

**Association for the Development of Strategies, Research,  
Education and Promotion of International Values ESTIMA Bitola**

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**STATUTE**

**Association for the Development of Strategies, Research,  
Education and Promotion of International Values ESTIMA Bitola**

**March 2023  
Bitola**

Pursuant to Article 16 of the Law on Citizens' Associations and Foundations (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No.52/2010 and 135/2011), the Assembly of the Association for the Development of Strategies, Research, Education and Promotion of International Values ESTIMA Bitola, at the session held on 18.02.2023, adopted the following:

## **STATUTE**

### **Association for the Development of Strategies, Research, Education and Promotion of International Values ESTIMA Bitola (Consolidated Text)**

#### **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### **Article 1**

The Association for the Development of Strategies, Research, Education and Promotion of International Values ESTIMA Bitola (hereinafter – the Association) is a non-profit and non-governmental association of citizens, created by their free and voluntary association, for the purpose of achieving their common goals and carrying out activities for developing strategies, research, education and promotion of international values in the society by launching initiatives, participating in public opinion shaping and policy making, participating and working on specific activities and projects, and the like.

##### **Article 2**

The Association for Development of Strategies, Research, Education and Promotion of International Values ESTIMA Bitola, as an association of citizens, shall pursue its goals, tasks and activities independently, publicly and transparently, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, the relevant laws and regulations and in line with this Statute.

Any national, political or religious association or organization shall be prohibited within the Association.

No member of the Association may use his membership as a way to realize his own political interests.

#### **II. NAME AND REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION**

##### **Article 3**

The association shall be presented under the following title:

Association for the Development of Strategies, Research, Education and Promotion of International Values ESTIMA Bitola

The abbreviated name of the Association is ESTIMA.

The registered office of the Association is at street Niko Fundali 18/33 Bitola.

#### **Article 4**

The Association shall have the capacity of a legal entity.

## **II. SIGN AND SYMBOL OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **Article 5**

The association has its own sign (logo). The Assembly of the Association shall determine the sign of the Association on the proposal of the legally authorized representative.

The sign of the Association shall be intended for exclusive use and benefit of the members of the organization.

The association has its own seal and stamp.

The seal is round and contains the name of the Association: Association for the Development of Strategies, Research, Education and Promotion of International Values ESTIMA Bitola, and the sign of the Association is in the middle of it.

The stamp is rectangular and inscribed with the following text:

Association for the Development of Strategies, Research, Education and Promotion of International Values ESTIMA Bitola, Registry Protocol Number, Date and Bitola.

## **III. VISION, MISSION AND GOALS**

### **Vision of the Association**

#### **Article 6**

Harmonious development of the Macedonian society where citizens will be able to exercise their right to a life of dignity.

### **Mission of the Association**

#### **Article 7**

The Association shall build its role by actively operating within the local community and the wider landscape of civil society organizations. It shall seek to improve citizens' lives through increased economic growth, better quality of life and social development. It shall achieve its goals by creating a favorable environment for action in which different social groups and stakeholders can realize their rights and actively engage in the decision-making and policy making processes that concern them. In this context, it actively cooperates with various organizations and institutions in the country and abroad to use the existing and create new forums and ways to act, raise awareness, communicate and exchange experiences.

The Association focuses on the relations between the Western Balkans region, the European Union and the People's Republic of China as a potential source of benefits, as well as the conditions under which the interests of the Republic of Macedonia and other Western Balkans countries would be maximized in

their cooperation with the EU and China respectively. In doing so, the Association provides the highest degree of originality and argumentation in its research, training and other activities in order to grow into a leading source of knowledge on these topics in the Western Balkans region and beyond.

