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## Approval of an association

Verified 12 December 2025 - Public Service / Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (Prime Minister), Ministry responsible for associative life

Approval shall be granted **by the State** and the mark **recognition** of the **commitment** of an association in a **domain** particular. You want to know the **conditions** which the association must complete in order to be approved, **documents** to be provided to the administrative authorities, the **duration** of the approval and whether it may be **canceled** ? We present you the useful information.

### What is the purpose of accreditation for an association? ^

Approval reflects the **recognition by the State** (or by one of its public institutions) the commitment of an association in a particular field (consumer protection (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1126?lang=en>) , environmental protection (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F638?lang=en>) , animal protection,...).

The approved association shall benefit from **benefits** variables according to accreditation: possibility to apply for public subsidies, tax advantages, right to practice certain activities,...

### What conditions must the association fulfill in order to obtain approval? ^

The association *law 1901* or the *association of Alsace-Moselle* must fill in the **3 conditions** following:

- Reply to a **object of general interest**, i.e. not being based on a cause or a prohibited object, contrary to the laws, good morals
- Present a **democratic mode of operation** (for example, having regular meetings of the governing bodies)
- Comply with rules to ensure the **financial transparency**, that is to say, keeping accounts, establishing an annual budget,...

One recognized public utility association (Arup) (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1131?lang=en>) or an association that has already obtained an approval for at least 5 years is automatically considered to meet these 3 conditions.

The issue of an approval may also be subject to **other specific conditions** according to the approval requested (have at least 1 year of existence, have a certain number of members,...).

### Responding to an object of general interest

To meet an object of general interest, the **4 conditions** The following must be completed:

- Justify a **selfless management** (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31839?lang=en>) (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31839?lang=en>) and **ne not to pursue for-profit**
- To be **open to all** without discrimination
- Present **sufficient guarantees** with regard to compliance with **individual freedoms**, i.e. not to have the aim of undermining the integrity of France and the republican form of government
- The action of the association shall not **not just the defense of the collective interest** of its **members**.

### Present a democratic mode of operation

The functioning of the association is considered as *democratic* if **all** the following conditions are met:

- The General Assembly shall meet **regularly**, at least once a year
- The **current members** of their obligations (in particular their contributions) have a **right of effective participation** to the General Assembly and to a **right to vote**
- The **necessary documents** to their **information** are **press releases** under the conditions laid down in the statutes or the
- **At least half** members in charge of administration or management is **elected by the general assembly**

- The **renewal** of the members responsible for administration or management and the **annual activity report** are subject to **approval of the general meeting**.

## Comply with the rules ensuring financial transparency

Financial transparency shall be considered to be respected if **all** the following conditions are met:

- One **annual budget** and **financial statements** or, optionally, **accounts** is established
- The **annual budget**, **financial statements** or **accounts** are **press releases** to members in the **planned deadlines** by its statutes
- These documents are **submitted to the general meeting** for acceptance
- The **advertising** and the **communication** budgetary and accounting documents to public authorities are made **in accordance with the regulations**.

## What documents must the association provide to apply for accreditation? ^

The application package must include the following:

- **Activity reports** of the last financial year ended
- **Proofs of change reporting** occurred in the statutes, management or administration of the association

An association that is not required to publish its annual accounts must also provide its approved financial statements for the last fiscal year. This is the case for associations whose amount of donations and/or grants is less than **€153,000**.

The legal representative of the association must establish a sworn certificate to certify the following:

- The information provided to justify that the association fulfills the 3 conditions (object of general interest, democratic functioning, financial transparency) is accurate and sincere
- The association complies with laws and regulations
- The association is up to date with its accounting obligations
- The association respects the Republican commitment contract.

Other specific elements may be requested (minutes of general meeting, note presenting the activity of the association,...).

## To whom should the application for approval of the association be sent? ^

The dossier shall be forwarded to the **competent administration** to issue the desired approval.

