

# **Statute of the Society of Slovenian doctoral students and early-career researchers – Young Academy of Slovenia**

## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1 (Statute)**

The Statute of the Society of Slovenian doctoral students and early-career researchers – Young Academy of Slovenia (hereafter referred to as the Society) is a legal act with which the members of the Society (hereafter referred to as Members) regulate:

- the name and the seat of the Society,
- areas of the Society's activity,
- purposes and objectives of the Society,
- ways and conditions for membership acquisition and termination of membership,
- rights and obligations of Members,
- management, representation and funding of the Society
- oversight of the management of the Society's possessions and oversight of its financial and material operations,
- ways of ensuring the public nature of the Society's operations,
- the dissolution of the Society and the transfer of its assets in such an event.

### **Article 2 (Activities and principles)**

The Society is an independent, non-profit and voluntary association of doctoral students and early-career researchers.

The Society is based on the principles of free and equitable association of young researchers with the goal to promote research and cooperation in all areas of scientific activity and to create an environment conducive to the development of science. In their work, the Members abide by the ethical principles in research activity.

The Society operates according to the principles of democracy and with the highest possible transparency.

### **Article 3 (Legal personality and representation)**

The Society is a legal person governed by private law.

In its activities, the Society uses its shortened name, Young Academy of Slovenia.

The Society's seat is in Ljubljana at the following address: Jamova cesta 39, 1000 Ljubljana. The change in the address of the Society's seat is decided upon by the Assembly of the Society.

The Society as a legal person is represented by the president of the Society and the president of the Supervisory Board independently.

The president of the Society can represent the Society without limitation. The president of the Supervisory Board can represent the Society in a restricted fashion; he or she must acquire the consent of the Management Board before carrying out certain transactions on behalf of the Society. The president of the Supervisory Board can:

- receive and send postal items for which the signature of the Society's representative is required;
- lodge an application for an amendment of the Society's registration for changes in the name, shortened name, basic act, seat, the address or the representative of the Society at the competent administrative unit where the Society's current seat is located;
- carry out applications to calls for tenders issued by ministries, public agencies, enterprises or other business entities;
- hand in the annual report of the Society's activities in the public interest at the competent ministry;
- represent the Society in other similar administrative procedures in front of state bodies.

#### **Article 4 (Logotype)**

The Society owns a logotype, which consists of a circle with capital letters M (standing for *Mlada*) and A (standing for *akademija*) overlapping each other inside the circle. This logotype can be used on its own or in combination with the shortened name of the Society written down in capital letters (MLADA AKADEMIJA) on the left side of the logotype. The logotype can be rendered in color on white background, or it can be white on colored background. If rendered in color, the logotype and the background must be in bright blue (R: 0, G: 172, B: 211; Hex: #00acd3) or dark gray (R: 51, G: 51, B: 51; Hex#333333).

#### **Article 5 (Public nature of operations)**

The Society's operations are public in nature.

The Society informs its members through email or email newsletter.

The Society informs the general public through posts on the Society's webpage, Facebook page and Twitter.

#### **Article 6 (Cooperation with other legal entities)**

The Society can connect or cooperate with other organizations in the Republic of Slovenia which are active in the fields of higher education, science, technology, innovations, development and related areas.

The Society can autonomously cooperate and associate with other foreign or international organizations that have similar aims and goals.

In order to attain its objectives, the Society can cooperate with businesses.

## **II. PURPOSES, OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE SOCIETY**

### **Article 7 (Purposes and objectives)**

The purposes and objectives of the Society are to bring together doctoral students and early-career researchers; on other words, the youth active in research and higher education in Slovenia and Slovenians active in these areas abroad. The Society also provides education on research and research-related topics and represents the interests of its members in the public sphere and as a stakeholder in the co-creation of Slovenian research and higher education policies.

### **Article 8 (Tasks of the Society)**

The Society's tasks are as follows:

- striving for high quality doctoral research and research activity and their relevance for society and economy;
- striving to establish meritocratic for work, awards and promotion in all areas of higher education and research activity;
- connecting and cooperating with professional organizations at home and abroad that carry out activities in the areas of science and research;
- organizing and co-organizing professional meetings for the purpose of exchanging and transferring scientific and professional knowledge in communities in Slovenia and abroad;
- promoting and supporting basic and applicative sciences and research and innovation activities to encourage spreading new scientific discoveries in the scientific community and general public;
- representing the Members' interests in the public sphere;
- striving for research and higher education policy in Slovenia that will be inter-generationally responsible and have a long-term focus.

