

The statutes of the Nordic Sociological Association

§1 Objectives

The objective of the Nordic Sociological Association (NSA) is to promote sociological research and education in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden through cooperation between these countries.

§2 The Association's official names in the Nordic and international languages are as follows:

In Danish: Nordisk Sociologforbund
In Finnish: Pohjoismainen Sosiologiliitto
In Icelandic: Bandalag norrænna félagsfræðinga
In Norwegian: Nordisk Sosiologforbund
In Swedish: Nordiska sociologförbundet
In English: Nordic Sociological Association

§3 Activities

As a means of attaining these objectives, the Association shall

1. organize international conferences and symposiums around scientific questions;
2. publish the scientific journal Acta Sociologica;
3. encourage and support publications within the area of sociology;
4. stimulate the establishment of working groups within specific thematic areas (cf. §16);
5. through other suitable measures and initiatives give special attention to sociological questions and social issues of Nordic interest.

§4 Membership

Membership of the Association can be applied for by and granted to

1. the national sociological associations in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden,
2. individual members from the Nordic countries and other countries,
3. institutions, organization and associations in the Nordic countries and other countries.

§5 Membership applications

Applications for membership need to be directed to the board of the Nordic Sociological Association and are considered by the board. The national sociological associations represent their countries in the International

Sociological Association (ISA) and in other international contexts, but it is possible for them in specific matters (such as the publication of a journal or the organization of a conference) to delegate the task of representing the national association to NSA.

§6 The Association's organization

The work of the Association is carried out by the following bodies:

1. general assembly
2. board of the Association
3. the secretariat of the Association, i.e. the chairperson and the secretary

§7 General assembly

1. The general assembly consists of the individual members of the national sociological associations.
2. The general assembly meets every other year at a minimum of one month's advance notice and with a specified agenda. All documents shall be published on the Association's homepage at least one month prior to the general assembly.
3. The right to vote in the general assembly lies with specially appointed representatives for the national sociological associations. Each country has the right to appoint eight such representatives.
4. Each national sociological association has the right, if 2/3 of its members wish for this, to call an extraordinary general assembly, which in this case shall take place two to six months after the request has been communicated to the board of the Nordic Sociological Association. Also for the extraordinary general assembly, each country has the right to appoint eight representatives. Notification of such a meeting together with an agenda must be sent at least one month in advance.

The general assembly shall discuss and approve a report of the Association's activities for the past two years and accounts for a corresponding period. The general assembly elects two auditors and two deputy auditors for each two-year period or approves the engagement of an external authorized auditor.

The general assembly shall treat the following agenda points:

1. Meeting of assembly and recording of attendance.
2. Election of chair of the meeting, secretary and two members that will assist the secretary in producing correct minutes from the general assembly.
3. Approval of summons to the meeting and agenda.
4. Approval of the board's report on activities.
5. Approval of accounts.
6. Approval of activity plan for the upcoming period.
7. Approval of membership fee.
8. Approval of budget for the upcoming period.
9. Approval of auditor's report and situation of ACTA.

10. Appointment of auditor.
11. Potential other items.

§8 Nordic Sociological Conference

In connection with the regular general assembly a scientific conference is held, with a programme prepared by the national sociological associations commissioned by the board. The location of the conferences shall rotate between the Nordic countries (see §16).

§9 Composition of the Association's board

The board of the Association consists of two representatives from each country cf. §1.

§10 Election of the board

The countries' representatives on the board are elected by the respective countries' national sociological associations. Among the elected members of the board, the board designates a chairperson and a deputy. The secretary of the board is designated by the board. The secretary has the right to attend board meetings, but does not have voting rights. The task of providing the chairperson shall rotate between the national sociological associations. Representatives from one country can hold the position of chairperson for a maximum of two consecutive two-year periods.

§11 The board's work procedures

The board shall have one meeting in connection with the general assembly, and meet at least once a year. The board can delegate its powers of decision in certain matters to an executive committee consisting of the chairperson, deputy chairperson and at least one board member. Decisions by the board are made with simple majority; however, at least one representative from each country must be in agreement with the decision.

§12 Signature

The signatures of the chairperson, deputy chairperson or secretary/cashier are legally binding for the Association.

§13 Membership fees

The general assembly decides on the amount payable by the national sociological associations for each member for the coming two-year period. The fee is payable for those members which belong to the respective associations on December 31 for each of the two years during an activity period. All personal members in a national association count as individual members, irrespective of the exact form of their connection with the Association. The size of this membership fee is set in one of the Nordic currencies. The membership fee for other individual members, such as organizations, institutions and associations, is set by the board.

§14 Accounts

The accounts of the Association are for one calendar year at a time. The secretary, who is also the cashier, shall keep the accounts for the Association. Those must have been checked and approved of auditors (cf. §7) at least one month prior to the general assembly. Discharge from liability for the administration of the financial assets of the Association for a certain period is granted by the general assembly.

§15 The Association's journal

The association's journal "Acta Sociologica" shall be edited by an editor appointed by the board of the Association. This editor is initially appointed for a four-year period. The appointment period can be extended, but the position can be held for a maximum of five years by the same person. The journal has its own statutes. Those regulate, amongst other matters, the relations with and the obligations towards the owner (NSA), the editorial staff and the publisher. The journal's statutes can only be changed by the general assembly according to the same principles that apply to NSA (cf. §18).

§16 Conferences, seminars and symposiums

The scientific conference in connection with the general assembly is prepared, as mentioned earlier, by the board of the Association. The board can delegate the task of organizing and leading the conference to a national association. See §8. Special conferences, seminars and symposiums can be arranged at the initiative of the Association's board, who can commission special committees to organize those.

§17 Committees and sections

The board of the Association has the right to appoint committees tasked with drafting preliminary studies, reports and suggestions regarding issues of interest for the Association, and to set up working groups for special thematic areas. Those groups are not authorized to incur expenses on behalf of the Association without the consent of the board, and any potential statements of a political nature need to be cleared with the board.

§18 Changes in the Association's statutes

The statutes of the Association can be changed if 2/3 of the representatives present at the regular general assembly vote for it. However, at least four of the representatives from each country need to vote for the suggested change. Proposals for alteration of the statutes can be made by individual members or national associations and shall, at the latest one month prior to the general assembly, be communicated to the members in connection with sending out the agenda. The board of the Association should ensure that the national associations inform their members of the proposed changes.

§19 Rules for the disbandment of the Association

The Association can be disbanded by the decision of two consecutive general assemblies, of which one can be an extraordinary general assembly. A decision on disbandment requires 2/3 of the votes of the representatives present. If the general assembly makes a final decision to disband the association, it shall also decide how to deal with the Association's assets. Those shall be used in a manner that supports the Association's objectives stated in §3. This decision is made by simple majority.

§20 The official version of the Association's statutes is the one written in the Swedish language.