

WORLD ACADEMY OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS

CONSTITUTION

The founders, embracing the freedom of association stipulated by the Constitution of the Hungarian Republic as natural right, establish an association in compliance with the regulations of the Hungarian Act II. of 1989 on the Right of Association, with the following conditions:

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

1. The name of the Association in Hungarian shall be: Fiatal Tudósok Világakadémiája
2. The name of the Association in English shall be: WAYS, World Academy of Young Scientists
3. The name of the Association in French shall be: Académie Mondiale des Jeunes Scientifiques
4. The name of the Association in short shall be: WAYS (hereunder as WAYS)
5. Seat of the Association: 1145 Budapest, Erzsébet királyné útja 29/a III.em. 1. Hungary
6. The Association's scope shall be international.

II. AIM AND ACTIVITY OF WAYS

1. WAYS aims to:
 - a) improve communication and international co-operation amongst young scientists;
 - b) promote ethnic, cultural and gender equality and diversity amongst young scientists;
 - c) encourage global, ethical and social awareness among young scientists;
 - d) provide a voice for young scientists and increase participation in policy and decision-making on national and international levels;
 - e) encourage interdisciplinary approaches to science in response to the needs of society;
 - f) promote education in science to increase the understanding of science by the general public;
 - g) facilitate the access to careers in science for young scientists and encourage international mobility;
 - h) facilitate the emergence and sharing of scientific knowledge to reduce the gap between developed and less developed countries;
 - i) promote excellence in science.

2. Objectives of WAYS

Further to its aims WAYS will strive to:

- a) participate in the work of decision-making bodies in science;
- b) establish contacts with other organisations working in science or science policy;
- c) create a mentorship system to provide efficient science education and career planning for young scientists;
- d) establish a prize as an acknowledgement for young researchers;
- e) organise conferences and courses in science and science policy, represent WAYS and support participation of its members on such events;
- f) regularly publish information about WAYS and related activities for its members and the public;
- g) create and maintain infrastructure relevant to its aims and to provide access for its members;
- h) seek and provide resources to support the activities of its members in accordance with the aims of WAYS;
- i) co-ordinate the activities of its members in as much as those relate to the objectives of WAYS;
- j) co-operate with governmental and civil organs that support the activity of WAYS.

3. WAYS shall not pursue any party-political, ideological, or religious activities, and is independent of all political parties or religious movements.

4. WAYS will act in democratic and transparent manner collecting and representing opinions and interests of all members

III. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership types in WAYS shall include full, supporting, honorary, institutional and senior members.

2. WAYS shall maintain a database about its members. WAYS is responsible to keep the privacy of the data. Members of WAYS have access to the database. Only data explicitly released for publication by the member may be accessed.

3.1. Full members shall fulfil the following criteria:

- aged between 15 and 40 years;
- studying, teaching or practising science at an early stage of their careers;
- accept the aims of the Association and the regulations of the present Constitution, consider them binding for themselves;
- undertake payment of membership fees.

Full membership can be obtained by application for admission in writing.

3.2. Supporting members of WAYS shall fulfil the following criteria:

- persons or organisations who/that support the activity of WAYS;
- give financial contribution to achieve the aims and objectives of WAYS.

Supporting membership is offered by the Board, and accepted in writing by the candidate.

3.3. Honorary members of WAYS shall fulfil the following criterion:

- persons or organisations who/that support the activity of WAYS.

Honorary membership is offered by the Board, and accepted in writing by the candidate.

3.4. Institutional members of WAYS shall fulfil the following criteria:

- legal entities or organisations not having a legal status that operate according to democratic principles;
- are autonomous and independent in their decision-making;
- consider the regulations of the present Constitution to be binding for themselves;
- support the aims of WAYS;
- undertake to pay association membership fees.

Candidates for institutional membership express their intention to join the Association in the declaration of affiliation signed by their legal representative. Their request for admission is accepted by the Board on the basis of the declaration in accordance with the regulations of the present Constitution.

3.5. Senior members of WAYS shall fulfil the following criterion:

- members exceeding the age limit for full members;
- express their wish to keep their membership in writing.
- undertake payment of membership fees.

