

# *Cyprus Sociological Association*

## *Constitution*

### Article 1: Name – Seat

The Association is named the Cyprus Sociological Association (Syndesmos Koinoniologon Kyprou) and is seated in Nicosia.

### Article 2: Aims of the Association

1. To spread the “sociological imagination” in Cypriot society
2. To further the continuing education of the members of the Association, as well as to promote their utilization for the benefit of Cypriot society
3. To secure the interests of the sociological vocation/profession, as well as the professional activation and interests of the members of the Association
4. To cooperate with tertiary level educational institutions, research centers and other similar organizations, on issues of sociological interest
- 5. Means to be used for the achievement of the aims**
  - a) Organizing and participating in conferences, seminars, symposia and lectures on sociological issues, as well as other events within the Association’s interests
  - b) Promoting issues and problems of social interest and participating in international conferences and Associations
  - c) Contributing in the founding and running of research centers, whose research fields are of sociological interest
  - d) Setting up of a Library of the Association
  - e) Undertaking and participating in publications of sociological interest
  - f) Cooperating with other Sociological Associations abroad and with related institutions or other organizations that serve the aims of the Association in any way

## **6. Membership:**

The set membership fee for regular members is 12 Cyprus Pounds annually.

### **Article 3: Registration of New Members**

A regular member can only register as such, once it has been verified that s/he/:

- a) Has earned a Bachelors Degree in Sociology
- b) Has been approved by the Executive Council by a 51% majority
- c) Has paid a registration fee of 5 Cyprus Pounds
- d) The members are expected to comply to the present statuses as well as with the decisions of the Executive Council and the General Assembly.

### **Article 4: Members' Rights and Obligations**

1. The rights of regular members of the Association are:
  - a) The right to vote and to be elected
  - b) The right to inspect the Association's book-keeping after applying to the Executive Council
2. The obligations of regular members of the Association are to:
  - a) Pay an annual membership fee of 12 Cyprus Pounds and registration fee of 5 Cyprus Pounds, upon registration
  - b) Attend both the Regular and Special General Assemblies and respect the decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Council
  - c) Act according to the principles of the Association and contribute, within the framework of their person's capabilities to the promotion of the aims and pursuits of the Association
  - d) Notify the Executive Council, of any change regarding their address or professional status

### **Article 5: Expulsion of Members**

The Association reserves the right to expel from the Association, by a 51% majority of the Executive Council any member who in any way undermines the Association's interests and benefits, and who does not comply with this Constitution. In addition,

members who delay their membership fee for more than 18 months will be removed from the Roster.

#### Article 6: Honorary and Temporary Members

The Executive Council reserves the right to declare as an Honorary Member of the Association, by a 75% majority, any person who has contributed to the promotion of the aims of the Association, or who has contributed financially or otherwise to the Association.

Students in the field of Sociology can register as Temporary Members, subject to paying the specified registration fee and a membership fee of 10 Cyprus Pounds.

Social Scientists of related specialties to Sociology (such as Social Policy and Social Anthropology), can register with the Association subject to paying the specified registration fee and a membership fee of 10 Cyprus Pounds.

#### Article 7: Bodies of the Association

1. The General Assembly
2. The Executive Council

#### Article 8: General Assembly

- Is the supreme body of the Association
- The General Assembly shall be convened by the Chairman of the Association
- The Chairman shall give at least 10 days advance notification of a General Assembly
- An annual General Assembly will be convened during the month of February
- The quorum of the General Assembly will consist of 50% plus one of the members having the right to vote
- In the event of there not being a quorum, the General Assembly will postpone its activities for half an hour, in which case all those present who have the right to vote, will constitute a quorum
- The agenda must include the following issues:
  - a) Approval of the minutes of the previous Assembly
  - b) A report of the Executive Council regarding the previous year's activities
  - c) A report on the Financial Accounts

- d) Approval of following year's budget
  - e) Any matters concerning the furtherance and better promotion of the Association's aims
  - f) The election of a new Executive Council in the event that the previous Council's term has ended (7 members)
- The elections shall be conducted by a special Inspectoral Committee consisting of 3 members who will be specially elected by the General Assembly.

#### Article 9: Special General Assembly

- a) The Executive Council can convene a Special General Assembly by a simple majority vote
- b) A Special General Assembly is convened to discuss serious matters which the Executive Council does not consider it prudent to decide on its own
- c) Special General Assemblies may also be convened to discuss a particular ad hoc matter, after a request in writing, signed by at least 3/5 of all the members of the Association.

