

STATUTES

OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

passed by the Resolution of the STPJM General Session

No. 1/04/06/22 dated 04.06.2022.

CHAPTER I

General Provisions

Article 1

The Association shall be under the name of “Stowarzyszenie Tłumaczy Polskiego Języka Migowego” (the abbreviation “STPJM”; English: The Association of Polish Sign Language Interpreters).

Article 2

The STPJM has legal status, is subject to registration, and acts in accordance with the Polish Law of Associations Act (Dz.U. /Journal of Laws/ of 1989, No. 20, item 104 with subsequent amendments) and on these Statutes.

Article 3

The STPJM shall be open to Polish Sign Language interpreters as well as to people training to work as interpreters.

Article 4

1. The area of the STPJM's operations shall be the territory of the Republic of Poland, and its Headquarters shall be located in the Capital City of Warsaw.
2. In order to properly pursue its objectives, the Association may also conduct its operations outside the territory of the Republic of Poland.

Article 5

The STPJM may be a member of national, foreign and international organizations.

Article 6

1. The Association's operations shall be based on its members' community work.
2. The STPJM may employ people to manage its affairs.

CHAPTER II

Objectives and Methods of Action

Article 7

The objectives of the STPJM shall be as follows:

1. propagating interpreter community integration and support; serving as the interpreters' professional organization; representing Polish Sign Language interpreters in Poland, abroad and in international organizations,
2. raising the prestige of the interpreting profession; observing the ethics of the profession; providing protection of the interpreters' professional, moral and material rights,
3. participating in shaping and obeying the Polish and international copyright law regulations and other regulations applying to interpreters,
4. providing a high level of interpreting by STPJM members and facilitating the improvement of their professional qualifications,
5. caring for trainee interpreters, including in this working with young people,
6. supporting the study and improvement in the knowledge of the following languages: Polish Sign Language, foreign sign languages, International Sign, Polish language and spoken foreign languages,
7. breaking down communication barriers between the Deaf and hearing communities, including internationals, through good quality interpreting,
8. promoting awareness of the use of sign language interpreter services among the hearing and Deaf communities,
9. promoting awareness of the Deaf, hearing and interpreter communities through cultural and artistic activities.

Article 8

1. The STPJM may achieve its objectives in the framework of unpaid public benefit activities by:
 - 1) initiating, supporting and carrying out scientific research activities;
 - 2) cooperating with authorities, higher education institutions, research institutes, organizations as well as associations, national and foreign,
 - 3) assisting in the improvement of interpreting skills,
 - 4) conducting workshops, trainings, courses, camps and other forms of support for interpreters,
 - 5) organizing conferences, congresses, symposia and lectures,
 - 6) providing language and terminology counselling related to interpreting,
 - 7) participating and representing as members in international associations of interpreters,
 - 8) popularizing the achievements of STPJM members,
 - 9) providing assistance and counselling for STPJM members on issues related to the interpreting profession,
 - 10) developing educational materials for interpreters, for both Deaf and hearing communities,
 - 11) creating sign language materials in the form of video recordings,
 - 12) providing interpretation services,
 - 13) organizing cultural and artistic activities related to the concerns of the Deaf, hearing, and interpreter communities,
 - 14) implementing activities for the benefit of young people and adults striving to enhance awareness, competence, and knowledge in the field of interpreting,
 - 15) organizing activities for foreigners, including the training of interpreters to communicate with individuals from outside the borders of the Republic of Poland,