4. The membership in WAYS shall be voluntary.

5. Membership in WAYS starts with submitting the request for admission to the Board.

6. Membership application of legal entities and organisations not having a legal status shall be considered by the Board based on their statement of admission. Legal persons and organisations requesting admission may give a notice of appeal in writing within 30 days from the receipt of an eventual rejection of the request, which will be discussed during the next Steering Committee Meeting. Decisions, either admmissive or rejective, are to be submitted to the General Assembly, which is to take a positive or negative final decision.

7. The membership is terminated:

- a) upon written withdrawal by the member;
- b) in case of decease of the person or dissolution of the organisation without legal successor;

- c) by expulsion;
- d) upon dissolution of WAYS.

8. A member may be expelled if

- their behaviour is derogatory to the Constitution of WAYS;
- they fail to pay their dues for 12 months.

Expulsion of a member will be decided by the Board. The expelled member may appeal to the Steering Committee in writing within 30 days from the receipt of the expulsion. The decision will be taken at the next Steering Committee Meeting. If the decision is derogatory to the regulations of the present Constitution, the member may contest it in court within 30 days from the receipt of the decision. Contest of the decision is not suspensory with regard to its execution, but the court may suspend execution, if justified.

9. Any member of WAYS is free to withdraw his/her membership at any time. Withdrawals should be presented in writing to the president of WAYS. The cessation of the membership becomes effective upon arrival of the statement to the president of the Association. It does not affect accountability of the member or any other type of commitment towards the Association.

10. Members' rights

10.1. Full members of WAYS participate in the decision-making of the Association by their elected representatives.

10.2. Institutional members of WAYS participate in the decision-making of the Association by their delegated representatives.

10.3. All members of WAYS

- a) may submit a query in writing directly to any of the organs of WAYS and to the elected officers, who are bound to provide an answer within 30 days, or, in the case of organs, at the next meeting. The answer should be made available to all members upon request of the inquirer.
- b) may participate in the activity of WAYS.
- c) may turn to any of the organs and officers of WAYS with their remarks and proposals.

10.4. Any full member can be elected officer.

11. Members' obligations

The members of WAYS are obliged to

- a) observe the Constitution of WAYS;
- b) participate in the decision-making and in the achievement of the goals of WAYS;
- c) execute the decisions of WAYS;
- d) safeguard the prestige and properties of WAYS;
- e) pay dues on a regular basis.

IV. ORGANS OF WAYS

Organs of WAYS:

- 1.) General Assembly
- 2.) Steering Committee
- 3.) Board
- 4.) President
- 5.) Audit Committee
- 6.) Scientific Departments
- 7.) Regional Units
- 8.) Secretariat
- 9.) Advisory Panel

1. General Assembly

1.1. The General Assembly shall be the supreme organ of WAYS. It is authorised to make decisions in matters being in the competence of any other organs.

1.2. The following shall be within the exclusive competence of the General Assembly:

- a) adopting and amending the Constitution,
- b) making decision in matters of dissolution, changing of legal status, fusion and de-merger,
- c) approving and amending the budget of WAYS, approving the financial report,
- d) election of the President, members of the Board and the Audit Committee and nomination of the heads of the Scientific Departments,
- e) approval of the working program and report of the Board and the Steering Committee,
- f) establishment of committees,
- g) approving the prior establishment of scientific departments
- h) definition of the amount of dues and order of payment,
- i) delegate and define representation tasks towards other bodies to a person.

1.3. Participants of the General Assembly

1.3.1. Elected representatives of full members and heads of the Scientific Departments have the right of vote. Officers of WAYS, members of the Steering Committee, delegates of the institutional members, guest participants, full members and members of the Advisory Panel may participate.

1.3.2. Full members elect one representative per country every two years. The result of the election is to be communicated to the Board in the form of minutes certifying the numbers of the members present at the vote for each representative. The Secretariat keeps a record of the representatives.

1.3.3. The members from each nation shall convene a national electoral assembly to elect a national representative. If this is not possible, the previous representative shall devise a process, acceptable to the Board to designate a national representative. In the absence of such a process, the President of WAYS shall designate a provisional national representative until an assembly could be convened.

The quorum for the national election shall be a quarter of the full possible votes.

In the case of a failure to reach the quorum, the electoral assembly is to be reconvened within two weeks. It shall be quorate regardless of the number of participants with a simple majority of votes.

If the national electoral process has designated an alternate, this person shall replace the representative in cases described in 1.3.5. This person may also serve as the nation's voting member in place of the representative if necessary.

