

# Statutes<sup>1</sup>

## § 1 NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, FINANCIAL YEAR

1. The name of the association shall be „Diversität in der Linguistik“. The inofficial English translation of the name shall be „Association for Diversity in Linguistics“.
2. The association shall be entered in the official register of associations. After registration, it shall bear the suffix “e.V.” to its German name.
3. The registered office of the association shall be in 50733 Cologne, Germany.
4. The financial year shall be the calendar year.

## § 2 PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The association "Diversity in Linguistics" with its registered office in 50733 Cologne, Germany, exclusively and directly pursues non-profit purposes within the meaning of the section “Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke” (“Tax-privileged purposes”) of the German Fiscal Code (AO).
2. The purpose of the association is to promote science and research in the field of linguistics.
3. The purpose of the statutes shall be realised in particular by offering scientific events and scientific training events which promote diversity in linguistics both on a disciplinary and on a human level.

## § 3 NON-PROFIT STATUS

1. The association shall act selflessly; it shall not primarily pursue its own economic purposes.
2. The funds of the association may only be used for the purposes set out in the statutes. Members shall not receive any benefits from the funds of the association.
3. No person may be favoured by expenses that are alien to the purpose of the association or by disproportionately high remuneration.

## § 4 OBTAINING MEMBERSHIP

1. Any natural person, legal entity or partnership (“Personengesellschaft”) may become a member of the Association.
2. The association’s board shall decide on the application for membership submitted in text form.
3. With the application, the applicant accepts the statutes in the event of admission. There is no right to admission.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the English translation of the official statutes. While all content is identical, the official statutes are those in German. The English version contains a few notes on German terminology to facilitate comprehensibility.

4. If the association's board rejects the application for membership, the applicant may file a complaint. The complaint must be submitted in writing to the association's board within one month of receipt of the rejection. The next general assembly shall make the final decision on the appeal.
5. Membership begins with the decision of admission.

## **§ 5 RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS**

1. Members are obliged to support the aims and interests of the association and to comply with the decisions and orders of the association's bodies.
2. Members shall have the right to use the facilities of the association and to participate in its events.
3. Members undertake not to discriminate against other persons in the course of their activities and to use language that is gender-appropriate, non-discriminatory and as barrier-free as possible.

## **§ 6 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership shall terminate
  - a) by the death of the member;
  - b) by voluntary resignation;
  - c) by removal from the list of members;
  - d) by expulsion from the association.
2. Resignation shall be declared in writing to the association's board. It is permissible at the end of a calendar year subject to a notice period of 3 months. In order to comply with the notice period, the resignation must be received by a member of the association's board in due time.
3. Exclusion from the association is only permissible for good cause. The exclusion shall be decided by the general assembly on the motion of the association's board with a simple majority of the members present. The association's board shall notify the member to be excluded of its motion in text form at least 8 weeks before the meeting. A statement of the member received in text form shall be read out at the meeting deciding on the exclusion. The exclusion of the member becomes effective with the passing of the resolution. If the member was not present when the resolution was passed, the association's board shall immediately notify the member of the exclusion in text form.

## **§ 7 MEMBERSHIP FEES**

1. No regular membership fees shall be charged.
2. An admission fee shall not be charged.

## **§ 8 BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The organs of the association are the association's board, the general assembly, and the advisory board.

### **§ 9 ASSOCIATION'S BOARD**

1. The association's board in the sense of § 26 BGB consists of the 1st chair (president) and the 2nd chair (vice president).
  - a) It shall be sought to have equal numbers of men and women on the board.
2. The association shall be represented in and out of court by the two members of the association's board.
3. The board shall be unpaid. The general assembly may decide that the members of the association's board receive an annual expense allowance. The amount of this allowance shall also be decided by the general assembly.

### **§ 10 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION'S BOARD**

1. The association's board shall be responsible for the affairs of the association unless they are assigned by the statutes to another body of the association. It shall in particular have the following duties:
  - a) Preparation of the general assembly and drawing up of the agendas;
  - b) Convening the general assembly;
  - c) Carrying out of the resolutions of the general assembly;
  - d) Preparation of a budget for each business year;
  - e) Keeping the books and preparing an annual report.
2. The association's board shall be obliged to seek the opinion of the advisory board in all important matters.

### **§ 11 TERM OF OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S BOARD**

1. The association's board shall be elected by the general assembly for a term of 1 year. Re-election is possible. The board shall remain in office until a new board is elected.
2. Each member of the association's board shall be elected individually. Only members of the association may be elected.
3. The office of a member of the association's board ends with his or her resignation from the association. If a member resigns before the end of his or her term of office, the board shall elect a substitute member for the remainder of the term of office of the resigning member.

### **§ 12 RESOLUTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION'S BOARD**

1. The association's board shall pass its resolutions in board meetings. These meetings shall be convened by the 1st chair or, if they are prevented from doing so, by the 2nd chair, by e-mail with a notice period of 1 week. An agenda must be provided.
2. The association's board decides by a majority of the valid votes cast. In the event of a tie, the head of the association's board meeting shall have the casting vote. Resolutions may also be passed in text form if all members of the association's board declare their consent to the regulation to be passed.
3. The meetings of the association's board shall be chaired by the 1st chair or, if they are unable to do so, by the 2nd chair.
4. The meetings shall be documented. The minutes shall be signed by the chairperson of the meeting. They shall contain the time and place of the board meeting, the names of the participants, the resolutions passed, and the result of the voting.