The Society carries out activities in the public interest on a regular basis. These are the activities that go beyond the interests of its members and benefit the society in general.

For the purpose of carrying out its activities, the Society can establish special committees and commissions, which operate according to the appropriate rules.

### **Article 9 (Program of work)**

The Society prepares a program of work for at least two years in the areas defined in Article 8 of this Statute. The program of work is prepared by the Management Board and is adopted by the Assembly and the Assembly's regular yearly meeting.

## **III. MEMBERSHIP**

**Article 10**  
**(Regular and exceptional membership)**

Membership is regular or exceptional.

A regular member can be any doctoral student or early-career researcher up to 12 years after thesis defense or up to age 40 who is active in Slovenia or is a Slovenian citizen and who consents to this Statute. The regular members' activity in this context means active participation in research and development and/or higher education and science politics and/or science communication. Employment at a research institution or early-career researcher status are not necessary conditions for regular membership. The Society's Management Board confirms the acceptance of new regular members on the basis of a complete accession statement of the candidate.

Exceptional members are former regular members of the Society who no longer fulfill the criteria for regular membership and have expressed a wish for further active participation in the Society. Exceptional members can also be other persons active in areas of research and higher education on the condition that their membership is confirmed by the Society's Management Board.

**Article 11**  
**(Incompatibility of membership)**

Membership in the Society is not compatible with the status of the public body or membership in political parties.

**Article 12**  
**(Rights and obligations of members)**

Regular and exceptional members have the following rights:

- to participate in the Society's activities;
- to use the joint achievements and results of the Society's activities in accordance with the agreed rules;
- to be informed about the Society's program, work and operations.

Regular members have the right:

- to elect and be elected into the Society's bodies;
- to participate in the Society's bodies.

Members have the following obligations:

- to contribute with their work to the realization of the Society's tasks;
- to respect this Statute and other acts, rules and agreements of the Society's bodies;
- to provide the Society with the information necessary to perform the agreed joint tasks;
- to pass their experience and knowledge onto the other members of the Society;
- to protect the Society's reputation.

**Article 13**  
**(Termination of membership)**

Membership in the Society terminates through:

- a withdrawal after giving a statement to the Management Board;

- a suspension based on an order of the Supervisory Board;
- death of the Members;
- dissolution of the Society.

Regular membership terminates and exceptional membership enters into force when:

- a Member no longer fulfills the criteria for regular membership defined in the second paragraph of Article 10 in this Statute.

## **IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY**

### **Article 14 (Bodies of the Society)**

The Society comprises the following bodies:

- the Assembly,
- the Management Board,
- the Supervisory Board.

### **Article 15 (The Assembly)**

The highest body of the Society is the Assembly, which consists of all the Society's members and elects all other Society's bodies.

The Assembly is performed live or by correspondence (e-mail, videoconference).

The Society's members must be informed about the call to the Assembly and the Assembly's agenda at least 14 days before the Assembly takes place. This is accomplished through the Society's e-notifier, which has to include the link to the information on the Assembly at the Society's webpage. Members are deemed informed of the Assembly when the Society publishes the date, time, place and agenda of the Assembly on the Society's webpage.

### **Article 16 (Regular and exceptional Assembly)**

The Assembly is regular or exceptional. The regular Assembly is convened by the president of the Society upon the decision of the Management Board, generally once per year. The exceptional Assembly is convened by the Management Board upon its own decision or upon the demand of 1/4 of the Society's members or upon the demand of the Supervisory Board. The Management Board must convene the Assembly no later than two months after receiving the demand. Otherwise, the exceptional Assembly can be convened by the body that posed the demand.

The exceptional Assembly decides only on the issue for which it is convened.

### **Article 17 (Assembly quorum)**

The Assembly reaches a quorum if at least 20 members are present. If at the beginning of the Assembly

not enough members are present, the Assembly is delayed for 30 minutes and reaches a quorum when at least 12 members, all of whom are also members of the Management Board, are present.

### **Article 18 (Tasks of the Assembly)**

The Assembly:

- discusses and decides upon the agenda of the Assembly;
- passes and changes the Society's statute and other acts of the Society;
- passes the Society's work program;
- passes the Society's financial plan and confirms its final bill;
- elects and resolves the Management Board and Supervisory Board;
- decides, as the second-level body, about the decisions of the Management Board, SB and other Society's organs;
- decides on the financial and material means for Society's operations;
- decides on other matters suggested by the Society's members and bodies;
- decides on the dissolution of the Society.

