

Guidelines for the EDN European Doula Network

The EDN is an umbrella organisation for European doula associations and doula trainings. It was launched in 2010 and since June 2011 the website is active.

www.european-doula-network.org

Goal of the Network

- Promotion of European Doula-Networking and exchange experience amongst Doula-Organisations and Doula-Trainers.
- Promotion of Doula services and doula-trainings as professional work with adequate payment.
- Get public and official recognition.
- Transparency amongst partner Doula-Organisations and mutual support for the organisations
- Establish an EDN Ethic code for doula practice in Europe.
- Counselling for pioneer-doulas who wish to build up new Doula-Organisations and Doula-Trainings in European countries where no such structures exist at the moment.

Who can be part of this network?

Doula-Associations, Doula-Trainings and upon special request and agreement also Doula Pioneers from Europe and the Mediterranean-area, who wish to:

- exchange experiences with other members
- learn from each other
- develop trust in each other
- optimize their work by building up national/regional structures and grow in quality and by numbers

What are the actual benefits of joining the network?

- Every member has a portrait on the EDN-Website with link and contact person.
- Members get insight in the European doula reality and into new inspiring doula projects and initiatives.
- Members prove its will to cooperate and work seriously on the doula-concept.
- Members can send stories of good practise to the EDN and these will be published on the Website.
- Members get the email-newsletter from the EDN office.
- Members, primarily the contact persons, get a login to the internal website-space where useful documents and material are published for download. The use of this material has to be regulated by the EDN!
- Members get invitations to the annual EDN-Meetings where doula-work is the main topic and where doulas meet and share and support each other
- Individual Pioneer-Doulas get support upon request (Mentoring through experienced doula organisations) for building up national/regional structures.
- Members with lack of financial background can apply for sponsoring to be able to participate in annual EDN-Meetings. Every year an other member gets the discount.

Ideas for future benefits of joining the network

- Members of the EDN get regularly an email-newsletter from the EDN office.
- EDN-members should get a certain discount at international conferences in Europe and Overseas
- ...
- ...

What are terms of joining the network?

We have different membership categories: organisations/courses, pioneer doulas, friends of the EDN and honorary members.

Doula organisations/associations

- Interested organisations may ask for membership by filling out the EDN questionnaires and by sending an English text presenting their organisation to be published on the Website.
- Each partner (association or training) pays an annual fee of minimum 50 Euros to cover the costs of website and necessary administration.

Individual pioneer doulas

- Individual pioneer-doulas may become member of the EDN but are obliged to work for a national/regional structure in their country and send updates to the EDN office. When a country has 3 pioneer-doulas, the EDN suggests that they form an organisation.
- Individual pioneer-doulas pay also 50 Euro per year.

Friends of the EDN

- Any interested person or institution can ask for this category of membership. They are then listed by names on our Website and get the newsletter.
- A friend of the EDN pays at least 50 Euros per year.

Fundamentals concerning role and responsibility of a Doula of the European Network

The Doula

- promotes the autonomy and the independent decision making of the woman she accompanies and supports, in order to enforce the wellbeing and health of the woman and her family.
- protects the intimacy of the pregnant woman and regards all information as confidential
- has no medical responsibility and doesn't interfere with medical decisions.
- honours the work of midwives and other medical staff and also the work of her doula colleagues and behaves in a loyal and respectful manner
- is aware of her personal and professional boundaries and helps the woman with addresses and links for additional support if necessary

- commits herself to improving the quality of her work by further studies, cooperation with other doulas and, if necessary, by supervision
- helps to spread the Doula-Idea to the general public.

Verdabbio, January 2014