- 16) launching informational, promotional, and social campaigns.
2. The STPJM may achieve its objectives in the framework of paid public benefit activities by:
 - 1) initiating, supporting and carrying out scientific research activities,
 - 2) cooperating with authorities, higher education institutions, research institutes, organizations as well as associations, national and foreign,
 - 3) assisting in the improvement of interpreting skills,
 - 4) conducting workshops, training, courses, camps and other forms of support for interpreters,
 - 5) organizing conferences, congresses, symposia and lectures,
 - 6) providing language and terminology counselling related to interpreting,
 - 7) popularizing the achievements of STPJM members,
 - 8) providing assistance and counselling for STPJM members on issues related to the interpreting profession,
 - 9) developing educational materials for interpreters, for both Deaf, and hearing communities,
 - 10) creating sign language materials in the form of video recordings,
 - 11) providing interpretation services,
 - 12) organizing cultural and artistic activities related to the concerns of the Deaf, hearing, and interpreter communities,
 - 13) implementing activities for the benefit of young people and adults striving to enhance awareness, competence, and knowledge in the field of interpreting,
 - 14) organization of activities for foreigners, including the training of interpreters to communicate with individuals from outside the borders of the Republic of Poland,
 - 15) launching informational, promotional, and social campaigns.

CHAPTER III

Business Activities

Article 9

1. The Association may engage in business activities on the basis of general principles as specified in separate regulations. The Association conducts business activities solely to the extent deemed necessary to achieve its statutory objectives.
2. The Association engages in business activity related to conducting certification examinations for Polish Sign Language interpreters (the activity of the examination committees - Polish Classification of Activities (PKD) code: 85.60.Z).
3. The business activity constitutes supplementary activity in relation to the public benefit activities outlined in the Statute.
4. The Association may also undertake paid public benefit activities in accordance with the regulations pertaining to public benefit activities. The revenue generated from such activities is exclusively allocated to the realization of statutory objectives as defined in article 7, which are the public benefit objectives.

CHAPTER IV

Members, their Rights and Obligations

Article 10

Membership of the STPJM shall be divided into the following classes:

- 1) Contributing Members,
- 2) Honorary Members.

Article 11

To be a Contributing Member, one must be an adult citizen of the Republic of Poland or a foreign citizen, including those residing outside the borders of Poland, having full legal capacity and not deprived of public rights, who:

- 1) has completed the preparatory period in accordance with the Regulations of the preparatory period for STPJM candidates,
- 2) has received a positive opinion from the STPJM Board,
- 3) has applied to join STPJM by submitting a membership application together with a membership declaration,
- 4) has had his/her membership application approved by the STPJM Board,
- 5) has paid the membership fee.

Article 12

1. A Contributing Member shall be entitled to:
 - 1) active and passive election into STPJM governing bodies,
 - 2) enjoy the privileges provided for in the STPJM Membership Regulations,
 - 3) submit motions concerning the activities of the STPJM,
 - 4) identify oneself as a member of the STPJM.
2. A Contributing Member shall be obliged to:
 - 1) abide by the stipulations of the Statute and the bylaws of the STPJM,
 - 2) actively and regularly work within relevant bodies, to which he/she has been elected or appointed,
 - 3) take part in accomplishing the Association's goals and objectives,
 - 4) adhere to the principles of professional ethics,
 - 5) regular payment of the membership fees.

Article 13

1. To be an Honorary Member, one needs to be an individual, a Contributing Member, who is highly distinguished by his/her work for STPJM.
2. Honorary Membership shall be awarded and withdrawn based on a resolution of the General Meeting on the initiative of at least five members of the STPJM.
3. An Honorary Member, who is not a Contributing Member at the time of being granted honorary membership, does not possess passive and active voting rights. However, they may participate with an advisory voice in the statutory authorities of the Association.
4. An Honorary Member, who is a Contributing Member at the time of being granted honorary

membership, retains all the rights of a Contributing Member.

5. An Honorary Member shall be exempted from the payment of membership fees.

Article 14

1. STPJM membership - regardless of the type of membership - shall cease in the event of:
 - 1) voluntary withdrawal from the Association in writing submitted to the Board,
 - 2) removal from the list of members by virtue of a resolution of the Board due to failure to fulfill membership obligations,
 - 3) one being sentenced by the final judgment of a common court of law with the additional penalty of public rights deprivation,
 - 4) the member's death.

