Statutes of the Estonian Association of Sociologists

Unofficial English translation

Original: Eesti Sotsioloogide Liidu põhikiri. Translated in November 2026.

> **Unofficial translation.** This English text is provided for information only. The Estonian text is the only authoritative version; in case of any discrepancy the Estonian text prevails.

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. The name of the non-profit association is EESTI SOTSIOLOOGIDE LIIT (hereinafter the Association). The abbreviation ESL may be used for the name of the Association; the English translation of the name is Estonian Association of Sociologists.

1.2. The Association was founded on 17 May 1999. The Association continues the activities of the Academic Association of Estonian Sociologists (Eesti Akadeemiline Sotsioloogide Liit), founded on 2 February 1990, and considers itself its legal successor.

1.3. The Association is a legal person in private law. The Association has its own insignia and bank account(s).

1.4. The seat of the Association is the City of Tartu, Tartu County, Republic of Estonia.

1.5. The Association is a non-profit association of persons who have joined it voluntarily, and it operates in accordance with the Non-profit Associations Act. The Association uses its income solely to achieve the objectives set out in its Statutes and does not distribute profit among its members.

1.6. The objectives of the Association are to:

1. bring together people engaged in sociology in Estonia;
2. promote the scientific study of social processes in Estonia;
3. make the research results and fields of activity of Estonian sociologists known outside Estonia;
4. increase the role of sociological research in the preparation of programmes and decisions important to Estonian society;
5. contribute to the advancement of sociological literacy in Estonia;
6. take part in the training and continuing education of professional sociologists;
7. organise the exchange of information among Estonian sociologists and contribute to the publication of research results and the dissemination of sociological knowledge among the public;
8. keep the basic rules for conducting sociological research in Estonia in line with internationally recognised standards;
9. protect the professional interests of Estonian sociologists.

1.7. The Association:

1. represents the sociologists who are its members outside Estonia;
2. organises, or supports through its participation, sociological studies, conferences, seminars, courses and other events;

3. develops cooperation with other scientific and professional organisations;
4. publishes its own printed matter, including its own periodicals;
5. may, in order to perform the tasks set out in its Statutes, establish funds and training, consultancy and other institutions, and hold competitions in accordance with the law.

1.8. The financial year of the Association begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December.

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2. ASSETS OF THE ASSOCIATION

2.1. The assets of the Association consist of the things and money belonging to it.

2.2. The financial resources of the Association are obtained from the admission fees and membership fees of its members, income from events organised to achieve the objectives set out in the Statutes, donations and other receipts.

2.3. The Association is liable for its obligations with all of its assets.

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3. MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

3.1. Persons professionally engaged in sociology, students of sociology and other persons who contribute to the performance of the main tasks of the Association may be members of the Association.

3.2. The Association has members and honorary members.

3.3. Admission to membership is decided by the Board at its next meeting after a written application for membership has been submitted.

3.4. If the Board refuses to admit an applicant to membership, the applicant may turn to the General Meeting. In the event of refusal, the applicant is notified in writing of the Board's decision and the reasons for the refusal within 5 days of the date of the decision. Admission to the Association is finally decided by the General Meeting by a simple majority of the members present.

3.5. On admission to membership, a new member is required to pay the membership fee for the current year.

3.6. The amount of the annual membership fee is set by the General Meeting. A member must pay the membership fee by the due date set by the General Meeting.

3.7. A member has the right to withdraw from the Association on the basis of an application.

3.8. The Board must grant a member's application to withdraw within 1 month. A member is deemed to have withdrawn from the Association as of the date on which the Board makes the corresponding decision.

3.9. A member may be excluded from the Association by a decision of the Board in the following cases:

1. if the member has not paid the membership fee;
2. if the member has violated the requirements of professional ethics of ESL adopted by the General Meeting;
3. if the member's actions damage the reputation and interests of the Association.

3.10. The Board must give written notice of its intention to exclude a member within 5 days, stating the reason for the exclusion. A person in respect of whom the Board has made such a decision may contest it and turn to the General Meeting. Exclusion from the Association is finally decided by the General Meeting by a simple majority of the members present.

3.11. A person who has rendered particularly outstanding services to the Association or has outstanding achievements in the field of sociology is elected an honorary member of the Association. Honorary members are elected by the General Meeting.

3.12. The Board keeps a register of members, in which data on the members of the Association are entered.

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4. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

4.1. The rights and obligations of a member arise as of the date of admission to membership.

4.2. A member of the Association has the right to:

1. take part in the General Meeting with the right to vote;
2. elect and be elected to the Board and the supervisory bodies of the Association;
3. receive information on the activities of the Association and request a corresponding report from the Board;
4. nominate candidates for honorary membership;
5. take part in the events of the Association and initiate discussions of various issues as well as campaigns;
6. receive assistance from the Association in protecting his or her professional interests;
7. withdraw from the Association;
8. exercise other rights provided by law and the Statutes.

