deny admission without stating reasons. The applicant with denied admission may appeal to the General Assembly, which will take the final decision.
- d) Membership ends upon departure, expulsion or death.
- e) A member may leave the Association at the end of a calendar year. Termination must be disclosed to the Management Committee in writing.
- f) When a member has grossly violated the objectives and interests of the Association or remains in arrears with the membership fee for longer than two years in spite of a reminder, the member may be expelled by the General Assembly with immediate effect.
- g) All rights with respect to the Association expire upon departure or expulsion. Members who leave the Association by way of departure or expulsion are obliged to pay the membership fees and other fees defined by the General Assembly until the end of the financial year in which they leave.
- h) As a rule, no restitution of fees, donations or other supporting payments is permitted. The claim of the Association to contributions in arrears is excluded from this.

§ 6 Bodies of the Association

The bodies of ELGRA are:

- a) Management Committee
- b) General Assembly

§ 7 Management Committee

- a) The Management Committee with authority to represent the Association comprises the President, the Secretary and a Vice President. The Association is legally represented by the majority of its Management Committee members. Moreover, the extended Management Committee comprises up to five members. The President and the Vice President are to represent the fields of life sciences and physics.
- b) The President presides over the Association, represents it and manages it in agreement with the other Management Committee members. The President chairs the meetings of the Management Committee and the General Assembly. The President is responsible for executing the resolutions of the General Assembly.
- c) The Secretary produces a record of each meeting of the Management Committee. The record from the most recent meeting can be requested by a member.
- d) The President, Secretary, Vice President and the other Management Committee members are elected by the General Assembly in secret with a simple majority. The term of office amounts to two years. Re-election to the same position is possible once. The Treasurer may be re-elected multiple times.
- e) The Management Committee may invite representatives of other organisations to its meetings or to the General Assembly as advisors.

- f) The Management Committee must meet at least once per year and passes its resolutions with a simple majority. In the event of the parity of votes, the vote of the President decides the outcome.

§ 8 General Assembly

- a) The General Assembly must be convened at least once in two years. To this end, the Management Committee must distribute invitations in writing or by e-mail while disclosing the agenda items at least two months prior to the date on which the General Assembly is convened.
- b) An extraordinary General Assembly may be convened by the President or by 20% of the members.
- c) The Secretary produces a record of the General Assembly. The record is signed by two Management Committee members with authority to represent the Association. The resolutions are to be disclosed to the members.
- d) The General Assembly forms a quorum when either 20 members or 20% of all members are present. The lesser of the two figures is decisive.
- e) Unless otherwise stipulated, the resolutions are passed by simple majority. In the event of the parity of votes, the vote of the President decides the outcome.
- f) Tasks of the General Assembly:
 - 1) explanation and acceptance of the work programme of ELGRA;
 - 2) a) acceptance of the record of the previous General Assembly;
b) acceptance of the President's report;
c) acceptance of the Treasurer's report;
 - 3) voting on the discharge of the Management Committee;
 - 4) election of the Management Committee members;

- 5) election of two auditors;
- 6) definition of the membership fee;
- 7) amendments to the Statutes as well as the definition and amendment of implementation rules;
- 8) settlement of any official matters;
- 9) dissolution of ELGRA.

§ 9 Decision Making

- a) For decisions of the General Assembly that require secret voting, no more than one vote may be submitted by each member present. Additional votes are not valid. For other decisions, votes of proxies are valid.
- b) Written decisions may be induced outside the General Assembly. In this case, the Management Committee must formulate the proposal in writing or by e-mail and set a binding address for voting submission and a deadline. The proposals must be sent to the members in writing or by e-mail no later than two months prior to the deadline.
- c) Written decisions may not concern amendments to the Statutes or such decisions that require secret voting.

§ 10 Membership Fee

The membership fee is set by the General Assembly. It must be paid for the current calendar year.



§ 11 Amendments to the Statutes

- a) Proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted by the Management Committee or at least 20% of the members no later than two months prior to the next General Assembly. The amendment to the Statutes becomes effective when at least two thirds of the members present at the General Assembly vote in favour.

- b) Amendments to the Statutes, which are required by supervisory, judicial or tax authorities for formal reasons, may also be implemented by the Management Committee. These amendments to the Statutes must be disclosed to all Association members promptly in writing or by e-mail.

§ 12 Dissolution of the Association

- a) A resolution for the dissolution of the Association may only be passed in a General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose, with a three-quarters majority of the members present.

- b) In the event of the dissolution of the Association or the lapse of the tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the Association will be transferred to Deutsche Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR e.V.), which must use the assets directly and exclusively for non-profit purposes.