Article 15

A person whose membership has been revoked shall be entitled to appeal the decision of the Board of Directors to the General Session, whose resolution in this regard shall be final. The appeal should be submitted in writing no later than 14 days before the date of the Session.

CHAPTER V

The Association's Governing Bodies

Article 16

1. The following shall be the Governing Bodies of the STPJM:
 - 1) The General Session,
 - 2) The Board of Directors,
 - 3) The Audit Committee.

Article 17

1. The term of office for all governing bodies shall last until the next election, which shall be held every 2 years.
2. Elections may be held up to 6 months later than the relevant date.
3. Members of the STPJM may be elected to only one of the Association's governing bodies.
4. Members of the Board may not concurrently be members of the Audit Committee or be married to, in cohabitation with, in a relationship of kinship, affinity or business subordination to a member.
5. Members of the STPJM governing bodies shall perform their duties on a voluntary basis.
6. Members of the STPJM governing bodies shall not have been sentenced by a final judgment for an intentional crime prosecuted by public indictment or for a fiscal crime.
7. Elections of all governing bodies shall be held by secret ballot.

Article 18

1. Resolutions of the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee shall be adopted by an absolute majority of votes (more than half of the valid votes cast), with at least half of the members eligible to vote being present, with the exception of the resolutions specified in Art. 23, item 3.

2. Voting on matters of personnel shall be conducted by secret ballot.

Article 19

1. The STPJM governing body shall, during its term of office, have the right to co-opt new members to fill vacancies.
2. The number of co-opted members may not exceed half the number of elected members.
3. Each of the governing bodies of the STPJM shall operate on the basis of the bylaws it has developed which have been approved by the General Session.

THE GENERAL SESSION

Article 20

1. The supreme governing body of the STPJM is the Ordinary or Extraordinary General Session.
2. A contributing member of the STPJM shall have the right to participate in the Session by casting a vote.
3. Honorary members and invited guests may attend the Session in an advisory capacity.

Article 21

Resolutions of the General Session shall be adopted as follows: at the first sitting by an absolute majority of votes cast with the presence of at least half of those eligible to vote, and at the second sitting by an absolute majority of votes cast, regardless of the number of STPJM contributing members present.

Article 22

1. The General Session shall be convened every two years in accordance with the term of office of the elected statutory bodies.
2. The Board of Directors shall notify all STPJM members of the date, place and agenda of the General Session at least 14 days before the session begins - by registered mail or (in the case of members who have given their consent) by e-mail with acknowledgement of receipt.
3. It is permissible to hold the General Session remotely by means of Internet tools enabling full participation in the meeting by all members.

Article 23

1. An Extraordinary General Session shall be convened by the STPJM Board of Directors.
2. The STPJM Board may convene an Extraordinary General Session both on its own initiative and at the request of the Audit Committee or at the request of one-fourth of the total number of Contributing Members.
3. A motion requesting the convening of an Extraordinary General Session initiated by the Board and the Audit Committee should receive a two-thirds vote by the members of one of the above-mentioned STPJM governing bodies.
4. A motion requesting the convening of an Extraordinary General Session should be submitted in writing with a statement of justification and a proposed agenda.
5. The Board shall be obliged to convene the Extraordinary General Session within 60 days of receiving the motion.
6. The Extraordinary General Session shall deliberate on the matters for which it was convened.

