

Statutes of the GGP-ERIC
Revised May 2026

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PREAMBLE

[List of Members]

Hereinafter referred to as ‘the Founding Members’,

WHEREAS the Founding Members recognise that population dynamics is a key driver of societal change;

CONSIDERING that high quality and timely data are needed to address the scientific and societal challenges associated with demographic changes;

BUILDING on the experience of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) which was founded in 2000 and which has been recognized as a unique research infrastructure on population and family dynamics by the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI);

RECOGNISING the current value of the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) in providing interdisciplinary, internationally comparable, and longitudinal source of survey data and its relevance for different fields of fundamental and applied sciences such as demography, economics, sociology, public policy, psychology, statistics, geography, and others;

RECOGNISING that evidence-based and evidenced-informed public policy making on population changes requires a cutting-edge data infrastructure;

EXPECTING other countries to participate in the activities undertaken together under the following Statutes;

REQUESTING the European Commission to establish the Generations and Gender Programme as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (GGP-ERIC);

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER 1

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

Article 1

Name and statutory seat

1. Generations and Gender Programme Research Infrastructure is set up as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) under Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 named 'GGP-ERIC'.
2. GGP-ERIC shall have its statutory seat in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Article 2

Tasks and activities

1. The principal task of GGP-ERIC shall be to establish and operate the infrastructure with an aim to provide high quality and cross-nationally comparable longitudinal data to answer pressing scientific and societal challenges on population and family dynamics.
2. For the purposes of 2.1. GGP-ERIC shall carry out the following activities:
 - a) collect, document and disseminate data from the Generations and Gender Survey or other comparable large-scale, nationally representative surveys and other related administrative sources from Europe and beyond on topics such as transitions to adulthood, family dynamics, fertility decisions, gender roles, work-life balance, well-being, and intergenerational exchanges;
 - b) facilitate evidence-informed policies at the national, European and international levels through GGP-ERIC data;
 - c) Pursue any other related activity necessary to achieve its aim.
3. GGP-ERIC shall pursue its principal task on a non-economic basis. Without prejudice to State aid applicable rules, GGP-ERIC may carry out limited economic activities provided that they are closely related to its principal tasks, and that they do not jeopardise the achievement thereof.

Article 3

Duration

1. GGP-ERIC shall exist for an indefinite period of time.

Article 4

Winding up

1. The winding up of GGP-ERIC shall be decided by the General Assembly in accordance with Article 19(10)(b).
2. Without undue delay and in any event within ten (10) days after adoption of the decision to wind up GGP-ERIC, GGP-ERIC shall notify the European Commission about the decision.
3. Assets remaining after payment of GGP-ERIC debts shall be apportioned among the Members in proportion to their accumulated annual contribution to GGP-ERIC as specified in Annex II.
4. Without undue delay and in any event within ten (10) days after the closure of the winding up procedure, GGP-ERIC shall notify the Commission thereof.
5. GGP-ERIC shall cease to exist on the day on which the European Commission publishes the appropriate notice in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Article 5

Liability and insurance

1. GGP-ERIC shall be liable for its debts.
2. The Members are not jointly liable for the debts of GGP-ERIC. The Members' financial liability for the debts of GGP-ERIC shall be limited to their respective annual contribution as specified in Annex II.
3. GGP-ERIC shall take appropriate insurance to cover the risks specific to the construction and operation of the GGP-ERIC.

Article 6

Access policy for users

1. GGP-ERIC shall provide access to physical and virtual resources to answer pressing scientific and societal challenges on population and family dynamics. This includes survey data and other data products, as well as services including user support.
2. Access shall be provided to registered GGP-ERIC users, who accepted the Terms of Acceptable Usage under a controlled access procedure.
3. GGP-ERIC shall adopt an access policy for users, for approval by the General Assembly, and to be made available on the GGP-ERIC website.

Article 7

Scientific evaluation policy

1. The activities of GGP-ERIC shall be evaluated every five (5) years by an independent panel composed of international experts of the highest quality, appointed by the General Assembly.