## **Goals of the Association**

### **Article 8**

The Association shall have the following goals and objectives:

- Fostering economic growth and social development;
- Improving the standard of living of citizens;
- Diversification of economic activity and promotion of innovative ideas;
- Promotion of cultural and linguistic specificities;
- Promoting domestic, European and international civilizational values and benefits;
- Strengthening capacities to take on EU membership commitments;
- Support in reaching European standards for small and medium-sized enterprises;
- Increasing the participation of the civil sector in the programming and use of European funds;
- Raising the awareness of public diplomacy and affirmation of the Republic of Macedonia internationally;
- Contributing to defining a long-term foreign policy based on well-founded analyses and international values;
- Countering disinformation and propaganda;
- Contributing to strengthen the regional cooperation in the Western Balkans;
- Promoting good neighborly relations and cross-border cooperation;
- Greater participation of the civil sector in public opinion and policy making, as well as in the decision-making process;
- Greater sustainability in the work of civil society organizations through cooperation with the private and public sectors;
- Respect and promotion of human rights;
- Increasing the degree of sustainability in the use of resources;
- Promotion of charity and volunteering;
- Gender equality by providing equal opportunities to women and man.

## **IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Article 9**

The predominant activity of the Association shall be the activity with code 94.99 – Activities of other organizations based on membership, not mentioned elsewhere.

The Association shall pursue its objectives through:

- Exchange of experiences, knowledge and skills;
- Research activity;
- Drafting and publishing various types of publications;

- Opinion polls in the Republic of Macedonia;
- Organization of trainings, seminars, workshops, forums, round tables, conferences at local, regional and international level, as well as other events;
- Organization and participation in humanitarian activities;
- Participation in national, regional and global initiatives;
- Cooperation with natural and legal persons from the country and abroad, as well as all relevant institutions in the Republic of Macedonia, diplomatic representations and foreign organizations.
- Other activities of public interest determined by law.

## **V. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Article 10**

Members of the Association may be regular and honorary.

### **Article 11**

A regular member of the Association may be any person, citizen of the Republic of Macedonia, who voluntarily joined the Association and who accepts its Statute, work program, as well as the goals and orientations that are the primary scope of work of the Association.

The membership procedure to become a regular member of the Association is provided for by this Statute.

### **Article 12**

For its members, the Association shall keep a membership register, for which the Administrator is in charge, and which is updated once a year.

The Association shall guarantee the anonymity of the personal data of the members of the Association who requested it.

The data referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be protected in accordance with the regulations on the protection of personal data and classified information.

### **Article 13**

An honorary member of the Association may be a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia or a foreigner who has special merit for the development, promotion of the operation and affirmation of the Association.

Honorary members shall have the status of members of the Advisory Board of the Association.

The decision to declare an honorary member of the Association shall be taken by the Assembly of the Association on the proposal of the legally authorized representative.

#### **a) Membership procedure**

### **Article 14**

An application for membership in the Association may be submitted by any person if he meets the conditions of Article 13 and in addition:

- expresses willingness to actively participate;
- voluntarily signs and submits a membership card.

#### **Article 15**

The decision on the admission of new members is taken by the Assembly of the Association.

#### **Article 16**

The candidate shall acquire all rights and obligations of a full member of the Association as soon as the Assembly adopts the Decision.

### **b) Rights and obligations of members**

#### **Article 17**

The members of the Association shall have the right to:

- actively participate in the work of the Association, propose and make decisions;
- elect and be elected to all bodies of the Association and other associations and alliances of which the Association is a member;
- participate in all activities of the Association, when possible;
- enjoy all rights and benefits arising from the membership in the Association;
- give initiatives to promote the work and organization of the Association;
- be promptly, fully and objectively informed about the work of the Association.

#### **Article 18**

The members of the Association shall have the following obligations:

- to observe the Statute of the Association and other acts of its bodies and subsidiary bodies;
- to pursue the goals of the Association and perform the agreed tasks conscientiously and responsibly;
- to preserve the reputation of the Association;
- to actively work in the Association, and when possible, participate in the activities organized by the Association or in which the Association participates;
- to participate in the provision of funds for the work of the Association;
- to pay membership fees regularly and timely.

### **Termination of membership**

#### **Article 19**

Membership in the Association shall cease exclusively on the following grounds:

- if the member wishes to leave the Association and submits a written statement for leaving the Association;
- by exclusion from the Association due to gross violation of the provisions of the Statute and other acts of the Association;
- if, without justification, the member has not attended more than 2/3 of the total regular and extraordinary meetings of the Assembly of the Association during the calendar year;

- if the member does not regularly pay a membership fee;
- with the death of the member of the Association.