Article 24

The following shall lie within the competencies of the General Session:

- 1) accepting the program objectives for the STPJM's activities,
- 2) evaluating the reports of the activities carried out by the Board of Directors, the Audit Committee,
- 3) upon a motion of the Audit Committee - adopting a resolution regarding the discharge of the outgoing Board,
- 4) electing the President of the STPJM,
- 5) electing members of the Board and the Audit Committee,
- 6) adopting resolutions on the establishment, distribution and liquidation of funds as well as the use of the STPJM's financial resources,
- 7) granting and revoking honorary membership,
- 8) adopting resolutions on amendments to the Statute and dissolution of the STPJM,
- 9) considering and resolving all other matters raised by the Board and the members of the STPJM,
- 10) considering appeals filed by STPJM members against the Board's decision to deprive them of membership.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 25

1. In the periods between General Sessions, the activities of the STPJM shall be managed by the Board of Directors.
2. The Board shall be comprised of a President and 2-4 members, elected by name by the General Session. The members of the Board shall perform the functions of Vice- President, Secretary and Treasurer.
3. The number of members on the Audit Committee shall be determined by the General Session.
4. If the Board is comprised of three persons, the functions of Secretary and Treasurer shall be combined.
5. At its first session, no later than 7 days from the date of the General Session, the Board shall elect from among its members a Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and shall divide the tasks among the members of the Board.
6. Meetings of the Board shall be held as the need arises but not less than four times a year.
7. Meetings of the Board shall be convened and chaired by the President, or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President. of the Board.
8. Meetings of the Board may be also convened at the request of at least half of its members.
9. In order to be valid, documents regarding STPJM's property rights and obligations must be signed by the President and the Vice President/Treasurer/Secretary.
10. All correspondence regarding substantial and organizational issues shall be signed by two members of the Board acting jointly.
11. In the case of the STPJM President's resignation or his/her inability to perform his/her functions, the Board shall elect from among its members by secret ballot a person who will perform the duties of the President up until an Extraordinary General Session is convened - within three months - and a new President is elected.

Article 26

The competencies of the Board include:

- 1) implementing the resolutions of the General Session and coordinating the activities of the STPJM,
- 2) representing the STPJM and acting on its behalf,
- 3) drawing up work plans, annual financial plans and approving annual financial reports,
- 4) managing the STPJM's property and funds, incurring liabilities and entering into contracts (on behalf of the STPJM),
- 5) adopting resolutions for the establishment and multiplication of funds allocated for the statutory activities of the STPJM as well as adopting resolutions regarding the amount for registration fees and membership fees,
- 6) appointing and dissolving task teams and committees operating alongside the Board, defining their tasks and supervising their activities,
- 7) appointing an Advisory Council in cases deemed justifiable by the Board,
- 8) applying for awards as well as granting badges and national medals to members of the STPJM,
- 9) adopting resolutions concerning accession to associations and other national, foreign and international organizations,
- 10) delegating representatives of the STPJM to participate in national as well as foreign conventions and conferences,
- 11) crossing off members from the list of STPJM members,
- 12) ensuring the internal and external communication of the STPJM,
- 13) considering the applications of other governing bodies, organizational units of the STPJM and members,
- 14) convening the General Session of the STPJM.

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Article 27

1. The Audit Committee shall be comprised of 3-5 members elected by the General Session, who shall elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Secretary from among themselves.
2. The number of Audit Committee members shall be set by the General Session.
3. The following shall lie within the competence of the Audit Committee:
 - 1) examining, at least once a year, the overall activities of the STPJM, including its financial management in terms of appropriateness and correctness of expenditures,
 - 2) submitting post-inspection motions to the Board and requesting explanations,
 - 3) examining the Board's actions at the request of a member and requesting explanations from the Board,
 - 4) submitting reports to the General Session and proposing the discharge of the outgoing Board,
 - 5) putting forward motions to convene an Extraordinary General Session.
4. The Chairman of the Audit Committee or the Committee members authorized by the Chairman shall be entitled to participate in meetings of the Board in an advisory capacity.

CHAPTER VI

Assets and Funds of the Association

Article 28

The STPJM may own movable and immovable property, and funds.

Article 29

The assets of the STPJM shall be used for the realization of statutory purposes and may not be distributed among the Association's members.