Article 8

Dissemination policy

1. GGP-ERIC shall be a facilitator of research and shall, as a general rule, encourage as much open access to research data as possible.
2. GGP-ERIC shall encourage users of its data to make their research results publicly available and to make results available through repositories conforming to the FAIR data principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reusability) and within a reasonable period.
3. GGP-ERIC shall use several channels to reach its target audiences, including web portal, newsletter, workshops, presence in conferences, articles in magazines and journals, social media, newspapers and other channels as may be appropriate.

Article 9

Intellectual Property Rights policy

1. Subject to the term of any contract between GGP-ERIC and the users, intellectual property rights created, obtained or developed by users shall be owned by those users.
2. GGP-ERIC shall adopt a policy on intellectual property rights for approval by the General Assembly.

Article 10

Employment policy

1. GGP-ERIC's employment policy shall be governed by the laws of the country in which staff are employed.
2. The selection procedures for GGP-ERIC staff positions shall be transparent, non-discriminatory and respect equal opportunities. Recruitment and employment shall not be discriminatory.
3. GGP-ERIC shall adopt an employment policy for approval by the General Assembly.

Article 11

Procurement policy

1. Procurement by Members and Observers concerning GGP-ERIC activities shall be carried out in such way that due consideration is given to GGP-ERIC needs, technical requirements and specifications issued by the relevant bodies.

2. GGP-ERIC shall adopt its own procurement rules, which respect the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and competition, to be approved by the General Assembly, and be made available on GGP-ERIC website.

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 12

Definitions

For the purposes of these statutes, the following definitions shall apply:

1. ‘Central Hub’ means the GGP-ERIC headquarters and GGP-ERIC coordination team located in the Host Country;
2. ‘Cooperating Partner’ means research organisation referred to in Article 18;
3. ‘GGP’ means the Generations and Gender Programme as an international distributed research infrastructure;
4. ‘Institutional Node’ means institutions which contribute to the core activities of the infrastructure, particularly through specific expertise that complements the activities carried out in the Central Hub.
5. ‘National Node’ means a single institution or consortium of institutions which mandate is to carry out the obligations following from these statutes;
6. ‘Simple Majority’ on a proposed decision is achieved when the highest number of votes cast exceeds the second-highest number, while not constituting an absolute majority;
7. ‘Qualified Majority’ on a proposed decision is achieved when at least two-thirds (67%) of the Members represented vote in favour;
8. ‘Unanimity’ on a proposed decision is achieved either when the Chair has ascertained that all of the Members represented have consensus (unanimous consensus), or when none of the Members represented votes against and not more than one abstains.

CHAPTER 3

MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVER STATUS

Article 13

Membership and representing entity

1. The following entities may become Members of GGP-ERIC or may become Observers of GGP-ERIC without voting rights:
 - (a) Member States of the European Union;

- (b) associated countries (within the meaning of Article 2(c) of Regulation (EC) No 723/2009);
 - (c) third countries other than associated countries;
 - (d) intergovernmental organisations.
2. Membership of GGP-ERIC must include at least one Member State of the EU and two other countries that are either Member States or associated countries.
 3. EU Member States or associated countries shall hold jointly the majority of the voting rights in the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall determine any modification of voting rights that are necessary to ensure that GGP-ERIC complies at all times with that requirement.
 4. Any Member or Observer referred to in article 14 may be represented by one public entity or one private entity with a public service mission of its own choosing and appointed in accordance with its own rules and procedures. Each Member or Observer shall inform the General Assembly of any change of its representing entity, of the specific rights and obligations which have been delegated to it or of any other relevant change.
 5. The Members and Observers of GGP-ERIC and their representing entities are listed in Annex I. Annex I shall be kept up to date by the Director/Central Hub.