1.3.4. It is the representative's obligation to inform his/her electors about the views of the organs and officers of WAYS and those about the views of the electors.

1.3.5. The assignment of the representative is terminated upon expiry of the time of delegacy, or upon his/her decease, recall, withdrawal, or if his/her full membership is ceased by demission or expulsion.

1.3.6. The representative may be recalled with the written request of at least half of the electors. Recall of the representative can be initiated by:

- at least one fifth of the electors,
- the General Assembly or
- the Board.

The representative or the electors initiating recall convene a meeting. The decision is to be taken as described in 1.3.3.

1.3.7. The representative is to inform his electors immediately about the termination of his membership.

1.3.8. The representative is free to resign at any time with a 30-day notice, and this intention is to be communicated to the Board and the electors.

1.3.9. Institutional members elect their delegates according to their own Constitution and inform the Board about the delegate 60 day prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.

1.4. The ordinary General Assembly is convened with an agenda once every two years by the President. An extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened on the written initiative of

- one fifth of the full members
- the Steering Committee
- the Board or
- the Audit Committee.

The written initiative shall state the motivation, date and agenda of the extraordinary General Assembly.

If the President fails to convene the General Assembly within 60 days consecutive to the proposal, the Audit Committee is entitled to do so. In the case of an additional delay of 30 days, the requesting organ or members themselves may convene the extraordinary General Assembly.

1.5. The venue of the Assembly is to be communicated to the members and the guest participants at least 2 months prior to the event. The agenda is to be made available 1 month in advance. If the General Assembly is not convened according to the rules, its decisions are valid only if all voting members are present and raise no objections.

1.6. Any voting member may add items to the agenda. The proposal is to be communicated in writing to the other voting members at least three days before the General Assembly. Issues not indicated in the call or not communicated later to the voting members can be discussed only if the participants of the Assembly include them in the agenda with a majority vote.

1.7. The quorum for the General Assembly is a simple majority of the possible full votes. In the case of a failure to reach the quorum, the General Assembly shall be reconvened within 30 days. The second Assembly will have a quorum regardless of the number of participants being present, which fact is to be announced to the voting members in the original call.

1.8. All voting members of the General Assembly have exactly one vote. Delegation of the voting right is not allowed.

1.9. The session chair and the keeper of the minutes are designated by the Assembly.

1.10. Unless defined differently by the Constitution, decisions of the General Assembly are taken by simple majority of the voting members present.

Amendments to the constitution and structural changes as described section 1.2. a) and b) must fulfil the qualified majority of two-thirds.

Only valid votes ("YES", "NO") are considered for the majority, except when the number of invalid votes outnumbers the valid votes, in which case the Assembly has to decide on the voting mode first.

In case of equality of votes, the vote of the president of the Assembly is determinate.

1.11. The Assembly decides through open vote, unless at least one third of the voting members request a record vote or balloting.

Officers are elected by anonymous balloting.

Sessions of the General Assembly are open but the public may be partially or completely excluded from the meeting on request of the majority of members.

1.12. Minutes are to be kept on the Assembly. They contain all essential points of the meeting and decisions, as well as minority positions. The minutes are to be made available to all WAYS members within one month.

1.13. Before opening the Assembly, mandates and authorisations to vote must be validated by the Board.

2. Steering Committee

2.1. The Steering Committee is the representative and decision-making body of WAYS between two General Assemblies. It steers WAYS based on the decisions of the Assembly and supervises the Board.

2.2. Members of the Steering Committee are elected according to the following regional distribution:

- Europe and North America (3 members)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (2 members)
- Africa (2 members)
- Asia (3 members)
- Arab States (2 members)
- Australia and Oceania (1 members)

The regional representatives of the Steering Committee are elected by the country representatives. This election should take into account the different age groups/education backgrounds of the members of WAYS.

Further member of the Steering Committee shall be one representative elected by the heads of the Scientific Departments from among their members.

Alternate members shall be designated at the same time.

2.3. Members of the Steering Committee are elected for two years.

2.4. The Steering Committee elects a chair among its members.

2.5. Members of the Board have a right of debate at the sessions of the Steering Committee.

2.6. Steering Committee members have one vote. In case of equality of votes, the vote of the chair of the Committee is decisive.