Article 30

1. The funds of the STPJM shall be comprised of:
 - 1) financial and material donations and sponsorships from individuals and legal entities, including those from outside the Republic of Poland;
 - 2) inheritances, bequests, and proceeds from public generosity, such as direct collections, public collections, promotional events, public events, raffles, and court referrals;
 - 3) earmarked grants received from relevant private, state and local government institutions, including those outside the Republic of Poland;
 - 4) earmarked grants received from international organizations;
 - 5) financial and material resources from structural funds and aid programs of the European Union or other organizations, including international organizations;
 - 6) membership fees, the amount of which shall be determined by the Board for each calendar year, and voluntary contributions from contributing members;
 - 7) income from paid public benefit activities;
 - 8) income from movable and immovable property and other entitlements, including bank interest and capital gains from interest on deposits, bonds, securities, mutual and investment funds and other financial instruments available on the capital market;
 - 9) income from the 1% of individual income tax for public benefit organizations;
 - 10) income from business activities.
2. The income from the business activities of the Association shall be used exclusively for the implementation of the statutory objectives and may not be distributed among its members.
3. STPJM may conduct statutory activities for public benefit.
4. Statutory activities may not be for profit and the purpose of payment is the co-financing by recipients for the tasks to achieve the statutory objectives.
5. The financial management of STPJM shall be carried out in accordance with the binding legal requirements, on the basis of financial regulations and the annual financial plan, developed by the Board.
6. Undertaking financial obligations not resulting from the annual financial plan shall require a resolution by the Board, passed by an absolute majority of votes cast by the total number of the members.
7. The logo, the website and the name "Stowarzyszenie Tłumaczy Polskiego Języka Migowego" shall

constitute the intellectual property and material possession of the entire Association; these assets may not be taken over or appropriated in any other way by any individual or legal entity.

Article 31

The STPJM is forbidden to:

- 1) lend money or secure obligations with the organization's assets in relation to its members, members of its governing bodies or employees, as well as persons with whom the organization's members, members of its governing bodies or employees are married, in cohabitation or in a relationship of kinship or affinity in a direct line, kinship or affinity in a collateral line to the second degree, or are related by adoption, guardianship or custody, hereinafter referred to as "close relatives";
- 2) transfer its assets for the benefit of its members, members of its governing bodies or employees as well as their close relatives, on principles other than in relation to third parties, in particular if the transfer is made free of charge or on preferential terms;
- 3) use its assets for the benefit of its members, members of its governing bodies or employees as well as their close relatives on principles other than in relation to third parties, unless such use directly results from the statutory objective of the organization;
- 4) purchase goods or services from entities in which members of the organization, members of its governing bodies or employees as well as their close relatives are involved, on principles other than in relation to third parties or at prices higher than market prices.

CHAPTER VII

Amending the Statutes and the Dissolution of the Association

Article 32

1. Any amendments to the Statutes shall require a resolution of the STPJM General Session or the STPJM Extraordinary General Session, adopted by a 2/3 majority of the votes cast by those participating in the vote..
2. A resolution on the dissolution of the STPJM may be adopted at the General Session by a majority of at least 4/5 of votes cast by those participating in the voting.
3. In the event of adopting a resolution to dissolve the STPJM, the General Session shall elect a Liquidation Committee and determine its competencies.
4. The resolution on the dissolution of the STPJM shall at the same time determine the allocation of the Association's assets.

Article 33

1. A resolution on the dissolution of the STPJM may be adopted at the General Session by a majority of at least 4/5 of votes cast by those participating in the voting.
2. In the event of adopting a resolution to dissolve the STPJM, the General Session shall elect a Liquidation Committee and determine its competencies.
3. The resolution on the dissolution of the STPJM shall at the same time determine the allocation of the Association's assets.

Approved at the General Session on 04/06/2022 Resolution No. 1/04/06/22.

Protocol Officer

Chairperson of the meeting

Anna Hummel

Magdalena Sipowicz