

Responsive Research Association

Bylaws

1. Name and purpose

Under the name of “Responsive Research Association”(RRA), an association is created under the Article 60 ff of the Swiss Civil code. The association is not for profit and not affiliated with any religious group or political party. The purpose is to promote and strengthen inter-transdisciplinarity in research and higher education.

2. Official Address

The official address of the Responsive Research Association is located at Rue de l'Indépendance 4, 1096 Cully, Switzerland.

3. Duration

The duration of the Responsive Research Association is indefinite.

4. Goal

The goal of Responsive Research Association is to build capacity and knowledge and provide support, accompaniment and training for institutions and individuals in transforming research and higher education towards inter- and transdisciplinarity and other transformative research approaches. The Responsive Research Association aims to promote and strengthen collaborative, responsive and liberating research practices and higher education that help meet the needs of an ever increasing fragmented, inequitable and vulnerable world and prepare (the next generation of) researchers and decision makers in tackling complex societal problems. To advance inter- and transdisciplinary research and higher education, the Responsive Research Association is seeking finance to support the above-mentioned goals and operates internationally with a particular emphasis on low-income countries.

5. Membership

Persons or institutions can become members of the Responsive Research Association if they share and promote its goals. The association is composed of active and passive members. The Association Board decides on membership applications and on the determination of membership.

6. Funds

The income of the Responsive Research Association consist of the following:

- Donations
- Grants
- Project specific contributions
- Membership fees (according to decision of the General Assembly)

Further sources of income have to be approved by the Association Board.

All resources of the Responsive Research Association shall be used exclusively for non-profit purposes. In case of termination of the Responsive Research Association, remaining funds are transferred to a Swiss non-profit organization that is exempt from taxation and that has the same or similar purpose.

7. Governance

The Responsive Research Association has the following main governance entities:

- a) General Assembly
- b) Association Board
- c) The auditing body of the accounts

a) General Assembly

All members of the Responsive Research Association constitute the General Assembly. All members have one vote in the General Assembly, independently if the member is a person or an institution. The General Assembly meets at least once a year. Members will be informed about the General Assembly meeting at least 6 weeks before the meeting. The meeting can be held in person or virtually.

The duties and responsibilities of the General Assembly are:

- To elect members of the Association Board and the auditing body of the accounts;
- To decide on the amount of membership fees;
- To approve the annual budget and financial statements;
- To decide on changes of the bylaws;
- To decide about terminating the Responsive Research Association.

The General Assembly decides by majority vote. In order to approve or change the bylaws or to terminate the Responsive Research Association, a qualified majority of 2/3 of the members present at the General Assembly is needed. A minimum of 1/5 of the total number of members have the right to demand an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly.

b) Association Board

The Association Board consists of 3-7 board members, including a president, vice president, a treasurer and a secretary. Members of the Association Board are elected by the General Assembly for a period of 2 years. They can be re-elected. Members of the Association Board fulfil their duties pro bono but may claim expenses caused by board activities. The following general principles apply for the composition of the Association Board:

The Association Board aims to maximize diversity and inclusion in composition with regards to professional background, provenience, age and gender. The Association Board meets regularly, at least 1 time a year. Board meetings can be in person or virtual.

The duties and responsibilities of the Association Board are:

- to ensure the functioning of the association and the application of the bylaws
- to manage and control the funds the association
- to organize and hold the General Assembly
- to conceptualize the strategy of the Responsive Research Association
- to set priorities and enable the implementation of activities
- to approve new members;
- to exclude members. (In case of conflict there is a possibility to appeal to the General Assembly);
- To reach out for third party funding;

All members of the Association Board are generally entitled to represent the Responsive Research Association. Specificities of the representation are discussed within the Association Board. The Association Board defines its operational processes.

The Association Board is capable of making decisions if at least 2/3 of its members are present in person or virtually. Decisions are made by majority vote. The Association Board can install an executive body.

c) Auditing body of the accounts


The auditing body for the accounts is either mandated internally or externally. The internal audition body is composed of at least two members of the association.

8. Authority to sign and accountability

At least two collective signatures of the members of the Association Board are necessary for any administrative and financial action. The accountability is limited to the Responsive Research Association funds.

Cully, 09 April 2022


Signatures of founding members:

Dena Fam: 

Katie Ross: 

Désirée Ruppen: 

Michael Hutter: 

Thomas Bischoff: 

Ulli Vilsmaier: 