### **§ 13 ADVISORY BOARD**

1. The advisory board shall consist of 3 members.
  - a. It shall be sought to have equal numbers of men and women on the board.
2. It shall be elected by the general assembly for a term of 1 year. Each member of the advisory board shall be elected individually. Members of the association's board cannot be members of the advisory board at the same time.
3. The advisory board shall advise the association's board on important matters of the association.
4. A meeting of the advisory board shall take place at least once a year. The advisory board shall be convened by the 1st chair, or if they are prevented from doing so, by the 2nd chair of the association, by e-mail with a notice period of 4 weeks. Providing an agenda is not required. A meeting of the advisory board must be convened if at least two members of the advisory board request the convening in text form. If the request is not complied with within a period of 2 weeks, the members of the advisory board requesting the convocation are entitled to convene the meeting of the advisory board themselves.
5. All members of the association's board shall have access to the meetings of the advisory board, including the right to discuss, but not the right to vote. The members of the association's board shall be informed of the meetings of the advisory board.
6. The meetings of the advisory board shall be chaired by the 1st chair of the association's board; if the 1st chair is unable to attend, the members of the advisory board who are present shall appoint a chairperson.
7. The advisory board shall pass its resolutions by simple majority. The resolutions shall be recorded in the minutes and signed by the chairperson of the meeting.
8. If a member of the advisory board resigns prematurely, the advisory board shall elect a substitute member for the remaining term of office.

## **§ 14 TASKS AND CONVENING OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

1. The general assembly shall have the following duties:
  - a) The approval of the annual accounts of the budget prepared by the association's board for the next financial year, as well as the receipt of the annual report of the association's board;
  - b) The approval of the actions of the association's board;
  - c) The election and dismissal of the association's board and the advisory board / other bodies of the association (e.g. a special representative);
  - d) Amendments to the statutes;
  - e) The setting of membership fees;
  - f) Motions of the association's board and the members;
  - g) appeals/complaints against the rejection of applications for membership and against decisions of the association's board to exclude members;
  - h) the disbandment of the association.
2. The general assembly shall be convened at least once a year. It shall be convened by the association's board by e-mail, giving 8 weeks' notice and stating the agenda. The period begins with the mailing of the invitation. The invitation shall be deemed to have been received by the member if it is sent to the last e-mail address provided to the association by the member in text form.
3. The association's board may convene an extraordinary general assembly at any time. It must be convened if the interest of the association requires it or if the convening is demanded by one tenth of all members in writing, stating the purpose and the reasons. The invitation period according to § 14 (2) may be deviated from. An extraordinary meeting shall be convened with a notice period of 2 weeks.
4. The agenda shall be set by the association's board. Any member may request that other matters, but not amendments to the statutes, be added to the agenda at a later date no later than 2 weeks before the date of the general assembly. The chair of the meeting shall then add items to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. The general assembly shall decide on requests for additions to the agenda that are not made until the general assembly.
5. The general meeting can also be held as a so-called virtual meeting. In this case, the members exercise their rights by means of electronic communication (in particular by video or telephone conference). A combination of a presence meeting and a virtual meeting is also permissible by giving the members the opportunity to exercise their rights by means of electronic communication within the framework of a presence meeting. The executive committee decides on the form of the general meeting and informs the members of this in the invitation.

## **§ 15 DECISION-MAKING OF THE GENERAL MEETING**

1. Any general assembly duly convened shall constitute a quorum.

2. The general assembly shall be chaired by the 1st chair or, if they are unable to do so, by the 2nd chair. If no association's board member is present, the meeting shall appoint a chair. In the case of elections, the chairmanship of the meeting may be delegated to an election committee for the duration of the ballot and the preceding discussion.
3. Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise provided for in the statutes. Abstentions shall not be taken into account.
4. A majority of three quarters of the votes cast shall be required to amend the statutes.
5. Amendments to the purpose of the association shall require the consent of all members. The consent of those members who are not present must be given in text form.
6. A majority of three quarters of the votes cast is required to disband the association.
7. Each member has one vote. Another member may be authorised in text form to exercise the right to vote. The power of attorney shall be granted separately for each general meeting. However, a member may not represent more than three votes of another member.
8. Minutes shall be kept of the resolutions of the general assembly and shall be signed by the person chairing the meeting and the person taking the minutes. A digital copy of the minutes shall be sent to each member of the association by e-mail.

## **§ 16 DISBANDMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The disbandment of the association can only be decided at a general assembly with the majority of votes stipulated in § 15 (6). Unless the general assembly decides otherwise, the existing members of the association's board shall be the liquidators of the association. The above provisions shall apply mutatis mutandis in the event that the association is dissolved for any other reason or loses its legal capacity.

## **§ 17 ASSET COMMITMENT**

In the event of the disbandment or annulment of the association or in the event of the discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the association shall pass to FörderLink e.V., which shall use them directly and exclusively for non-profit or charitable purposes.

## **§ 18 ESTABLISHMENT AND COMING INTO EFFECT**

1. The above statutes were established on 28.10.2021.
2. They shall come into effect upon entry into the register of associations.

## **Founding Members**

Lisa Brandt

Dennis Dahlhausen

Marie Engemann

Janina Esser

Natascha Rohde

Dominic Schmitz

Viktoria Schneider

Simon David Stein

Katharina Sternke-Hoffmann