Individual suggestions for issues to be discussed at the Assembly must be sent to the Management Board at least 8 days before the Assembly takes place.

A record of the Assembly's work is made, which is signed by the chairperson and one certified authority.

### **Article 19 (Voting at the Assembly)**

The Assembly adopts a conclusion through the majority vote of the Society's members who are present at the convened Assembly. When the Assembly decides on changes to the Society's statute or the dissolution of the Society, these decisions must be supported by the votes of 2/3 of the Society's members who are present at the convened Assembly.

As a general rule, voting is by open ballot unless the Members decide for a secret ballot. As a general rule, voting on the Society's bodies is by secret ballot.

### **Article 20 (Management Board)**

The Management Board is the executive body of the Assembly and performs organizational and professional/technical tasks and leads the Society's work in the period between two Assembly conventions according to the program and decisions accepted by the Assembly.

The Management Board consists of 4-6 members who are regular members of the Society. Generally, one half of the Management Board members are doctoral students while the other half consists of early-career researchers. The Management Board must be heterogenous; it must consist of members of different sexes who stem from different research areas.

The MB is elected by the Assembly. The call for suggestions of new Management Board members is announced together with the call to the Assembly at which the election of new Management Board members is held. The Society's members must be informed about this at least 14 days before the call

to the Assembly.

The mandate of Management Board members is 2 years with the possibility of re-election. The president and the vice-president of the Management Board are elected by the members of the Management Board amongst themselves for the period of 2 years but for no longer than the mandate of the majority of the Management Board members.

### **Article 21 (Tasks of the Management Board)**

The tasks of the Management Board are as follows:

- to convene the Assembly;
- to provide the execution of the Society's program directions;
- to prepare the suggestions of the Society's acts;
- to prepare the suggestion of the financial plan and provides the financial and material operation of the Society;
- to elect and demote the president and the vice-president of the Society;
- to elect and demote the secretary of the Society;
- to elect and terminate individual committees and working bodies;
- to perform other duties that originate from the Society's acts or for which it is authorized by the Assembly.

### **Article 22 (Management Board sessions)**

The Management Board meets as necessary, but at least twice a year.

As a rule, Management Board sessions occur in person and are convened by the president of the Society, or by the vice-president or secretary of the Society in the president's absence.

Individual sessions, except twice a year when the Management Board convenes in person, can be performed by means of technical accessories (e-mail, videoconferences, etc.).

The decisions of the Management Board are adopted if they are supported by at least 4 out of the 6 members of the Management Board.

### **Article 23 (Supervisory Board)**

The Supervisory Board monitors the work of the Management Board and other Society's bodies and supervises the financial and material operations of the Society. The Supervisory Board is accountable to the Assembly for its work.

The Supervisory Board consists of 3 regular members of the Society, whose mandates last for 2 years. The members of the Supervisory Board cannot at the same time also be members of the Management Board.

The Supervisory Board is elected by the Assembly. The call for suggestions of new Supervisory Board members is announced together with the call to the Assembly where the election of the new

Supervisory Board members is held. The Society's members must be informed about this at least 14 days before the call to the Assembly.

The president and the vice-president of the Supervisory Board are elected by the Supervisory Board members amongst themselves.

**Article 24**  
**(Tasks of the Supervisory Board)**

The Supervisory Board members are invited to the Management Board sessions without the right to vote or are informed about all the decisions of the Management Board.

For the purpose of disciplinary offence procedures, the Supervisory Board convenes as necessary according to the demands of the Society's bodies or members. The demands must be addressed within a period of 30 days.

The decisions of the SB enter into force if they are supported by at least 2 SB members.

**Article 25**  
**(The president of the Society)**

The president of the Society (hereafter referred to as the President) is the president of the Management Board.

The President represents the Society before the national authorities and other national and foreign organizations and before third parties.

The President is responsible for the legality of the Society's work and for ensuring that the Society's operations are in accordance with this Statute. The President is accountable to the Assembly and the Management Board for his or her work.

In the absence of the President, he or she is replaced by the vice-president of the Society.

If the President as the first representative of the Society resigns or is demoted from the position, the vice-president of the Society takes up the representation of the Society. The elections for a new President are carried out in 60 days after the current President's resignation or demotion.

