



STATUTES OF THE ALBANIAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

INTRODUCTION

The Statutes were originally adopted at the Constituent Assembly, held in Tirana, November 21st 2006 where the association was formally established with the name Albanian Institute of Sociology (AIS). It has been revised during the reorganization of the association with the name Albanian Sociological Association (ALBSA) and is adopted by the 5th Assembly held in Durres, November 21st - 22nd, 2013.

ARTICLE ONE: DENOMINATION AND MISSION

1.1 The Association is denominated “Albanian Sociological Association, ALBSA” (in Albanian “Shoqata Sociologjike Shqiptare, SHSSH”).

1.2 ALBSA is a nongovernmental and nonprofit association with membership. Its activity is based upon this statute.

1.3 Its mission is to represent the Albanian scholars of sociology and of related social sciences, regardless their scientific point of view, political and ideological beliefs.

ARTICLE TWO: CHARACTER, PURPOSE, AND OBJECT OF ACTIVITY

2.1 ALBSA is founded in respect to the Republic of Albania Civil Code provisions and to the law on “Non Profit Organizations” Nr. 8781, of May 5th 2001, and as amended by law Nr. 9814/2007 and law Nr. 92/2013.

2.2 ALBSA is independent from the public administration, state, political or religious institutions, regardless of being Albanian or foreign. It doesn't pursue economic purposes.

2.3 the purpose of ALBSA is to stimulate the development of sociological disciplines and of related social sciences; to coordinate and stimulate the scientific activity of social researchers, the academic research and debate; to support the training of young professionals in the field, their employment, post university scientific qualification; to enhance the influence of social sciences and social researchers to the overall development of society.

2.4 The object of the ALBSA activities are: scientific studies and activities (symposiums, seminars, conferences, discussion tables, lectures, training courses); scientific cooperation with public and private universities, with organizations, Albanian and foreign associations and institutions, scientific periodicals and books publishing, any other legitimate activity for the achievement of goals stipulated in this statute.

ARTICLE TREE: JURISDICTION, HEADQUARTERS AND RANGE

3.1 ALBSA is a non-profit organization with membership. ALBSA acquires the legal person capacities upon registration in the Court of Law.

3.2 ALBSA headquarters are in Tirana, in the address: "Abdyl Frasheri" Street, Apartment 3/3, Tirana, Albania. The address can be changed upon an Executive Committee decision.

3.3 The association has its branches in Albania's districts or abroad.

ARTICLE FOUR: MEMBERSHIP

4.1 There shall be both collective and individual members of ALBSA, who may be either regular or affiliated.

4.2 Collective members can be local associations and organizations, research institutions and centers, the departments of sociology or other social science, faculties etc. Collective members are admitted upon an Executive Committee decision.

4.3 ALBSA is open to all those individuals that work, develop, teach or study in the field of sociology or related disciplines, regardless of their personal beliefs, party affiliation, gender, religion, ethnicity, wealth etc. Evaluation for individual membership is performed by the Membership and Finance Commission.

4.4 Members of over 65 years of age are considered life members. They are considered in good standing upon acquiring membership, or for effective members, from the moment they reach 65 years of age.

4.5 Honorary Member can be any individual, Albanian or not, with a protrude scientific and publishing activity, or other special contributions to it. Decision on Honorary Members are taken by the ALBSA Assembly.

4.6 Affiliated individual members can be researchers bearing comparable qualities as Assembly members but living outside the Republic of Albania territory, as well as professional of other fields whose work or contributions correspond to the object of the association's activity.

4.7 Student Members are individuals that study sociology or a related science. They form the students section.

ARTICLE FIVE: RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

5.1 To remain members in good standing the members must have paid their membership dues for the current year and votes in respect to the Statutes. The membership dues is determined by the Executive Committee, following the proposal of Membership and Finance Committee.

5.2 A member in good standing has the right to:

Take part to the association activities, to elect and be elected;

Be part of 1-3 Thematic Sessions (Research Committees);

Take part in the referendum voting;

Receive free of charge, the electronic version of the scientific periodicals;

Take part free of charge, to ALBSA's conferences or scientific activities – national or international, and by a reduced fee (under 50 per cent) for activities held jointly with other institutions.

Represent the association to national or international activities, in respect to the delegation and notification rules, set by the Executive Committee.

To apply for projects in the name of the association, manage them in accordance to their objectives and the principle transparent activity, in accordance to procedures determined by the Executive Committee.

To monitor the association's organizational, scientific and economic activity and be informed on everything happens in the framework of the organization.

5.3 Collective members receive free of charge ALBSA's scientific periodical and are provided with space in its official site.

5.4 ALBSA members have the duty to:

Endorse the statute, work for its implementation and pay the membership fee;

Work for improving the association's public image and authority ;

5.5 ALBSA members have the right to abandon the association, without reasoning. In case of abandoning, they take their part of responsibility in relation of the organization's duties toward third parties until they are members.