Article 14

Conditions for becoming a Member or an Observer

1. Entities referred to in Article 13(1) willing to become Members of GGP-ERIC shall submit a written application to the Director of GGP-ERIC and the Chair of the General Assembly. That application shall describe how the entity will contribute to GGP-ERIC objectives and activities described in Article 2 and how it will fulfil the obligations referred to in Article 16. The admission of the entities as new Members shall be subject to the approval by the General Assembly.
2. Entities referred to in Article 13(1) who are willing to contribute to GGP-ERIC, but are not yet in a position to join as Members, may apply for Observer status. The admission of the entities as new Observers shall be subject to the approval by the General Assembly. Applicants shall submit a written application to the Director of GGP-ERIC and the Chair of the General Assembly. That application shall describe how the applicant will contribute to GGP-ERIC objectives and activities described in Article 2 and how it will fulfil the obligations referred to in Article 17.
3. Applicants shall be admitted as Observers for a three (3) year period maximum. Observers may reapply once for extension of Observer status. In exceptional cases the General Assembly may accept further extension of Observer status.

Article 15

Withdrawal of a Member or an Observer / termination of Membership or Observer status

1. Within the first five (5) years of the establishment of GGP-ERIC no Member may withdraw.

2. After the first five (5) years of the establishment of GGP-ERIC, a Member may withdraw at the end of a financial year, following a request submitted at least 12 months prior to the withdrawal.
3. Observers may withdraw at the end of a financial year, following a request submitted at least 6 months prior to the withdrawal.
4. The General Assembly may terminate Membership or Observer status if the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the Member or Observer is in serious breach of one or more of its obligations under these statutes;
 - (b) the Member or Observer has failed to rectify such breach within six months after it has received notice of the breach in writing;
 - (c) the Member or Observer has been given an opportunity to present its position to the General Assembly before a decision is made.
5. Members and Observers shall continue paying their Membership and Observer fees and fulfil all other obligations to GGP-ERIC activities until withdrawal or termination comes into effect.
6. Notwithstanding Article 15(1), Article 15(2) and Article 15(3), Members and Observers referred to in Article 13(1)(b) and (c), may withdraw from GGP-ERIC following changes in Council Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 that would materially affect their rights and obligations in relation to GGP-ERIC. Such changes are considered to materially affect their rights and obligations where they imply or impose on that specific Member or Observer:
 - (a) increased fees (including higher annual contributions or decommissioning costs);
 - (b) fewer voting rights compared to other Members referred to in Article 13(1)(a);
 - (c) requirements contrary to applicable law referred to in Article 31 of these Statutes or to the national law of the affected Member or Observer (or other applicable law to which that Member or Observer is bound), provided such national law was enacted more than a period of 6 months prior to the change of the Regulation (EC) No 723/2009;
 - (d) remove the right to be represented in the General Assembly or other committees; or change their rights related to representation or use of the facility.

The affected Member or Observer (which is not a Member State), may withdraw from GGP-ERIC upon 6 months prior written notice to the Chair of the General Assembly.

CHAPTER 4

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

Article 16

Members

1. Rights of Members shall include:

- (a) to attend and vote at General Assembly meetings, with the exception of voting on decisions regarding that Member's termination of Membership in accordance with Article 19(9)(c);
- (b) to elect and be elected to the governance bodies of GGP-ERIC through its representatives under the terms of Article 13(4);
- (c) to participate in the development of strategies and policies of GGP-ERIC;
- (d) to use GGP-ERIC's brand when acting in the name of GGP-ERIC and in accordance with GGP-ERIC's goals;
- (e) to participate in project proposals where GGP-ERIC acts as the submitting entity for its research community;
- (f) to use all the tools, services and other offerings coordinated by GGP-ERIC for its research community;
- (g) to participate in GGP-ERIC events for its research community.

2. Each Member shall:

- (a) ensure appropriate representation at the General Assembly;
- (b) provide the annual contribution in accordance with Annex II;
- (c) create a National Node for carrying out the obligations following from these statutes; a National Node may consist of one or more institutions;
- (d) participate in data collection within the Generations and Gender Survey and/or in other data collection instruments as specified in the GGP-ERIC Scientific and Technical Description;
- (e) promote uptake of services among researchers in the Member country, and ensure user feedback and requirements are gathered.

Article 17

Observers

1. Rights of Observers shall include:

- (a) to attend the meetings of the General Assembly without voting rights;
- (b) to participate in the development of strategies and policies of GGP-ERIC;
- (c) to participate in GGP-ERIC events for its research community.