**Article 26**  
**(Vice-president of the Society)**

The vice-president of the Society is the vice-president of the Management Board. He or she replaces the president of the Society in the latter's absence.

The vice-president of the Society is elected by the Management Board among the Management Board members upon the suggestion from the Society's president.

**Article 27**  
**(Secretary of the Society)**



The secretary of the Society accomplishes professional and technical work for the Society and coordinates the Society's bodies. He or she is appointed by the Management Board upon the suggestion from the Society's president.

**Article 28**  
**(Disciplinary offences)**

A disciplinary offence of a Member is defined as a major disrespect of this Statute and the decisions of the Society's bodies, and any other action that affects the Society's interests and reputation.

The offences are predominantly:

- infringements of the provisions of this Statute and other Society's acts;
- a negligent and reckless execution of accepted assignments and functions in the Society if such an execution harms the Society or the Society's reputation.

**Article 29**  
**(Disciplinary organs)**

At the first level, decisions on disciplinary offences are made by the Supervisory Board.

The appeal body for complaints is the Assembly. The period for filling an appeal is 15 days upon receiving the order of the Supervisory Board.

**Article 30**  
**(Disciplinary measures)**

The SB can take the following measures against the Society's members:

- reprimand,
- suspension.

Provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act are reasonably used for the disciplinary procedure.

## **VI FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL MANAGEMENT**

**Article 31**  
**(Society's income)**

The Society's income consists of:

- the income from its own activities,
- other kinds of income.

**Article 32**  
**(Society's assets)**

The Society's assets consist of all movable and immovable property that is registered in the inventory register as the Society's possessions. The Society's assets are managed by the Management Board.

The Society can establish funds, whose property is an integral part of the Society's assets. The funds are managed by the Management Board.

The Society's assets cannot be divided between the Society's members, the Society's founders or other persons.

**Article 33**  
**(Use of financial and material assets)**

The Society uses its financial and material assets in accordance with the program of its work and yearly financial plans, which are passed by the Assembly. In most cases, the Society uses its financial and material assets to carry out activities in the public interest as defined by Article 8 of this Statute.

Financial and material operations must comply with the principles for the operation of societies and with applicable regulations.

**Article 34**  
**(Surplus)**

If through its activities the Society generates a surplus, it uses that surplus exclusively for the purpose of carrying out work for which it was founded.

**Article 35**  
**(Bank account, financial and material documents)**

Financial operations of the Society are performed through a business account, which is managed by the President. In the President's absence, the business account can be managed by the vice-president of the Society upon the President's written authorization or an authorization given by the President in an e-mail.

Financial and material documents are signed by the President. In the President's absence, they can be signed by the vice-president or the secretary of the Society upon the President's written authorization or an authorization given by the President in an e-mail.

**Article 36**  
**(Financial records)**

Financial records are made according to the principles of accounting operations. The Society maintains a record of cash receipts and cash payments (accounting log), whereas other data for the annual report are collected by a yearly census and evaluation. The Management Board can hire an accountant to help with the management of financial and material issues.

The Society produces an annual report detailing the Society's financial activities for the current business year, which is equivalent to the current calendar year. The report contains the balance sheet and an income and expenditure account with notes to the financial statement and a report on the Society's business operation in accordance with the legislation. The annual report must be submitted to the statutory public body upon the legally defined date.

The annual report is considered and accepted at the regular Assembly. The Society's financial and material operations are public for all its members.

## **VI. DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY**

### **Article 37 (Dissolution of the Society)**

The Society dissolves through:

- the decision of the Assembly with the 2/3-majority of Members present at the Assembly, if the conditions and reasons for the establishment of the Society are no longer valid,
- the provisions of the Societies Act,
- an order of the competent administrative authority.

In the case of the Society's dissolution and within 30 days henceforth, the President must inform the responsible body and demand the Society's removal from the register.

In the case of the Society's dissolution and after the Society has settled all its liabilities, its assets are transferred to another non-governmental organization carrying out same or similar activities or a non-profit public body which is chosen upon the suggestion of the Management Board at the final Assembly with a 2/3-majority.

## **VII. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 38 (Confirmation and entry into force)**

This Statute was passed by the Assembly on September 2, 2020. The Statute enters into force right after the confirmation at the convention of the Society's Assembly.

President: dr. Tea Romih

Signature: 