4.3. A member of the Association is obliged to:

4.3.1. comply with the obligations arising from the Statutes and with the decisions of the General Meeting, the Board and the supervisory bodies;

4.3.2. pay the annual membership fee.

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5. GENERAL MEETING

5.1. The highest governing body of the Association is the General Meeting.

5.2. The General Meeting is competent to:

1. amend the Statutes of the Association;
2. elect the Board of the Association;
3. elect the Audit Committee;
4. elect honorary members.

5.3. Notice of a General Meeting must be given at least 10 days before the meeting; the notice must state the place, time and agenda of the meeting.

5.4. The Board convenes the General Meeting at least once a year.

5.5. The Board may convene an extraordinary General Meeting in the following circumstances:

1. on its own initiative, if the interests of the Association so require;
2. at the request of at least 1/10 of the members of the Association;
3. at the request of the Audit Committee.

5.6. The General Meeting has a quorum if more than half of the members of the Association and authorised representatives take part in it or are represented. Decisions are adopted by a majority of the votes of the members and authorised representatives present at the General Meeting; a 2/3 majority of votes in favour is required to amend the Statutes. A decision of the General Meeting concerning the merger, division or dissolution of the Association requires the votes in favour of more than 2/3 of the membership.

5.7. If a General Meeting with a quorum does not assemble at the first call, a new meeting is convened. A General Meeting convened at the second call on the same day with the same agenda has a quorum regardless of the number of members and authorised representatives present.

5.8. The General Meeting elects an Audit Committee of 1–3 members. The Audit Committee:

1. monitors the conformity of the Board's activities with the Statutes;
2. monitors the conformity of the Association's activities with the Statutes and audits the financial management of the Association at least once a year, informing the Board and the General Meeting of the results;
3. elects from among its members a chair, who may take part in meetings of the Board with an advisory vote.

5.9. Each member of the Association has one vote in the adoption of decisions at the General Meeting. A member may exercise the right to vote in person or through a representative who holds a written authorisation. A member of the Association may be represented only by another member of the Association.

5.10. Minutes are taken of the General Meeting and signed by the chair of the meeting and the minute-taker.

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6. BOARD

6.1. The Board is the permanently acting governing body of the Association. The Board is accountable to the General Meeting.

6.2. The number of members of the Board is determined by a decision of the General Meeting for two years, provided that the Board has 5–9 members.

6.3. The Board is the representative body of the Association; its work is based on the decisions of the General Meeting.

6.4. The members of the Board are elected by the General Meeting for 2 years. The Board elects a President and two Vice-Presidents from among its members.

6.5. The President chairs the Board and organises its work. The Vice-Presidents substitute for the President when necessary.

6.6. A member of the Board has the right to represent the Association in all legal acts.

6.7. The Board is competent to:

1. decide on the more important matters of the Association's day-to-day work;
2. admit members to and exclude members from the Association;
3. keep the register of members of the Association;
4. organise the accounting of the Association;
5. prepare the annual report on economic activities and present it to the General Meeting;
6. hire and dismiss the employees of the Association;
7. represent the Association;
8. decide on other matters related to the activities of the Association.

6.8. Meetings of the Board are held at least 4 times a year.

6.9. The Board adopts decisions by a simple majority of the members present.

6.10. A member of the Board may not take part in voting when the matter being decided is the conclusion of a transaction with that member or with a person having an economic interest equal to that member's, or the commencement or termination of a legal dispute with that member by the Association.

6.11. After the end of the financial year, the Board prepares the annual report in accordance with the procedure provided by law and presents it to the Audit Committee and the General Meeting. The annual report is approved by the General Meeting.

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7. MERGER, DIVISION AND DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

7.1. The merger and division of the Association take place on the grounds and in accordance with the procedure provided by law. The Association may merge only with another non-profit association and divide only into non-profit associations.

7.2. The Association is dissolved:

1. by a decision of the General Meeting;
2. if fewer than two members remain in the Association;
3. upon the commencement of bankruptcy proceedings;
4. on other grounds provided by law.

7.3. In order to have the dissolution decision entered in the register, the Board submits an application to which the minutes of the General Meeting are appended.

7.4. Upon dissolution of the Association, the members of the Board act as liquidators, unless the General Meeting has decided otherwise.

7.5. Upon termination of the Association's activities, the liquidation committee transfers the assets and financial resources remaining after the claims have been satisfied, taking into account the decision of the General Meeting, to a non-profit association, foundation or other legal person that pursues the objectives set out in the Association's Statutes or objectives close to them.

7.6. Other matters related to the termination of the Association's activities that are not regulated by the Statutes are resolved in accordance with laws and other legislation.

8. FINAL PROVISIONS

8.1. The Association is subject to entry in the register of non-profit associations and foundations.

8.2. Matters not regulated by these Statutes are resolved in accordance with the law.

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