5.6 Being Expelled from ALBSA is considered an extreme measure. It is ruled by the Executive Committee for major violations of the statute, financial discipline, Ethic Code cases or unjustified long term absence.

ARTICLE SIX: ASSOCIATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

6.1 ALBSA is a permanent and collective member of the International Sociological Association (ISA), the European Sociological Association (ESA), and the Balkan Sociological Forum (BSF).

6.2 ALBSA can receive collective membership from other international associations. Request for collective membership is submitted by the Executive Committee. It follows the principles upon which are organized the international bodies and associations, where it is a member, and fulfill the duties that derive from such associations.

6.3 ALBSA Executive Committee appoints its representative delegates to ISA, ESA, BSF and other international organizations where it is a collective member. The extent of their mandate complies with the requirements of the respective institutions statutes.

6.4 ALBSA Executive Secretary is the contact person for the relations with the institutions and associations where it is a collective member.

ARTICLE SEVEN: THEMATIC SECTIONS (TS)

7.1 Thematic Sections (or Research Committees) represent the field, branches and sub branches of sociology and related sciences. Their main building principle is the thematic contiguity.

7.2 TS self organizes for fulfilling their objectives, administering the secured funds, for cooperating with various institutions, organizing different activities, in respect to ALBSA principles.

7.3 TS is composed by members of different categories, that share the same academic interests. Registration to the TS is (self)declared by members. Every member can abandon the TS, without reasoning.

7.4 Communication between TS members is held online, through direct contact, forums etc. Each Thematic Session organizes at least one activity per year.

7.5 For their management, TS elect a Chairman and vice chairman, according to a regulation approved by the Executive Committee of ALBSA.

7.6 TS Chairmen form the Thematic Sessions Council (TSC), which is chaired by the Vice President for Thematic Sessions.

7.7 TSC elects its four representatives to the ALBSA Executive Committee, by two alternatives, following the approved procedures by the Executive Committee.

7.8 Each TSC gathers by the participation of more than half of its members and makes decisions by the majority of the present members.

ARTICLE EIGHT: COUNCIL OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

8.1 The Council of Local Organizations represents the regional branches and collective members of ALBSA.

8.2 CLA is composed by the Vice President for Local Organizations (which he chairs), and one delegate from each local organization, regional branch, and regular collective member.

8.3 CLA gathers by the participation of more than half of its members and makes decisions with the majority of the present members.

8.4 CLA elects its four representatives to the ALBSA Executive Committee, by two alternatives, following the approved procedures by the Executive Committee.

8.5 CLA holds at least a regular meeting per year. As a rule, it concedes with the ALBSA Assembly.

8.6 Regional branches self organize for fulfilling their objectives, administering the secured funds, for cooperating with various institutions, organizing different activities, in respect to ALBSA principles.

8.7 Regional branches activity is based on their regulation. They chose their directors (chairman and vice chairman), for a two year mandate.

8.8 Each regional branch holds at least a regular meeting per year. As a rule, it concedes with its yearly activity .

ARTICLE NINE: ALBSA GOVERNING BODIES

9.1 The Assembly, the general meeting of regular members in good standing, is the highest decision making body of the association. It gathers at least once in two years.

9.2 The other governing bodies are: Executive Committee, Council of Research Committees (CRC), Council of Local Organizations (CLO), Membership & Finance Committee (MFC), and Publications Committee (PC).

ARTICLE TEN: ALBSA ASSEMBLY

10.1 The Assembly defines the association's field of activities, supervises and controls their implementation, and elects its Executive Committee.

10.2 Assembly gathers by the participation of more than half of its members and makes decisions with the majority of the present members.

10.3 Assembly decisions can be taken by an electronic vote as well. Referendum votes (referendums), are votes held for specific matters with the participation of all members. Decisions on referendums are taken by the Executive Committee, or at least ten members.

10.4 At least six months before each Assembly, the Council of Research Committees (CRC), and the Council of Local Organizations (CLO), shall each elect a Nominating Committee (NC) with five members. All of their members must be regular individual members in good standing. Each NC shall select from among its membership a chairperson who will be responsible for organizing its work, in cooperation with the Secretariat. No more than two members of each may be drawn from the outgoing Executive Committee.

10.5 NC have the duty to select the candidates for the Executive Committee, that will be voted by the assembly. Each proposed candidate must be a member in good standing, at least since the previous assembly.

10.6 Votes for the President, Vice Presidents and other Executive Committee members are held secretly, by ballot casting.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

11.1 Executive Committee, is the highest governing body between the Assemblies. It is composed by 13 members, that are: ALBSA President, Vice President for Thematic Sessions (Research Committees), Vice President for Local Organizations, four representatives from the Thematic Sessions, four representatives from the Local Organizations, one representative from the Membership & Finance Committee (MFC), and one representative from Publications Committee (PC).