2. Each Observer shall:

- (a) provide the annual contribution in accordance to Annex II;
- (b) create a National Node for carrying out the national obligations following from these statutes; a National Node may consist of one or more institutions;
- (c) promote uptake of GGP-ERIC services among researchers in their country, and ensure user feedback and requirements are gathered;
- (d) endeavour to become a Member of GGP-ERIC.

CHAPTER 5

PARTICIPATION OF COOPERATING PARTNERS

Article 18

Cooperating Partners

1. GGP-ERIC may enter into cooperation agreements with Cooperating Partners in countries that are not Member or Observer of GGP-ERIC. There can only be one Cooperating Partner per country. Such cooperation agreement shall be devised on case-by-case basis.
2. Cooperating Partners must to the satisfaction of the General Assembly contribute to fulfilling the tasks and activities of GGP-ERIC.
3. The cooperation agreement shall be concluded by the Director of GGP-ERIC after approval by the General Assembly. The cooperation agreement shall establish the terms and conditions under which the Cooperating Partner may engage with GGP-ERIC and commit to tasks and activities set out in Article 2.

CHAPTER 6

GOVERNANCE

Article 19

General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall be the governing body of GGP-ERIC and shall be composed of representatives of the Members and Observers of GGP-ERIC.
2. Each Member or Observer shall appoint up to two (2) official representatives. Additionally each Member or Observer may bring an expert. Each delegation may consist of up to three (3) persons, but shall carry one (1) single vote (in the case of Members).
3. Each Member shall have one indivisible vote.
4. The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year, and shall be responsible for the overall direction and supervision of GGP-ERIC. The General Assembly shall maintain a list of decisions that have to be taken to operate GGP-ERIC, including
 - a) consider proposals for amendments to the statutes of GGP-ERIC,
 - b) termination of GGP-ERIC,
 - c) appoint, suspend or dismiss the Director,
 - d) appoint the members of the Advisory Board,

- e) approve the accession of new Members and Observers and the withdrawal, suspension or termination of Members' and Observers' participation in GGP-ERIC,
 - f) approve the accession, withdrawal, suspension or termination of Cooperating Partners; adopt the implementing rules,
 - g) approve the financial plan, financial and budgetary statements, including the annual or multi-annual budget,
 - h) approve the strategic plan; annual workplans, and annual activity report,
 - i) create additional advisory, governance or management bodies if deemed necessary
 - j) adopt decisions on contributions,
 - k) and decide on any other matters that are necessary to fulfil the tasks of GGP-ERIC.
5. The meetings of the General Assembly shall be convened by the Chair. A meeting of the General Assembly may be requested by at least 50 % of the Members.
6. The General Assembly shall elect a Chair and vice-Chair by a simple majority of the votes. The Chair and vice-Chair shall be elected for a three (3) year term, once renewable. The Vice-Chair shall substitute the Chair in his/her absence, resignation, inability to act or in case of conflict of interest which cannot be otherwise resolved.
7. A quorum of two-thirds of Members shall be required for having a valid General Assembly meeting. If the quorum is not met, a second meeting shall be convened within 30 calendar days following a new invitation, with the same agenda. In the second meeting, the quorum shall be considered met if half of Members are present.
8. The General Assembly shall strive to reach decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be taken by vote of the Members.
9. The following decisions shall require a qualified majority (two-thirds majority) of the votes cast by the Members present:
- (a) to appoint, suspend or dismiss the Director;
 - (b) to appoint, suspend or dismiss representatives of the Advisory Board;
 - (c) to approve the accession of new Members and Observers and the withdrawal, suspension or termination of Members' and Observers' participation in GGP-ERIC;
 - (d) to approve the accession, withdrawal, suspension or termination of Cooperating Partners;
 - (e) to approve the financial plan, financial and budgetary statements, including the annual or multi-year budget;
 - (f) to approve the strategic plan, annual workplans, and annual activity report;
 - (g) to create or disband advisory, governance or management bodies;
 - (h) to approve or change the level of annual Member and Observer fees where such changes represent an increase of up to 2% to the amount or calculation of fees.
10. The following decisions shall require unanimity of the votes cast of the Members present:
- (a) proposals for amending these statutes;
 - (b) termination of GGP-ERIC;
 - (c) approval or changing of the level of annual Member and Observer fees where such changes represent an increase of more than 2% to the amount or calculation of fees.
11. Proposals for amending these statutes shall require the agreement of the majority of the EU Member States that are Members of GGP-ERIC.