The Assembly of the Association shall decide on the grounds for termination of membership by a 2/3 majority of the total number of members.

The decision shall enter into force immediately after its adoption.

## **VI. BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Article 20**

The bodies of the Association are:

- Assembly,
- Legally authorized representative – President,
- Administrator.

### **Article 21**

The Assembly shall be the highest body of the Association.

The Assembly shall be composed of all the members of the Association.

### **Article 22**

The Assembly shall have the competences:

- to adopt a statute, program and other acts,
- to adopt an annual work report and financial report, and to publish it on its website,
- to decide to change the goals of the Association,
- to decide on the internal organization and organizational forms of the Association,
- to decide on statutory changes of the Association,
- to elect the legally authorized representative – President of the Association,
- to decide to dissolve the Association by a two-thirds majority vote of all members,
- to perform other activities in accordance with the Statute and the acts of the Association.

### **Article 23**

The Assembly shall hold regular sessions at least once a year.

Regular sessions shall be convened by the legally authorized representative - the President of the Association.

The Assembly shall be opened and managed by the legally authorized representative - the President of the Association.

### **Article 24**

By way of derogation from Article 25, the Assembly may also meet in extraordinary session on the proposal of the President or at the written request of at least 1/3 of the total number of members of the

Association.

If the President of the Assembly within 30 days from the date of the submitted request does not convene a meeting, the meeting shall be convened by one of the proposers, and shall be chaired by the eldest of them.

#### **Article 25**

The Assembly shall be convened by written invitation containing the agenda for the session, submitted to all members electronically, and if necessary, the proposed documents shall be attached.

The written invitation to convene a session of the Assembly and the draft agenda shall be submitted or published at least 7 days before the session of the Assembly is held.

#### **Article 26**

The Assembly may work and make valid decisions if it is attended by more than half of the total number of active members of the Association.

#### **Article 27**

The Assembly shall adopt its decisions by a simple majority of the total number of attendees, unless otherwise specified by this Statute for certain matters.

Each member of the Assembly shall be entitled to one vote.

The Assembly shall decide by public vote.

By way of derogation from paragraph 3 of this Article, voting on certain issues may also be secret, if a special decision is taken on this beforehand.

#### **Article 28**

Minutes of the session of the Assembly shall be kept and shall be adopted at the first subsequent session.

The minutes shall be kept by the Administrator.

The minutes shall be signed by the representative of the Association - the President and the Administrator.

The decisions taken by the Assembly shall be signed by the representative of the Association - the President, i.e. the Chairman of the working chairmanship (in the case of an Electoral Assembly).

#### **Article 29**

In the legal transactions and towards third parties, the representative of the Association, who shall be at the same time the President of the Association, shall represent it and act on its behalf.

If he is prevented from performing his function, he shall be replaced by a deputy representative of the Association.

The legally authorized representative shall be elected for a period of 4 years with the right to re-election.



### **Article 30**

The legally authorized representative shall:

- represent and act on behalf of the Association;
- convene sessions of the Assembly and preside over them;
- ensure that the work of the Association complies with the Constitution, legal regulations, the Statute and other acts of the Association;
- ensure that the decisions of the Assembly are implemented;
- sign the acts and decisions adopted by the Assembly, as well as the financial documents of the Association;
- propose the work program and take measures for its implementation,
- prepare the materials for the meetings of the Assembly;
- carry out other activities specified by the Statute and other acts of the Association.

### **Article 31**

The function of the legally authorized representative - the President may be terminated:

- upon his request, by submitting a written notice to the Assembly;
- due to inaction, inadvertent exercise of the rights, duties and responsibilities entrusted or targeted activity contrary to the goals and objectives of the Association - he shall be dismissed by the Assembly before the expiry of the term of office and if at least half of the members of the Assembly so declare.