The competent administration **varies according to the activity of the association** : environmental protection association (<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/participation-des-associations-au-dialogue-environnemental-agrement-et-habilitation-sieger-dans>) , sports association not affiliated to a sports federation (<https://www.associations.gouv.fr/l-agrement-des-associations-sportives.html>) , educational association (<https://www.education.gouv.fr/les-associations-agrees-par-l-education-nationale-6797>) , association with youth and/or popular education activities (<https://associations.gouv.fr/639-l-agrement-de-jeunesse-et-d.html>) , ...

### Environmental Protection Association

The request should be addressed to **prefect** the department in which the association has its registered office.

**Who shall I contact**

### Sports association not affiliated to a sports federation

The request should be addressed to **prefect** the department in which the association has its registered office.

**Who shall I contact**

### Educational Association

The application for national approval shall be forwarded to **office for educational, cultural and sporting activities of the directorate-general for school education of ministry responsible for national education**.

**Who shall I contact**

**General Directorate of School Education (DGESCO)** [↗](#)

(<https://lannuaire.service-public.gouv.fr/gouvernement/ad5de5b3-6b27-434b-8f03-9346353a5958>)

## Association with a youth and/or popular education activity

The application for national approval shall be forwarded to the **directorate for youth, popular education and community life at ministry in charge of youth**.

### Who shall I contact

**Directorate for Youth, Popular Education and Community Life** 

([https://lannuaire.service-public.gouv.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171891](https://lannuaire.service-public.gouv.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171891))

## Consumer Advocacy Association

The request shall be forwarded to the **direction Departmental Office for Population Protection (DDPP or DDETSPP)**.

This accreditation allows consumers to be officially represented.

### Who shall I contact

## Association of users of the health system

The application for approval **national** is to be transmitted to **ministry responsible for health**.

### Who shall I contact

**Ministry of Health**  (<https://lannuaire.service-public.gouv.fr/gouvernement/163a8b8e-8ebc-4fb7-8ed4-44fbb78110db>)

The application for approval **regional** is to be transmitted to the **regional health agency (ARS)**.

### Who shall I contact

**Regional Health Agency (ARS)**  (<https://www.ars.sante.fr/>)

This approval is necessary to sit in the various bodies representing users.

## Who grants the association accreditation?

The approval decision shall be taken by the **competent administrative authority**. This depends on the approval requested.

## What is the duration of the association's approval?

Once the application has been accepted, approval shall be granted for a period of **5 years**.

## Is the association's approval renewable?

Approval is **renewable**. The renewal file must be sent to the same organization as the first application.

## In which case can the association's approval be canceled?

The administrative authority which issued the approval may cancel it where **necessary condition for its allocation is fuller**. We're talking about *repeal*. It shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure specific to each approval.

### Who can help me?

Find who can answer your questions in your region

## Statute and miscellaneous references

Law No. 2000-321 on the rights of citizens in their relations with administrations: article 25-1

([https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/article\\_lc/LEGIARTI000043982147/?lang=en](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/article_lc/LEGIARTI000043982147/?lang=en))

Decree No. 2017-908 laying down various provisions relating to the legal regime of associations, foundations and endowment funds and organizations making public appeals to generosity

(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000034637625/?lang=en>)

## Online services and forms

Application for approval of an association of users of the health system - Fact Sheet A  
(<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R10946?lang=en>)

Form

Application for renewal of the license of an association of users of the health system - Fiche A bis  
(<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R11224?lang=en>)

Form

## Additional topics

Approved Consumer Advocacy Association (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1126?lang=en>)

Service Public

Approval of Environmental Protection Associations (EPAs)

(<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F638?lang=en>)

Service Public

Approval of environmental protection associations

(<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/participation-des-associations-au-dialogue-environnemental-agrement-et-habilitation-sieger-dans?lang=en>)

Ministry for the Environment

Associations approved by the National Education

(<https://www.education.gouv.fr/les-associations-agrees-par-l-education-nationale-6797?lang=en>)

Ministry of Education

The approval of youth and popular education (<https://associations.gouv.fr/639-l-agrement-de-jeunesse-et-d.html?lang=en>)

Ministry in charge of associative life

Accreditation of sports associations (<https://www.associations.gouv.fr/l-agrement-des-associations-sportives.html?lang=en>)

Ministry in charge of associative life