12. All other decisions shall be passed by simple majority of the votes cast of the Members present.
13. Subject to these statutes, the General Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedures.

Article 20

Director

1. The General Assembly shall appoint the Director of GGP-ERIC in accordance with a procedure adopted by the General Assembly. The term for the Director shall be five (5) years once renewable.
2. The Director shall be the legal representative of GGP-ERIC.
3. The Director shall carry out the day-to-day management of GGP-ERIC. The Director shall be responsible for:
 - (a) ensuring that GGP-ERIC complies with all applicable legal requirements;
 - (b) the implementation of the decisions by the General Assembly.

Article 21

Advisory Board

1. The Advisory Board shall provide:
 - a. input to the General Assembly through solicited and unsolicited advice on strategic issues, including but not limited to the vision, new initiatives, work plans, quality assurance, risks and opportunities relevant to GGP-ERIC.
 - b. monitor annually the activities and services of GGP-ERIC and prepare a report to the General Assembly;
2. The Advisory Board shall consist of high-level external international researchers or stakeholders with expertise in population science and survey methodology and shall act on their personal title while avoiding organisational and personal conflicts of interests.
3. The number of Members of the Advisory Board shall be decided by the General Assembly.
4. The Members of the Advisory Board shall be appointed by the General Assembly for a term of three (3) years. The General Assembly may reappoint them once for the same duration based on the Director's proposals.
5. The Advisory Board shall elect a chair and a vice-chair from among its Members.
6. The Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Board shall be adopted by the General Assembly.
7. The Advisory Board shall meet at least once per year.

Article 22

Central Hub and Institutional Nodes

1. The GGP-ERIC Central Hub shall be the central management office for the daily operations of GGP-ERIC. It executes the day-to-day management of GGP-ERIC, including assistance to the General Assembly. It shall be set up and managed by the Director. In addition to the Central Hub, GGP-ERIC includes a limited number Institutional Nodes designated to contribute to its core operations. The budget for the Central Hub and the Institutional Nodes is specified in the annual and multi-annual financial plans to be approved by the General Assembly.
2. Institutional Nodes work on the operational level, complementing the tasks of the Central Hub and supporting the implementation of the GGP ERICs activities. Institutional Nodes do not have decision-making powers within GGP-ERICs governance bodies. They may be invited in meetings in an advisory capacity. The selection of the institutional nodes shall be governed by the Internal Rules of Procedures. Their specific roles and responsibilities shall be defined in the Internal Rules of Procedures and the annual work programmes.

Article 23

Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups

1. The General Assembly may create and terminate committees, task forces, or other working groups as they see fit for themes for which a special effort is needed, which cannot be performed by the General Assembly. One of the committees, task forces or working groups shall have expertise in ethical issues.

CHAPTER 7

FINANCE

Article 24

Resources

1. The resources of GGP-ERIC shall consist of the following:
 - (a) financial contributions of Members, Observers and Cooperating Partners;
 - (b) host contributions;
 - (c) other resources within limits and under terms approved by the General Assembly.

Article 25

Budgetary principles, accounts and audit

1. The financial year of GGP-ERIC shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December of each year.
2. The accounts of GGP-ERIC shall be accompanied by a report on budgetary and financial management of the financial year.
3. GGP-ERIC shall be subject to the requirements of the law of the country where it has its statutory seat as regards preparation, filing, auditing and publication of accounts.