2.7. The Steering Committee is convened by the chair whenever necessary, but at least once a year.

2.8. Regulations of the Steering Committee are set up by the members of the Steering Committee in the absence of which regulations relating to the activity of the Assembly are normative.

2.9 Minutes are to be kept of the Committee Meeting. They contain all essential points of the meeting and decisions, as well as minority positions. The minutes are to be made available to all WAYS members within one month.

3. Board

3.1. The Board is the executive organ of WAYS. Its tasks include:

- a) continuous representation of WAYS,
- b) preparation of meetings of the General Assembly and the Steering Committee,
- c) providing an account to the General Assembly and the Steering Committee on their work,
- d) preparing proposals for the budget, accounts and operative program,
- e) requesting accounts of the work of the President, the Secretariat and the heads of the Scientific Departments.
- f) to establish a continuous and systematic monitoring and evaluation of WAYS activities and programs
- g) the board has the right to appoint ad-hoc committees to assist it in defining, establishing and running the programs

3.2. The Board has nine members, not including the President of the Board. The nine Board members and the President are elected by the General Assembly every two years.

3.3. The General Assembly defines tasks of the Board members before the elections.

3.3. The Board may be convened by the President at any time, but at least once a year. The Board members can express their opinions and vote through any communication medium at a distance. Votes must be received within a time-span of two weeks.

3.4. Regulations of the Board are set up by the members of the Board in the absence of which regulations relating to the activity of the Assembly are normative.

4. President

4.1. The president of WAYS:

- a) represents WAYS independently in court, at the authorities and towards third parties. Representation functions can be delegated to any member of the board.
- b) is responsible for the lawfulness of WAYS activities and for the observation of the Constitution.
- c) is responsible for the proper functioning of the elected organs and officers of WAYS,
- d) is responsible for the realisation of the aims and objectives of WAYS;
- e) directs the activity of WAYS between two board meetings according to the approved operating program. He has the right to decide in all issues that are not in the exclusive direct competence of the Steering Committee or General Assembly;
- f) represents WAYS towards national, international, governmental, social and scientific establishments, unless a direct responsible is appointed;
- g) co-ordinates the activities communicating science to the general public;
- h) convenes and chairs board meetings;
- i) can be replaced by one of the Board members during his absence

4.2. The President and the members of the Board have the right to manage the bank account of WAYS. Any particular financial transaction requires a Board decision and the authorisation of:

- a) the President and one Board member;
- b) in the absence of the president, two Board members

4.3. Expenses of the routine operation of the Secretariat are to be authorised by the President once a year within the limits of the budget

5. Audit Committee

5.1. The Audit Committee supervises the proper legal and financial functioning of WAYS.

5.2. The Audit Committee:

- a) supervises and controls the proper legal and financial functioning of WAYS. If any violation is suspected, the Committee may initiate an examination and present the findings to the Board, Steering Committee, General Assembly and, in the case of legal action, the Court;
- b) initiates the extraordinary convention of the Board, the Steering Committee and the General Assembly, specifying the aims and motivations;
- c) reports to the General Assembly on the result of the examination of the annual report, the statement of assets and liabilities and the documents of WAYS;
- d) requests information from any members of WAYS, may consult all documents and requests reports from experts;
- e) convenes whenever necessary, but at least once a year.

5.3. The Audit Committee consists of three members. They are elected by the General Assembly for two years. The chair of the Audit Committee is designated by the members of the Audit Committee.

5.4 Regulations of the Audit Committee are set up by the members of the Audit Committee, in the absence of which regulations relating to the activity of the Assembly are normative.

5.5 Minutes are to be kept of the Audit Committee Meeting. They contain all essential points of the meeting and decisions, as well as minority positions. The minutes are to be made available to all WAYS members within one month.

6. Scientific Departments

6.1. The members of WAYS may establish scientific departments in different fields (such as: natural, technical medical, agricultural, social and human). Established Departments may become active immediately after the approval of the Steering Committee, but shall be approved by the next General Assembly.

6.2. Members of the Scientific Departments are members of WAYS.

6.3. The Scientific Department elects a head among its members for two years.

6.4. The Scientific Departments:

- a) co-ordinate and support the scientific activities of its members;
- b) establish networks of young researchers, organise social and scientific events.

6.5. Regulations of the Scientific Departments are set up by the members, in the absence of which regulations relating to the activity of the Assembly are normative.

