

## Statutes of FORRT Germany

*This has been translated largely by AI, with limited review. If anything is unclear, please reach out to [verein@forrt.org](mailto:verein@forrt.org). Note that the German version is legally binding.*

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

1. The association bears the name *Framework for Open and Reproducible Research Training Germany*, abbreviated as FORRT Germany.
2. Its registered office is in Münster.
3. The association shall be entered in the register of associations and will then bear the suffix "e. V." (registered association).
4. The fiscal year of the association is the calendar year.

### §2 Purpose

1. The purpose of the association is to promote science and research, as well as vocational training, including student support, in Germany and abroad.
2. To this end, the association may also provide ideological and financial support to other tax-privileged organizations, public law entities, or foreign entities to assist them in their work toward these purposes.
3. The association realizes its purpose primarily through measures aimed at making academic research more transparent, robust, and fair. These include, in particular:
  - a. The creation, publication, and dissemination of freely accessible educational materials and research works, especially on topics such as good scientific practice, scientific integrity, fairness, reproducibility, transparency, and robustness of research.
  - b. The organization of training sessions in line with our goals of making academic research more transparent, robust, and fair.
  - c. Advising researchers and research organizations that wish to engage with transparent, robust, and fair research.
  - d. Publicly promoting good practices in research and scientific reforms.
  - e. Supporting other tax-privileged organizations, public law entities, or foreign entities, particularly through the procurement of funds via membership fees, donations, and events that serve to promote the association's purposes.

### §3 Non-Profit Status

1. The association pursues exclusively and directly non-profit purposes as defined by the German tax code.

2. The association operates selflessly and does not primarily pursue its own economic interests.
3. The association's funds may only be used for purposes consistent with its statutes. Members of the association shall not receive any disbursements from the association's funds in their capacity as members.
4. Members of the Executive Board and Extended Executive Board may receive compensation for their work or time expenditure in accordance with §§ 3 No. 26 and 3 No. 26a of the German Income Tax Act (EStG). The amount of compensation must not be disproportionately high. The benchmark for appropriateness is the association's non-profit objectives and the tax regulations on flat-rate allowances for honorary work. Actual expenses may be reimbursed upon submission of receipts, provided the association's financial situation allows it.
5. No person may benefit from expenses unrelated to the association's purpose or from disproportionately high compensation.

#### **§4 Members**

1. Membership is open to all natural and legal persons.
2. Members must declare their intention to join to the Executive Board. If the Board does not object at its next meeting, the member is considered admitted.
3. Members are obligated to pay a membership fee. The amount of the fee is determined by the General Assembly.
4. Membership ends:
  - a. Upon the death of the member or the dissolution of a legal entity;
  - b. Through voluntary resignation, which must be declared to the Executive Board and takes effect upon receipt;
  - c. By removal from the membership list by the Executive Board if a member is more than 18 months in arrears with their fee payments. The member must be given reasonable notice of this possibility;
  - d. By expulsion from the association. This can be decided by the General Assembly if a member has grossly violated the interests of the association. Before the decision, the member must be given the opportunity to justify themselves personally or in writing.

#### **§5 General Assembly**

1. The General Assembly convenes once a year for an ordinary meeting.
2. Extraordinary General Assemblies may be convened if requested by either two members of the Executive Board or one-fifth of the members.

3. The Executive Board issues invitations to General Assemblies, observing a notice period of two weeks.
4. A duly convened General Assembly may also be held as a telephone or video conference. It is always quorate.
5. The General Assembly performs the following tasks:
  - a. Setting strategic guidelines for the association's work;
  - b. Electing members of the Executive Board for a term of two years;
  - c. Supervising the Executive Board upon presentation of the annual financial report and the auditors' report;
  - d. Deciding on amendments to the statutes and the dissolution of the association.
6. Minutes of all General Assemblies must be kept. These minutes are signed by the chairperson and collected by a designated member of the Executive Board. They must be made available to any member upon request.

## **§6 Executive Board**

1. The Executive Board handles all tasks not reserved for another body. It remains in office until the election of a new Executive Board.
2. The Executive Board consists of at least three and no more than seven members. The exact number of Executive Board members is determined by the General Assembly. The association can only be represented by two members of the Executive Board.
3. If an Executive Board member resigns during their term, the Executive Board may elect a replacement member (from among the association's members) for the remainder of the term.
4. The distribution of offices and areas of responsibility is determined internally by the Executive Board.
5. The Executive Board may establish working groups to address specific projects and tasks. The coordinators of all existing working groups are to be invited to all Executive Board meetings.
6. Any regular member of the Executive Board may convene Executive Board meetings with a notice period of three days. The Executive Board is quorate if at least two members are present.
7. Executive Board meetings may also be held as telephone or video conferences. Additionally, resolutions may be passed via email circulation, where a lack of response after seven days is considered silent consent.

## **§7 Extended Executive Board**

1. Upon resolution of the General Assembly, an Extended Executive Board may be elected. This consists of additional association members who provide advisory support to the regular Executive Board.
2. Members of the Extended Executive Board have no authority to represent the association and no voting rights in Executive Board decisions. They are invited to all Executive Board meetings.
3. Their primary task is to provide advisory support in their areas of expertise and in the development of projects. The internal distribution of tasks is determined by the Executive Board.

### **§8 Advisory Board**

1. Upon resolution of the General Assembly, an Advisory Board may be established.
2. The appointment and dismissal of Advisory Board members are decided by the Executive Board.
3. The Advisory Board is responsible for advising other bodies in strategic planning, as well as supporting fundraising and public relations efforts.

### **§9 Communication**

1. All official communication between the association and its members must be in written form. Emails fulfill this requirement.
2. Members are responsible for promptly informing the association of any changes to their contact details.

### **§10 Amendments to the Statutes**

1. Amendments to the statutes require a majority of three-quarters of the valid votes cast at the General Assembly.
2. The intention to amend the statutes must be communicated to members with the invitation to the General Assembly.
3. The only exception to paragraph 1 is amendments required by the register of associations for registration or by the tax office for the recognition of tax benefits. These may be implemented by the Executive Board through a unanimous resolution. Members must be promptly informed of such changes.

### **§11 Dissolution**

1. The association may be dissolved by a resolution of the General Assembly with a majority of three-quarters of the valid votes cast. The motion to dissolve must be included in the invitation to the General Assembly.
2. Upon dissolution of the association, or if its tax-privileged purposes cease or the association is terminated, the association's assets shall be transferred to a

tax-privileged organization that promotes one of the association's purposes. This organization is to be determined by the General Assembly prior to the dissolution of the association.

**Statutes adopted by the founding assembly on June 1, 2024, in Münster,  
amended by the General Assembly on October 23, 2024.**