### **Article 32**

The Administrator of the Association shall:

- assist the representative of the Association in his work;
- keep the minutes of the Association's meetings;
- prepare the decisions of the Association's bodies;
- reply to the acts received in the Association;
- keep the records of the members of the Association;
- together with the representative prepare the meetings of the Association's bodies;
- manage and keep the Archives of the Association;
- keep records of the equipment, inventory and other assets of the Association;
- provide the equipment, inventory and other assets of the Association to the use of its members and take care of their return;
- take care of the condition and use value of the equipment, inventory and other assets of the Association;
- propose measures to maintain and increase the value of the equipment, inventory and other assets of the Association;
- perform other duties assigned by the Association's representative.

### **Article 33**

The Administrator shall attend the meetings of the Assembly and participate in the deliberations on financial and other administrative and technical issues.

All expenses to be realized by the Administrator should be previously approved and signed by the legally authorized representative.

## **VII. VISIBILITY OF THE WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Article 34**

The work of the Association shall be public and transparent and shall be ensured through:

- availability of reports and other materials from the work of the Association for the members and other interested parties, as well as their submission to the public through the means of public information;
- issuing bulletins, newspapers, newsletters, website and other publications;
- organizing conferences on the means of information;
- issuing press releases;
- other ways that allow timely and truthful reporting of the work of the Association to the public.

### **Article 35**

The legally authorized representative - the President shall be responsible for the public and transparency in the work of the Association.

## **VI. FINANCING AND FUNDS MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Article 36**

The sources of funds and revenues of the Association shall be:

- funds from membership fees;
- donations, gifts and contributions from national and foreign natural and legal persons;
- grants;
- projects;
- funds from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia, local self-government units;
- other sources of financing.

The funds and revenues referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall consist of physical assets, monetary assets and other tangible assets.

### **Article 37**

The bodies of the Association in accordance with their responsibilities established by this Statute shall decide how to use and manage the funds. The bodies of the Association shall take measures for

economic and expedient use of the funds and for the prevention and removal of illegal acts.

#### **Article 38**

The Association shall adopt an annual financial plan for revenues and expenditures.

#### **Article 39**

The control for the intended use and management of the funds and revenues of the Association shall be carried out by the Assembly.

Each member of the Association shall have the right to inspect the financial operations of the Association.

The President shall be obliged to submit a report at least once a year to the Assembly on the intended use and management of the funds and revenues of the Association.

### **VII. ESTABLISHMENT OF BRANCHES**

#### **Article 40**

If in the further work of the Association, there is an initiative and a need to open branches, this can be done by a decision of the Assembly, adopted by a simple majority of the total number of members.

Branches can be opened and operated exclusively on a local or regional basis.

Each of the branches shall operate in accordance with the provisions of the Statute and other acts of the Association.

### **VIII. TERMINATION OF ASSOCIATION**

#### **Article 41**

The Association may cease its operations due to:

- inactivity and not fulfilling the program objectives and statutory provisions, and following a decision of the Assembly adopted by a 2/3 majority of the total number of members of the Association;
- if the number of members decreases below the number fixed for the establishment;
- in case of the reasons referred to in Article 63 of the Law on Associations and Foundations;
- and in other cases determined by law.

The procedure to terminate the existence of the Association shall be conducted in accordance with law.

### **IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE RELATIONS IN THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **Article 42**

The relations in the Association shall be governed by the Statute, decisions and other acts of the Association.

#### **Article 43**

The Statute of the Association shall be the basic general act of the Association.

The Statute of the Association shall be adopted by the Assembly of the Association by a majority vote of the present members of the Association, if more than half of the total number of members are present at the session.

Amendments to the Statute shall be made in the manner and procedure that apply to its adoption.

#### **Article 44**

The Assembly of the Association shall adopt other acts that are necessary for the work of the Association. Other acts of the Association must comply with the Statute. The provisions of other acts that are contrary to the Statute may not be applied. Amendments to other acts of the Association shall be made in the manner and procedure that apply to their adoption.

#### **Article 45**

The interpretation of the acts of the Association shall be provided by the body that adopted the act.

### **X. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 46**

All other issues that are not covered by the Statute and appear in the work of the Association, shall be resolved in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations and other relevant legal regulations governing issues in this area.

#### **Article 47**

This Statute shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.