11.2 Executive Committee gathers by the participation of more than half of its members and makes decisions with the majority of the present members. Executive Committee decisions can be taken online, as circular decisions, except when is voted nominally for individuals.

11.3 Executive Committee is elected by the Assembly, for a two year mandate, by a secret voting with ballots, based on the alternative proposals of the Nominating Committees. One individual cannot be elected as Executive Committee member for more than two consecutive mandates.

11.4 Executive Committee approves, announces and supervises the implementation of ALBSA's yearly objectives, decides the projects application procedures, determines ALBSA's representation rules for the international

institutions where it is a collective member, appraises applications, decides for collective members and calls the Assembly meeting.

ARTICLE TWELVE: PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

12.1 The President is the highest authority of ALBSA. He chairs the Assembly and Executive Committee meetings, and undersigns their decisions.

12.2 President and Vice President of ALBSA can be elected every member, in good standing at least since the previous assembly. He must have a scientific grade or title.

12.3 The President of the ALBSA is an ex officio member without voting rights of the CRC, CLO, MFC, and PC.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: PUBLICATION COMMISSION

13.1 ALBSA stimulates publication of the field's creations and realizes publications. It publishes one or more scientific periodicals, in printed or electronic version, separately or jointly with other institutions.

13.2 Publication Committee (PC) is the body that directs publications. It is composed by not more than five members, appointed by the Executive Committee. PC is directed by its chairman.

13.3 Publication criteria of the scientific periodicals, name, frequency, circulation, editorial office etc., in any case are determined by the Executive Committee, upon the PC proposal. The scientific journal acts as a separate account unit.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: ALBSA CONFERENCES

14.1 ALBSA holds its annual conference, separately or jointly with other institutions. The invitation is done by an open call and notified not later than a year before it is held.

14.2 The conference venue is determined by an open invite to universities, institutions, domestic and foreign associations. Publication of calls for conferences organization are done not later than two years before they are held. Decisions for conferences are taken by the Executive Committee, based on the open proposals, not later than a year before they are held.

14.3 Organization of yearly conferences is a joint responsibility of ALBSA's governing bodies. The Scientific Committee and the Local Organizing Committee for the organization of each conference are approved by the Executive Committee, not later than six month before it is held.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: FINANCIAL SOURCES AND MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

15.1 ALBSA financial sources are: membership fee incomes, funds, grants or donations, conferences incomes, publication activities, services and assets in the association possession (if there are such).

15.2 Membership & Finance Commission (MFC) is the body that directs membership and finance. It is composed by not more than five members, appointed by the Executive Committee. MFC is directed by its chairman.

15.3 The Executive Secretary of the association serves as MFC secretary. He/she keeps the association's accounts, and prepares the financial yearly report. MFC reports every year to the Executive Committee on members and finance issues.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; THE SECRETARIAT

16.1 Executive Secretary is the legal representative of ALBSA. S/h shall normally be appointed by the Executive Committee for a four-year term; the term is renewable without limit.

16.2 Executive Secretary monitors ALBSA's daily activity, serves as its contact point; is the offices administrator, holds the fundamental registry of members and evaluates their standing, holds the correspondence, archive, library, stamp and financial account; is the administrator of the associations official web site and its networks.

16.3 Executive Secretary supports ALBSA's bodies and directors for transferring the knowhow, and directs the secretariat (if the number of employees is more than one).

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN: ALBANIAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY

Albanian Institute of Sociology (AIS) is a research centre in partnership with ALBSA. It is governed by the Executive Board, composed by not more than five persons: executive director, academic director, publication director etc. Its activity is based on separate reregulation (statute).

ARTICLE 18: DURATION AND RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS

18.1 ALBSA has an unlimited duration. Termination of its activity happens when it does not reach the required number members or by court decision, according to the law. In such event, dissolution is performed according to legal procedures.

18.2 Association's wealth, in the event of resolution, shall proportionally pass, to homologous NGO-s that work within the Republic of Albania territory and have common or similar fields of activity. Exception from such rule pose the organizations, with whom ALBSA has had joint projects, to which in a preferential way is passed 40 per cent of its actives.

18.3 Disagreements among ALBSA members and structures are settled in good understanding, in respect to this statute and other rules of the association. Or else, the case is settled by the court of law.

ARTICLE NINETEEN: CHANGING OF THE STATUTE, STAMP AND EMBLEM

19.1 Change of the statutes is done by the Assembly, by the simple majority of members. The initiative for the revision of the statutes can be taken by

ALBSA governing bodies, every thematic session, each regional branch, or by a group of ten members.

19.2 Decision for the revision of the statutes must be taken not later than six months before the Assembly and the revision procedures are effected not later than two months before it is held.

19.3 ALBSA has its own emblem and stamp. It has its web site and social network pages, where it reflects its activity.