7. Regional Units

7.1. The members of WAYS may establish Regional Units in different regions. Established Regional Units may become active immediately after the approval of the Steering Committee, but shall be approved by the next General Assembly.

7.2. Members of the Regional Units should be members of WAYS.

7.3. The Regional Units elects a head among its members for two years.

7.4. The Regional Units:

- a) co-ordinate and support the scientific activities of its members;
- b) establish networks of young researchers, organise social and scientific events.

7.5. Regulations of the Regional Units are set up by the members, in the absence of which regulations relating to the activity of the Assembly are normative.

8. Secretariat

8.1. Organisation, management and administration of WAYS are executed by the Secretariat. Members and the head of the Secretariat are appointed and employed by the Board.

8.2. The work of the Secretariat is co-ordinated by the head of the Secretariat.

8.3. Regulations of the Secretariat are approved by the head of the Secretariat and the Board.

8.4. The main tasks of the Secretariat include:

- a) to ensure the continuous functioning of WAYS;
- b) to support the operation of the Board;
- c) to co-ordinate between members and committees.

9. Advisory Panel

9.1. Based on the proposal of the Board, WAYS may establish an Advisory Panel which provides assistance and advice.

9.2. Positions of the Advisory Panel are not authoritative to any of the members or organs of WAYS.

V. OFFICERS OF WAYS

1. Officers of WAYS are:
 - the President,
 - the members of the Board;
 - the members of the Steering Committee;
 - the members of the Audit Committee;
 - the heads of the Scientific Departments.
2. Audit Committee membership is exclusionary with Steering Committee and Board membership or Scientific Department leadership.
3. Board membership is exclusionary with Steering Committee membership.
4. These offices are exclusionary with the leadership of any political party.
5. The president, the members of the Board and the Audit Committee are elected by the General Assembly among full members of WAYS. Nominations may be proposed by any full member or delegate.
6. The Board invites the members to make nominations 60 days prior to the General Assembly. Nominations may be received until the presentation of the candidates commences in the General Assembly.
7. The election procedures are defined in a separate set of regulations established by the Assembly as an annex to the Constitution.

VI. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF WAYS

1. The financial management of WAYS is self-dependent, having full responsibility for debts, revenues and properties. The members shall not be held responsible for the liabilities of WAYS with their own property.
2. WAYS may perform economic activities in order to better achieve its aims and objectives. Any such activity is to be decided by the Board and the Steering Committee communicated to the General Assembly. The performance of such activities must not endanger the core financial assets of the Association. The resulting profit cannot be distributed and shall be expended only for purposes and activities according to the budget.
3. WAYS has a two-year budget. The financial activity of WAYS is to be accounted. Accounts are to be closed at the end of each fiscal year (as defined for the purposes of income taxation) by the President, who also presents the financial report to the Board, the Steering Committee and the General Assembly.
4. Financial resources of WAYS:
 - a) membership fees;
 - b) subventions;
 - c) donations,
 - d) grants;
 - e) target supports;
 - f) revenue from economic activities;
 - g) other.
5. The form and extent of payment of dues are defined by the General Assembly upon approval of the budget.

VII. TERMINATION OF WAYS

1. WAYS is terminated
 - a) if dissolved by Court decision;
 - b) if de-merged;
 - c) on the decision of the General Assembly;
2. Distribution of remaining assets of WAYS after settlement of liabilities are decided by the General Assembly.

VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The present Constitution comes into force upon its adoption by the General Assembly. Regulations regarding the election of the country representatives will come into force after the adoption of the present Constitution.
2. Until the first General Assembly of representatives, the main decision-making organ of WAYS is the General Assembly of members. Until the first General Assembly of representatives the Steering Committee members are elected by the members according to the regional distribution in IV.2.2.
3. The first General Assembly of representatives of WAYS is to be convened before December 31, 2004.
4. For issues not regulated by the Constitution, Act IV of 1959 about the Civil Code of the Hungarian Republic, Act II of 1989 on the Right of Association and the valid legal regulations are normative. In all further legal issues the Court according to the seat of the Association shall be held competent.
5. The present constitution is adopted on a provisional basis for 2 years. The steering committee - in a wide consultation - will draft a new constitution to be discussed and adopted at the general assembly 2006 by a simple majority

Marrakech, 13 December, 2004