

Pursuant to provisions stipulated in Article 22 of the Act on Associations and pursuant to Article 11 of the Statute of the Citizens' Association "Independent Journalists' Association" dated April 23, 2016, at the session held on June 8 2019, the Amendment to the Statute of the Citizens' Association "The Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina" of April 23, 2016 (the date of the last valid Statute) was passed. Hence, the following is now the amended Statute:

**STATUTE
OF THE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION "INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION
OF VOJVODINA"**

Article 1

The Citizens' Association "Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina" (hereinafter: Association) is a voluntary, non-government and non-profit association established on January 17, 1990 for an indefinite period in order to achieve its objectives in terms of protecting journalism.

Article 2

The objectives of the Association are:

- encouragement, fostering and development of free, objective and professional journalism,
- advocating protection of journalists' rights and interests,
- advocating protection from political, economic and other pressures on journalists,
- advocating protection from abuse in media and the public information domain,
- advocating improvement of the social status of journalists as a necessary precondition for professional work
- participation in the process of passing and monitoring implementation of regulations which would improve the domain of public information,
- advocating availability of information of public importance,
- advocating the values of civil society.

Article 3

In order to achieve its objectives, the Association is particularly involved in the following:

1. organisation of forums and public debates

2. provision of assistance in terms of legal protection and education of journalists
3. organisation of concerts, exhibitions, plays, promotions, courses, seminars and presentation on a non-profit basis
4. publishing print publications, audio and video recordings related to media and the topics dealt with by media, on a non-profit basis
5. cooperation with other associations of journalists dealing with public information domain and media.

Article 4

The name of the Citizens' Association is: "Nezavisno društvo novinara Vojvodine" in Serbian, written in Cyrillic alphabet.

The name of the Citizens' Association in the languages and alphabets of ethnic minorities is, as follows:

- in Slovakian: "Nezávislý spolok novinárov Vojvodiny",
- in Hungarian: "Vajdasági Független Újságíró Egyesület",
- in Ruthenian: "Независне друштво новинаров Војводина",
- in Romanian: "Societății ziariștilor Independenți din Voivodina",
- in Croatian: "Nezavisno društvo novinara Vojvodine".

The abbreviated name of the Association is NDNV.

The headquarters of the Association is in Novi Sad, Zmaj Jovina Street, no.3/1.

The Association conducts its business on the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 5

Membership in the Association shall be voluntary and available upon signing the application form and a consent form, which provides consent issued by the signatory for processing personal information related to the signatory.

An eligible candidate for membership in the Association can be a journalist, editor, photo-reporter, copy editor and proof-reader, illustrator, caricaturist, layout editor, cameraman, person dealing with public relations and associates in these fields, who accept the objectives and the Statute of the Association.

Based on two written recommendations from Association members, the Executive Board shall pass a decision on admission.

Article 6

Rights and obligations of members:

A member shall be entitled to:

- participate in the process of achieving the objectives of the Association,
- participate in the work of the Assembly,
- elect and be elected in the bodies of the Association,
- initiate activities aiming to improve journalistic practice.

A member shall be obliged to:

- abide by the principles, common Journalists' Code of Serbia and the Statute of the Association,
- take active part in the work of the Association
- pay the membership fee, amount of which shall be determined by the Executive Board for each new calendar year. It is on the basis of this payment that the member's journalist ID card with a photo shall be verified with the seal of the Association.

Article 7

WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP:

- voluntary withdrawal, following a written statement
- decision of the Court of Honour, following a gross breach of the provisions of the Statute or the Code of Journalists of Serbia
- failure to pay the membership fee for a period longer than 6 months
- cessation of necessary preconditions for becoming a member

INTERNAL ORGANISATION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Article 8

In order to achieve as many objectives in the most efficient way, the Association may establish: COMMISSIONS, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs), SERVICES, TASK FORCES and other types of groups.

SIGs are formed in order to make the work of the Association more efficient and successful in certain specialized areas of the journalism domain.

A SIG shall be formed following a decision of the Executive Board.

A decision to establish a SIG closely defines the work and activities of the section.

A section is headed and managed by the president of the SIG or their deputy, who are elected by the section members.

A SIG shall not have the capacity of a legal entity, nor can it delegate members

for the Association's Assembly.

The Association may be a collective member of professional and other organisations, based on the decision of the Executive Board.

A member of the Association can be a member of other professional and other organisations of their own personal choice.

A membership in the Association and a membership in political parties and movements shall not be mutually exclusive, although the Association's general tendency is to have members who are not members of such organisations.

The Court of Honour shall be in charge of the conduct and activities of the Association's member in other organisations.

Should a member of the Association be elected or appointed to perform any function with the authorities or in a ruling or opposition party, their membership in the Association shall be suspended during the term of office and can be continued upon request, once the function is no longer performed.

Article 9

THE BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE:

- Assembly
- Managing Board
- Supervisory Board
- Court of Honour
- IJAV Council
- Executive Board

Article 10

The Assembly of the Association is the highest body of the Association, comprising all members of the Association.

In order to organise a session of the Assembly, at least 10% of the total number of members of the Association must be present.

The Assembly shall pass decisions by a simple majority of the present members, except in the cases envisaged hereunder.

Article 11

THE ASSEMBLY:

- adopts the Statute of the Association, as well as amendments to the Statute,
- elects and releases members of the Managing Board, Supervisory Board, Council and Court of Honour,

- passes decisions on statutory changes of the Association and cessation of its work
- analyses and adopts the financial plan and report,
- adopts the Rulebook on the work of the Assembly,
- passes decisions, conclusions and opinions concerning the Association's scope of activity and objectives,
- adopts reports submitted by the bodies of the Assembly and articulates opinion on their work,

A two-third majority of votes of present members is needed to pass a decision on amendments to the Statute, statutory changes and cessation of the Association's work.

Members of the Association shall be informed about a session, date, venue and agenda at least 7 days prior to the scheduled date. The invitation is deemed valid if it has been sent to the member of the Association via e-mail or by publishing it on the website of the Association within the same period.

The invitation to a session of the Assembly must contain the full business name and address of the Association, date, time and venue of the session, agenda and, if there are suggested amendments to the Statute or other regulations, a written version of the suggested amendments should also be attached.

In exceptional circumstances, suggested decisions pertinent to the points in the agenda can be submitted after the invitations have been properly sent, but not later than 7 days before the session of the Assembly is held.

When late suggestions of decisions pertinent to the points in the agenda are submitted, the aforementioned suggestions are submitted to the members in the same way as the invitations to the session of the Assembly.

Article 12

A session of the Assembly can be regular, extraordinary and electoral.

Article 13

The regular session of the Assembly shall be held once a year.

The regular session of the Assembly shall be called by the President of the Managing Board.

The session shall be chaired by the President of the Managing Board or the vice-president of the Managing Board.

The agenda for the session of the Assembly shall be suggested by the Managing Board.

If the regular session of the Assembly is not attended by the required number of members, as stipulated in Article 10, paragraph 2, the session is called again

within a time-frame selected by the Managing Board, but the time-frame shall not exceed 60 days from the day when the session attended by an insufficient number of members was supposed to be held.

Article 14

The extraordinary session of the Assembly shall be called if at least 20% of regular members, the President of the Managing Board and a majority of members of the Executive Board ask for it.

If the extraordinary session of the Assembly is not attended by the required number of members, as stipulated in Article 10, paragraph 2, the session is called again within the time-frame selected by the Managing Board, but the time-frame shall not exceed 60 days from the day when the session attended by an insufficient number of members was supposed to be held.

Article 15

The electoral session shall be held every four years, not later than three months after the term of office of the bodies of the Association has expired.

If the electoral session of the Assembly is not attended by the required number of members, as stipulated in Article 10, paragraph 2, the session is called again within 10 days.

Article 16

CHAIRPERSON OF THE MANAGING BOARD

The chairperson of the Managing Board represents the Association and is responsible for the legality of Association's operation.

Should the chairperson fail to perform their duties, including failing to call a session of the Assembly, for either justifiable or unjustifiable reasons, the duties in question will be taken over and performed by the vice-chairperson of the Managing Board.

Article 17

THE MANAGING BOARD

The Managing Board manages the work of the Association by making strategic decisions for the development and benefit of the Association.

The Managing Board comprises nine members, elected by the Assembly for a period of four years.

Article 18

The Managing Board is obliged to hold its constitutive session not later than 8 days after the Assembly, where the chairperson and vice-person of the Managing Board shall be elected.

At the constitutive session, the members of the Managing Board appoint the members of the Executive Board, acting upon the recommendations of the chairperson of the Managing Board.

The chairperson of the Managing Board calls and chairs the sessions of the Managing Board, represents the Managing Board before the Assembly, the Executive and Supervisory Board and submits reports to the Assembly about the work of the Managing Board.

Should the chairperson of the Managing Board be prevented to perform their duties, the vice-chairperson shall call and chair the sessions of the Managing Board and represent the Managing Board before the bodies of the Association. Should the chairperson of the Managing Board terminate their term of office, they shall be replaced by the vice-chairperson of the Managing Board, until a new chairperson is elected.

Article 19

The Chairperson of the Managing Board

- represents the Association
- signs the decisions and other regulations of the Association
- calls the sessions of the Assembly
- chairs the sessions of the Assembly
- implements the decisions of the Assembly
- suggests a plan of strategic development
- performs other tasks delegated to them by the Assembly
- suggests to the Managing Board candidates for the Executive Board (programme, executive and financial director)
- performs other tasks envisaged by the Statute

Article 20

The Managing Board:

- manages the Association by passing strategic programme and financial decisions for the development and benefit of the Association, in accordance with the applicable laws, the Statute and other regulations of the Association, as well as the decisions of the Assembly, the Supervisory and the Executive Board;
- appoints and releases the Executive Board;
- verifies the work plan of the Executive Board, as well as annual programme and financial plans submitted by the Executive Board;
- approves the rulebook on the work of the Association and the rulebook on organisation and systematisation of work places within the Association;

- cooperates with the Executive Board;
- establishes bodies, in cooperation with the Executive Board, where external experts can be included, for the purpose of programme and financial development of the Association;
- decides on admission of new members;
- decides on requests by members of the Association for temporary exclusion from the obligation of paying the membership fee;
- adopts the strategic development plan of the Association;
- suggests the agendas for the sessions of the Assembly and recommends decisions to be adopted by the Assembly;
- reports to the Assembly about its work;
- decides on the number of commissioners and other matters related to the work, rights and obligations of the Association's commissioners;
- decides on creating a SIG or its termination, as well as on all matters related to the work of a SIG;
- decides on commemoration of important dates and awards to journalists and other people working in the media;
- decides on creating alliances and cooperation with journalists' and similar organisations and associations in Serbia and abroad,
- take part in the endeavour to improve the legislations related to public information and the general conditions for the work of journalists;
- performs other tasks envisaged by the Statute.

Article 21

SUPERVISORY BOARD

The Supervisory Board comprises three members elected by the Assembly for the period of four years.

The provisions of Article 22 of the Statute regulate the constitution and work of the Supervisory Board.

The Supervisory Board holds regular sessions at least twice a year, but even more frequently should a need arise.

The Supervisory Board may pass decisions only if all members are present at the sessions.

The decisions are passed by simple majority.

The Supervisory Board may adopt a rulebook on its work.

Article 22

The Supervisory Board

- supervises the activities and property of the Association,
- supervises the implementation of the Statute,
- gives opinions, advice and recommendations on how to resolve conflict situations and conflicts of interest,
- supervises the implementation of the Assembly's decisions,
- passes regulations envisaged by the Statute,
- performs other tasks envisaged by the Statute.

Article 22a

The Court of Honour comprises three members of the Association elected directly and publicly by the Assembly.

Only those members who consistently respect the journalists' code of ethics shall be nominated and elected in the Court of Honour.

Article 23

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The Court of Honour shall ensure that professional and ethical principles are obeyed in the conduct of business of the Association, its bodies and members.

It shall establish, within its jurisdiction, cooperation with the Council for the Press.

Should the Journalists' Code of Serbia be violated, the Court of Honour may pass the following measures:

- public warning to the editorial and journalist
- suspension from the Association for a period of one year
- permanent exclusion from the Association

When deciding on a violation of the Code of Journalists of Serbia, the Court of Honour is obliged to hear the member and collect all relevant evidence.

In case professional and ethical principles of journalism in media are violated, the Court of Honour may express its opinion publicly.

Article 23a

IJAV COUNCIL

The Council shall comprise five members, elected by the vote of the Assembly.

The members of the IJAV Council shall be elected among reputable public figures, who through their work advocate promotion of values and achievement of objectives and principles of the Association.

The members of the IJAV Council do not have to be members of the Association.

Article 23b

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The Council is an advisory body within the Association.

The members of the Association's Council shall use their reputation and experience to assist the activities of the Association and take part in the work of the Assembly and, if needed and requested, in the work of the Executive Board.

Article 24

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board manages programme, financial and administrative affairs of the Association and passes decisions for the development and benefit of the Association.

The Executive Board comprises three members, who perform the functions of the programme director, executive director and financial director, respectively. The members of the Executive Board shall be elected by the Assembly, upon a recommendation of the chairperson of the Managing Board, for a period of four years.

The members of the Executive Board elect one of them to be the chairperson of the Executive Board.

Article 25

The Executive Board

- manages the Association in accordance with the applicable laws, the Statute and other regulations of the Association, as well as the decisions passed by the Assembly, the Managing Board and the Supervisory Board;
- looks after the property of the Association and collection of financial resources, as well the ways the surplus of income is invested to improve the activities of the Associations;
- suggests to the Managing Board a work plan designed by the Executive Board within 15 days after the Board is constituted,
- coordinates the process of creating the Association's strategic plan, annual programme and financial plans and is responsible for their implementation;
- decides on the funds used for achieving and implementing the aims of the Association;
- appoints and releases the coordinator of an individual project used to achieve the aims of the Association, who submits a report on their work to the Executive Board and chooses their associates for the project independently;
- passes decisions on hiring administrative and support staff in the Association, as well as on hiring expert programme staff,

- appoints the person who is charge of keeping records of the membership in the Association and collection of membership fees;
- recommends amendments and appendices to the Statute;
- passes the decision on the amount of the membership fee for regular members of the Association;
- passes the decision on the type, content and prices of services provided by the Association;
- drafts the Rulebook on the work of the Association and the Rulebook on organisation and job systematisation in the Association;
- makes a recommendation related to salary bands;
- submits reports to the Managing Board on the operations and financial affairs of the Association;
- performs other tasks envisaged by the Statute.

Article 26

The work of the Executive Board is coordinated by the chairperson of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board is subordinate to the Managing Board and the Supervisory Board.

The members of the Executive Board improve their work, represent and promote the Association in Serbia and abroad.

Article 27

The Executive Board is obliged to recommend the work plan of the Executive Board within 15 days from the day when it is constituted. The work plan shall contain the allocation of liabilities among the members of the Executive Board, taking into account previous activities, results and the level of the organisation's development.

Immediately after the work and development plan is approved by the Managing Board, the Executive Board is obliged to present the work plan of the Executive Board to the Supervisory Board and employees.

The Executive Board is obliged to coordinate the process of drafting the strategic plan and annual programme and financial plans with the Managing Board and the Supervisory Board.

Article 28

The sessions of the Executive Board are organised when a need arises and every member of the Executive Board has the right to call a meeting.

The Executive Board passes its decision by a simple majority.

Executive Board shall work in sessions.

The President of the Executive Board shall organise the work of the Executive Board.

Should the President of the Executive Board be prevented from chairing a session, any member of the Executive Board elected by the present members of the Executive Board can chair the session.

A quorum for conducting business and having a session shall be made up of a majority of the total number of members of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall pass all decisions at sessions with a simple majority of votes of the present members.