#### Article 10: Executive Council

- The Executive Council consisting of seven members, shall have the responsibility of managing the Association
- The term of the Executive Council shall be a period of two years
- The Executive Council shall be constituted within a week from the day of the election. The elected persons, shall then vote for the offices of: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Press and Public Relations Secretary
- Regular members who have settled their Association membership fee shall have the right to vote, to elect and to be elected

#### Article 11: Obligations, Function of the Executive Council

- a) The Executive Council will be convened on a regular basis by the Chairman, at least once a month (if desirable) and in special cases when necessary, or when requested by at least two of its members

- b) A quorum of the Executive Council shall be constituted by the presence of at least 4 of its members
- c) Decisions of the Executive Council shall be taken by simple majority. In the event of equal division of votes, the President shall have a winning second vote
- d) Members of the Executive Council, who are absent without excuse, for three consecutive meetings – subject to notification and acknowledgment of notification of an Executive Council meeting on a particular date - will be deemed not to wish to continue their membership of the Executive Council and it will be considered that they have resigned from the Executive Council.
- e) The Executive Council has the right to create new Committees at its discretion, which will have designated duties regarding any issues concerning the Association or its aims. Unless provided for by Article 13, the Sub-Committees will not necessarily comprise of members of the Executive Council.

#### **Article 12: Duties of the Members of the Executive Council**

- a)
  - i. The Chairman represents the Association in all its liaisons, calls regular and special meetings of the Executive Council and chairs them. S/he suggests issues to be discussed, signs together with the General Secretary every official document and with the Treasurer any bank or other cheque or financial order. The Chairman represents the Association both in and out-of-court proceedings.
  - ii. The Chairman chairs all General Assemblies. S/he deals personally with all substantial matters relevant to the promotion and reinforcement of the aims of the Association
- b) The Vice-Chairman substitutes the Chairman in his/her absence or when prevented from performing his/her duties. When both are absent, they are substituted by the General Secretary
- c)
  - i. The General Secretary keeps the minutes of the meetings, is responsible for the correspondence, keeps the archives and the stamp of the Association
  - ii. The General Secretary signs - together with the Chairman - every official document of the Association
  - iii. S/he performs Secretarial duties in all Regular and Special General Assemblies
  - iv. S/he keeps the Members' Register

- d)
  - i. The Treasurer is responsible for the Treasury book-keeping, copies of receipts with which s/he receives all income of the Association, donations, bequests, and generally all the books necessary for conducting duty
  - ii. The Treasurer signs all receipts of collections which s/he issues and conducts payments with co-signature of the Chairman
  - iii. S/he is obliged to deposit every amount that s/he receives in the name of the Association in a Bank Account, which will be opened for the purposes of the Association. Any necessary withdrawals from the bank account of the Association can only be effected with the signatures of both the Chairman and the Treasurer
  - iv. The Treasurer is personally responsible for the money in the Treasury, as well as for the general management of withdrawals and deposits of the Association's money
  - v. When for any serious reason the Treasurer is absent or unable to fulfill duties, s/he is temporarily substituted by a member of the Executive council designated by the Treasurer
  - vi. The Treasurer is obliged before the summoning of the Regular General Assembly, to prepare and deliver to the Executive Council the financial account of the year
- e) The duties of the Press and Public relations secretary is the promotion of announcements to the press / mass media, and to be responsible for all matters concerning the public relations of the Association.

#### **Article 13: Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee is consisted of at least two members of the Association or two independent members. It conducts a financial inspection before every annual General Assembly and provides a report to the General Assembly.

#### **Article 14: Resources of the Association**

The resources of the Association consist of the membership fees, the registration of new members, donations and collections from activities (e.g. research projects) and from publications.

**Article 15: Property of the Association in case of its dissolution**

In case of dissolution of the Association its property will be donated for welfare purposes to a School or Department of Studies in Social Sciences, which will be designated by the General Assembly.

**Article 16: Amendment of the Constitution**

The Constitution can only be amended by a decision passed at the General Assembly, which is convened especially for this purpose by a majority of 2/3 of the present members. For the amendment of the aims of the Association the consent of 3/4 of the total number of members is required.

**Article 17: General Orders**

Anything not provided for by this Constitution can be regulated with a decision by a Regular or Extraordinary General Assembly.

**Article 18: Stamp - Emblem of the Association**

The stamp of the Association is round, on which the name and initials of the Association, as well as the year 1996, which was the founding year of the Association are inscribed. This will also be the emblem of the Association

**The Assets of the Association on 14/11/1996 are:**

- A) Immovable property: Nil
- B) Cash: Membership fees
- C) Other movable property: Nil

The President

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Nicos Peristianis

23 January 1997