

Statutes for European Dialogue and Democracy Association (EDDA)

Statutes of 12th of August 2016
Last updated 18th of March 2019

§ 1 Name

The name of the organization is EDDA, European Dialogue and Democracy Association. The organization was founded 12th of August 2016. From now on the organization is mentioned as EDDA.

§ 2 Purpose

EDDA The European Dialogue and Democracy Association is a politically neutral non-governmental organization that is primarily student-driven. The organization operates internationally through electoral observation, and strives for cooperation with other organizations, both locally, nationally and internationally.

The aim of the association is:

- i) Strengthen interest in, and knowledge of, Eastern European politics and society among young people and students.
- ii) make election observation accessible to young people and students, Norwegians as well as internationals, who want to learn more about democracy, politics and electoral processes.
- iii) support the development of free and democratic elections, democratic participation and a strong civil society.
- iv) be an initiative for dialogue and a measure of cultural exchange between Western Europe and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

§ 2.1

Only members of EDDA can participate in an election observation mission. Before participating in an election observation mission, all observers are obliged to participate in an election observation course. After completed mission, all the observers have obligation to impart knowledge. This can be expressed by written work or through oral work. The purpose of the obligation to impart knowledge, is to spread knowledge which the observers has acquired throughout the observation mission.

§ 3 Legal entity

The organization is a private institution, and an independent, legal entity with impersonally and limited responsibility for debt.

§ 4 Members

All persons sympathizing with the vision of the organization can become a member. Membership is valid from the date the membership fee is payed and until the end of the calendar year. Only member above the age of 18 can attend Election Observation missions. Members owing the organization membership fee for more than one year have no voting rights and can be deleted as a member of the organization. The yearly membership fee is determined by the Board and stipulated by the Annual Meeting.

§ 5 Voting rights and eligibility

All the members of EDDA have the right to vote, and all the members are eligible for office.

§ 6 Compensation of representatives

The organization's representatives do not receive payment for their work in office.

§ 7 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is held every year, and within the third first months of the calendar year. The Annual Meeting is the organization's supreme authority. The members are summoned by the Board, to the Annual Meeting, with at least two weeks' notice.

Proposals to be discussed shall be sent to the Board with at least one weeks' notice. The complete agenda for the meeting shall be available for all the members at least one week before the meeting is held.

§ 7.1

All the members have access to the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is statuted with the number of the members with the right to vote present during the meeting. Nobody has more than *one* vote, and voting can happen with authorization. The board also has the right to vote during the Annual Meeting.

§ 7.2

The leader of the Annual Meeting is chosen by the meeting itself. The Annual Meeting can only treat proposals which has been sent to the Board within the deadline.

§ 8 Voting at the Annual Meeting

Unless something else is decided, a statute, to be valid, should have a general majority of the votes. Blank votes should be considered non-votes.

§ 8.1

Elections occur in writing if there is more than one proposition. Only suggested candidates can be put on the ballot. If more people are going to be elected by the same election, the ballots must contain the number of different candidates that are going to be elected by the concerned election. Blank ballots or ballots that do not contain the suggested candidates, or a different number of candidates that are to be elected will be considered non-votes.

§ 8.2

If more than one person is to be elected in an election, everyone must have more than half the given votes for it to be valid. This is not the case in elections of deputy representatives.

If there is not a sufficient number of candidates that achieve this in the first round of voting, those with more than half of the votes will be considered elected. Then there will be undertaken a binding re-election between the remaining candidates, and after this election those with the most votes will be considered elected. If there is an equality of votes in the re-election, the election will be decided by lot.

§ 10 The tasks of the annual meeting

The annual meeting will:

1. Handle the annual report
2. Handle the revised accounts
3. Handle received propositions
4. Assess price for membership
5. Pass the budget
6. Elect:
 - a) Leader, Deputy-leader and cashier
 - b) Member(s) of the board and deputy-member(s)
 - c) Nomination Committee (at least two members)

§ 9.1

All of the elected representatives accede three weeks after the Annual Meeting and sits until three weeks after the next Annual Meeting (12 months).

§ 10 Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee shall nominate candidates for all elections relating to the composition of the Board. The Nomination Committee submits its final recommendation to the board no later than 1 week before the annual meeting is to be held. It is important that the Nomination Committee is independent of the organization's management. The Nomination Committee shall provide a recommendation that takes into account location, gender distribution and competence, in order to ensure that a properly functioning board is upheld.

§ 11 Extraordinary yearly meetings

Extraordinary yearly meetings will be held when the board decides, or when at least 1/3 of the members authorized to vote demands it. The meeting will be convoked in the same manner as ordinary yearly meetings, with at least two weeks' notice. The agenda will be attached to the notice of the meeting. Extraordinary yearly meetings can only handle and make decisions in the cases that are announced in the notice of the meeting.

§ 12 The board

The organization is run by a board of minimum three members. The board is the highest authority between the yearly meetings.

§ 12.1

The board will:

1. Carry out the decisions of the yearly annual meetings.
2. If needed, initialize groups or people for specific tasks, and elaborate instructions for these.
3. Administer and lead necessary control with EDDA's economy in terms of the valid instructions and determinations.
4. Represent EDDA.

§ 12.2

Board meetings are decided by the leader or when a majority of the board members demand it. The board can make statutes when a

majority of the members of the board are present. Statutes are decided with a majority of the given votes. By an equality of votes the leader's vote is counted twice.

§ 13 Changing statutes

Changes of these statutes can only be made at ordinary or extraordinary yearly meetings after being listed on the agenda, and a majority of 2/3 is needed of the given votes. The voting is made after § 8.

§ 14 Dissolution, corporation and partition

Dissolution of the organization can only be done at an ordinary yearly meeting. If the dissolution is decided by at least 2/3 majority, an extraordinary yearly meeting will be summoned three months later. For the dissolution to occur, the statute must be repeated here with 2/3 majority. A liquidation board can be chosen to oversee the liquidation. The ordinary board can be chosen for the liquidation board, and get the position as liquidation board if no choice is made.

§ 14.1

The assets of the organization should after dissolution and debt presentation accrue the purpose the organization is working for by transferring the money to the Danish sister organization SILBA. None of the members have claim to the organization's assets or a share of these.

§ 14.2

Corporation with other organizations or a partition of the organization is not regarded as dissolution. Statutes about corporation or partition, as well as necessary changes of statutes in affiliation of this are met in compliance with the provisions of change of statutes cf. § 13. The board will in this case develop a plan for the corporation or partition that the yearly meeting will vote on. By corporation or partition, consent is to be collected from the creditors of the organization.

§ 15 Economy

The funds of the association are obtained through membership fees, voluntary contributions or national or international funds. The association can only apply for funds from political neutral actors.

§ 15.1

Of the participant fee paid to EDDA regarding election observation missions, one hundred kroner goes to the organization's work.