A session of the Executive Board shall be called by the President of the Executive Board once a month, not later than the end of the current month.

A request for an extraordinary session of the Executive Board from the previous paragraph of the this Article can be submitted by:

- A majority of members of the Executive Board
- At least 10% of regular members of the Association

A request for calling an extraordinary session of the Executive Board shall be submitted to the President of the Executive Board.

A session of the Executive Board must be called within eight days from the receipt of a justified request in writing.

The invitation to a session of the Executive Board shall be sent to the members of the Executive Board at least five days before the scheduled date for the session. An invitation shall be deemed valid if it is sent to a member of the Executive Board via e-mail, over the phone, by publishing it on the website of the Association, at least five days before the scheduled date for the session. The invitation must contain the date, time and venue of the session and a suggested agenda.

Article 21

A suggested agenda for the session is submitted by the submitter of the request for a session of the Executive Board.

Each member of the Executive Board may suggest amendments to the agenda, while the final decision shall be made by the Executive Board.

Article 29

The elections for the bodies of the Association shall be held at the electoral session of the Assembly every four years, within three months following the expiry of the previous terms of office.

The Managing Board, the Supervisory Board, the Court of Honour and the Association's Council shall be elected at the electoral session of the Assembly. A candidate for a member of a body shall be nominated by the bodies or at least 10 members of the Association.

Article 29a

The electoral session of the Assembly shall elect a three-member electoral-verification committee, which:

- proclaims the list of candidates for the bodies of the Association
- proclaims the voting results
- informs the Assembly about the voting results.

The elections shall be conducted though secret or public voting, depending on the decision of the Assembly.

The elections shall be based on the candidate lists, which have to be suggested before the deadline set by the Managing Board or another body authorised by the Managing Board.

Article 30

If two or more candidates receive the same number of votes, there will be a second round of voting at the same session, with them as sole candidates. The candidate who receives the most votes shall be elected into the body of the Association for which they have been nominated.

Article 31

The members of the bodies of the Association no longer serve the function:

- upon personal request, resignation;
- when their four-year term of office expires,
- if recalled, for failing to fulfil their task diligently and responsibly;
- if recalled, in case they misuse power or damage the reputation of the Association;
- pursuant to a decision of the Court of Honour in case of violating the provisions of the Statute or the journalists' code of conduct;
- in case they are unable to perform the function for a period over six months.

Article 32

The work of the Association shall be public.

The work shall be made public by informing the members and the public though public statements, issuing the newsletter, submitting reports at the sessions of the Assembly.

Notices regarding sessions and other issues will be displayed at the head office of the Association, published in media or on public places envisaged for public

announcements.

Article 33

The Association obtains funds by collecting membership fees, receiving donations, applying for projects with state bodies or foundations, as well as other sources pursuant to applicable laws.

Article 34

The Association shall conduct the following economic activities:

- 7414 consulting and management services
- TV production
- Publishing books, brochures, music books and other publications
- Renting its real estate for organisation of conferences

It is through these activities that the Association obtains funds.

The Association may commence with the direct performance of these activities only after it has been registered with the Serbian Business Registers Agency.

Article 35

The Association shall cease operations following a decision of the Assembly, when the conditions for achieving the objectives of the Association cease to exist, as well as in other cases envisaged by the law.

Article 36

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Article 37

The Association shall have a round seal, with the name of the Association “Nezavisno društvo novinara” written on the rim of the seal in Serbian, in both Cyrillic and Latin alphabet, in Ruthenian “Независне друштво новинаров“, in Romanian “Societății ziarștilor Independenți“, in Slovakian “Nezávislý spolok novinárov“, in Hungarian “Független Újságíró Egyesület“, in Croatian “Nezavisno društvo novinara“, while the centre of the seal features the name “Vojvodina” written in Cyrillic and Latin alphabet.

Article 38

All issues not regulated by this Statute shall be governed by the provisions of the Act on Associations.

This Statute comes into effect on the day when it is adopted at a session of the Association's Assembly.

Chair of the Assembly,

Branka Dragović Savić