Article 26

Tax and excise duty exemptions

1. VAT exemptions based on Articles 143(1)(g) and 151(1)(b) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC and in accordance with Articles 50 and 51 of Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011, shall be limited to purchases of goods and services by GGP-ERIC and by Members of the ERIC, as defined in Article 9(1) of Council regulation (EC) No 723/2009 of June 25, 2009 on the Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), which are for the official and exclusive use by GGP-ERIC provided that such purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of GGP-ERIC in line with its activities.
2. VAT exemptions shall be limited to purchases exceeding the value of EUR 300 excluding VAT.
3. Excise Duty exemptions, based on Article 11 of Council Directive 2020/262 (Article 12 of Council Directive 2008/118/EC) shall be limited to purchases by GGP-ERIC which are for the official and exclusive use by GGP-ERIC provided that such purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of GGP-ERIC in line with its activities and that the purchase exceeds the value of EUR 300 excluding VAT.
4. Purchases by the GGP-ERIC staff Members are not covered by the exemptions.

CHAPTER 8

MISCELLANEOUS

Article 27

Working language

1. The working language of GGP-ERIC shall be English.

Article 28

Data Policy

1. Open Source and Open Access principles shall be favoured.
2. GGP-ERIC shall provide guidance to users to ensure that research undertaken using material made accessible through GGP-ERIC shall be undertaken within a framework that recognizes the rights of data owners and privacy of individuals following relevant national, European and international regulations.

3. GGP-ERIC shall ensure that users agree to the terms and conditions governing access and that suitable security arrangements are in place regarding internal storage and handling.
4. GGP-ERIC shall define arrangements for investigating allegations of security breaches and confidentiality disclosures regarding research and/or personal data.
5. GGP-ERIC shall adopt a data policy in line with basic principles set out in this article and to be adopted by the General Assembly.

Article 29

Reporting to the European Commission

1. GGP-ERIC shall produce an annual activity report, containing in particular the scientific, operational and financial aspects of its activities. The report shall be approved by the General Assembly and transmitted to the European Commission and relevant public authorities within six months from the end of the corresponding financial year. This report shall be made publicly available.
2. GGP-ERIC shall inform the European Commission of any circumstances which threaten to seriously jeopardise the achievement of GGP-ERIC tasks or hinder GGP-ERIC from fulfilling requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 723/2009.

Article 30

Applicable law

1. The internal functioning of GGP-ERIC shall be governed:
 - (a) by European Union law, in particular Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 and the decisions referred to in Articles 6(1)(a) and 11(1) of the Regulation;
 - (b) by the law of the state where GGP-ERIC has its statutory seat in the case of matters not, or only partly, regulated by acts referred to in point (a);
 - (c) by these statutes and their implementing rules.

Article 31

Disputes

1. In the event of a dispute or difference between the Members arising out of or in connection with the statutes, the General Assembly shall meet as soon as reasonably practicable to consult in good faith and seek to solve the dispute amicably.
2. The Court of Justice of the European Union shall have jurisdiction over litigation among the Members in relation to GGP-ERIC, between Members and GGP-ERIC and over any litigation to which the European Union is a party.
3. European Union legislation on jurisdiction shall apply to disputes between GGP-ERIC and third parties. In cases not covered by European Union legislation, the law of the state where GGP-ERIC has its statutory seat shall determine the competent jurisdiction for the resolution of such disputes.

Article 32

Statutes updates and availability

1. The Statutes shall be kept up to date and publicly available on GGP-ERIC website and at the statutory seat.

Article 33

Setting-up provisions

1. A first meeting of the General Assembly shall be called by the State where GGP-ERIC has its statutory seat as soon as possible after the European Commission decision setting up GGP-ERIC takes effect.
2. Before the first meeting is held and no later than forty-five (45) calendar days after the European Commission decision setting up GGP-ERIC takes effect, the relevant state shall notify the founding Members and Observers of any specific urgent legal action that needs to be taken on behalf of GGP-ERIC. Unless a founding Member objects within five (5) working days after being notified, the legal action shall be carried out by a person duly authorised by the relevant state.

ANNEX I — List of Members, Observers and their representing entities

Members

Country or Intergovernmental organisation	Representing entity

Observers

Country or Intergovernmental organisation	Representing entity

ANNEX II — BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS