

Statute

Chapter I

General Provisions

§ 1.

The Association is called "Kaszëbskô Jednota", further in the Statute referred to as the Association.

§ 2.

Association:

1. It operates within relevant provisions of Polish law on associations and this Statute.
2. It has legal status.
3. Is established for an indefinite period.
4. Its headquarters are in Gdynia.
5. Operates within the Republic of Poland.
6. For the proper implementation of its objectives can also operate abroad.
7. May use badges, logo and stamp in accordance with applicable regulations.
8. May cooperate with national, foreign and international organizations and institutions of the same or similar profile and may be a member of these organizations.
9. Its activities are based on the voluntary work of its members and supporters of the Association. To conduct its affairs it may employ workers.

Chapter II

Objectives and types of activities

§ 3.

The aim of the Association is to develop national, civic and cultural consciousness of Kashubians as well as protection of their language and traditions.

§ 4.

The Association pursues goals by:

1. Supporting, promoting and awakening of Kashubian culture, including Kashubian language and assisting people cultivating Kashubian culture and language.
2. Aiming for legal strengthening of the national status of Kashubians.
3. Maintaining cultural and economic relations with Kashubs scattered around the world and maintaining among them emotional ties with their native home.
4. Acting to further the European integration and develop contacts and cooperation between nations.
5. Setting up and running of schools, centres for teacher training and development and other cultural and educational institutions.
6. Promotion of healthy foods, including fish, fish products and regional products.
7. Supporting economic development and entrepreneurship in Kashubia.
8. Supporting and cooperating with government agencies, institutions and organizations that have convergent or similar goals.
9. Getting Kashubs and people with similar objectives to those of the Association to become socially active.
10. Organisation of meetings, demonstrations, lectures, exhibitions, conferences, concerts and other events and activities which spread the knowledge and meet the objectives of the Association.
11. Carry out publishing, training, educational, informational and promotional, as well as cultural, charitable, social and popularizing activities.
12. Other actions meeting the statutory objectives.

Chapter III

Members, their rights and obligations

§ 5.

Members of the Association may be natural persons or legal persons.

§ 6.

Members of the Association are divided into:

1. Ordinary members
2. Supporting members
3. Honorary members

Ordinary Member

§ 7.

1. An ordinary member may be a natural person with full capacity to perform acts in civil law and is not deprived of public rights. A minor under 16 years of age can be a member only with the consent of legal representatives.
2. Admission of new members takes place at the next meeting of the Board by passing a resolution. In the event of refusal to be accepted as a member, the person may, within 31 days of being informed of this fact, submit an appeal via the Board to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall consider the appeal at the time of next meeting, and its decision is final.
3. An ordinary member has the right to:
 - a. actively and passively participate in elections to the Association authorities, excluding members under 16 years of age;
 - b. submit opinions, requests and postulates to authorities of the Association;
 - c. participate with power to vote in the General Assembly;
 - d. participate in activities of the Association.
4. An ordinary member is obliged to:
 - a. participate in General Assemblies;
 - b. comply with provisions of the Statute, regulations and resolutions of the Association;
 - c. care for good name of the Association;
 - d. regular payment of contributions to the Association.

Supporting Member

§ 8.

1. Supporting member may be a natural person or legal person represented by its representative, interested in activities of the Association, accepting its objectives and declares support will be accepted by the Board on the basis of a written declaration. In the event of refusal to be accepted as a member, the person may appeal within 31 days of being informed of this fact. Appeals must be submitted via the Board to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall consider the appeal at the time of next meeting, and its decision is final.
2. A supporting member has the right to:
 - a. submit comments, requests and postulates to authorities of the Association;
 - b. participate in an advisory capacity in the work of the Association and meetings of the Association;
 - c. participate in activities of the Association.
3. The supporting member is obliged to:
 - a. comply with provisions of the Statute, regulations and resolutions of the Association;
 - b. care for good name of the Association.

Honorary Member

§ 9.

1. Honorary member of the Association may be a natural person of particular merit for the implementation of statutory objectives of the Association.
2. Honorary membership is being given by an absolute majority of the Board at the request of at least 5 members of the Association, the Audit Committee or its own. In case of rejection, the requesting persons may, within 31 days of being informed of the fact, submit an appeal via the Board to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall consider the appeal at the time of next meeting, and its decision is final.
3. An honorary member shall have the right to:
 - a. submit comments, requests and postulates to authorities of the Association;
 - b. participate in an advisory capacity in the work of the Association and meetings of the Association;
 - c. participate in activities of the Association.
4. An honorary member is obliged to:

- a. comply with provisions of the Statute, regulations and resolutions of the Association;
 - b. care for good name of the Association.
5. An honorary member does not have a passive or active voting right and is exempt from payment of membership fees.

Membership

§ 10.

1. Membership in the Association ceases by the decision of the Board and as a result of:
 - a. voluntary resignation from membership in the Association, submitted in writing to the Board;
 - b. death or loss of legal personality in case of a supporting member;
 - c. loss of civil rights;
 - d. unjustified non-payment of membership fees;
 - e. failure to comply with provisions of the Statute, regulations and resolutions of the Association or acting to the detriment of the Association.
2. Expelled person has the right to appeal to the General Assembly via the Board within 31 days of the date of removal from the list of members. At the request of the Board, the General Assembly shall consider the appeal at the time of next meeting, and its decision is final.

§ 11.

1. Suspension of membership in the Association shall take effect upon written request submitted to the Board by the person concerned for a period not exceeding one year.
2. During the period of suspension, member shall not exercise the membership rights and is exempt from statutory duties.

Chapter IV

Association Authorities

§ 12.

The governing bodies of the Association are:

1. General Assembly;
2. Program Council;
3. The Board;
4. Audit Committee.

General Assembly

§ 13.

1. General Assembly is the supreme authority of the Association.
2. General Assembly may be:
 - a. ordinary;
 - b. extraordinary.
3. The annual General Assembly is convened by the Board each year as a reporting meeting and every 3 years as a reporting and election meeting by notifying members in writing of its date, place and proposed agenda at least 14 days before the date of General Assembly.
4. The Board shall set a new date for the General Assembly in case of an objection to the proposed date by at least 10 members.
5. General Assembly meeting shall proceed according to the regulations passed by the General Assembly.
6. Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened by:
 - a. The Board on its own initiative;
 - b. The Board at the request of Audit Committee;
 - c. The Board at the written request of at least 5 members.
7. Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened within one month from the date of filing an application or request and will deliberate on matters for which it was convened.

8. Members gathered in local branches may be represented by delegates appointed by branch members. Number of voting delegates from a branch is equal to the number of members in a given branch.
9. General Assembly shall pass decisions by a simple majority of votes in presence of at least half of members holding voting rights.
10. In the absence of a quorum, Chairman of General Assembly shall convene next General Assembly no later than within 30 days. For validity of resolutions adopted at the second meeting the presence of members holding at least half of the votes is not required.
11. General Assembly is chaired by the Chairman of General Assembly elected each time in an open ballot by an absolute majority of present members of the Association.
12. If the Chairman of General Assembly cannot be chosen, his function is performed by the President of the Association or his nominee.
13. In case of an equal division of votes during the voting, casting vote belongs to the Chairman of General Assembly.

§ 14.

The powers of General Assembly are:

1. Determining the direction and program of action of the Association.
2. Adoption of amendments to the Statute.
3. Appointment and dismissal of members of the Board, Audit Committee and Program Council.
4. Review of appeals against the resolutions of the Board and membership appeals.
5. Review and approval of reports submitted by the Board and Audit Committee.
6. Adopting resolution to dissolve the Association and allocation of its assets.
7. Adopt resolutions on other matters placed on the agenda.

Program Council

§ 15.

1. Program Council is an advisory body of the Association.
2. Members of the Program Council may be elected from among members of the Association.
3. Members of the Program Council are elected by General Assembly represented by at least 5 representatives and the Board represented by at least 4 representatives.
4. Programme Council members shall be appointed and dismissed by the President.

5. Program Council shall elect from its members a Chairman of the Program Council and Vice-Chairmen of the Program Council.
6. Time as a member of the Program Council is not limited.

§ 16.

The competences of Program Council include:

1. Supporting ongoing activities of the Association and looking after its reputation.
2. Representing the Association at the request of and to the extent specified by the Board.
3. Giving opinions on the activities of the Association.
4. Participating in an advisory capacity in the meetings of the Board.

The Board

§ 17.

1. The Board consists of 3 to 5 people including the President elected by the General Assembly.
2. Term lasts three years.
3. Member of the Board or the whole Board may be dismissed by a decision of the General Assembly during the term of office in case of not fulfilling its statutory duties, taking actions detrimental to the Association or inconsistent with the Statute of the Association.
4. Member of the Board may resign from his office during the term of office by submitting to the Board a letter containing relevant statement, after fulfilling obligations to the Association.
5. In the event of reduction in the number of members of the Board during the term, the Board has the right to select from among the members of the Association, provided that the number of selected members does not exceed 1/3 of the members elected. In the event of vacancy of more than 1/3 of the number of members elected, the Board convenes a General Assembly in order to hold by-elections.

§ 18.

1. Meetings of the Board shall be convened and conducted by the President or other person authorized by him.
2. Meetings of the Board shall be held as necessary, but not less frequently than once per quarter.

3. Resolutions of the Board shall be passed by open vote by simple majority in the presence of at least half of the members of the Board. In case of an equal division of votes, the casting vote belongs to the President.

§ 19.

The responsibilities of the Board shall be:

1. The implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly, and managing all activities of the Association in accordance with the statutory objectives.
2. Adopting future plans, activities of the Association and drafting of the budget.
3. Managing assets of the Association.
4. Deciding on purchase or sale of immovable and movable property.
5. Deciding on taking on obligations.
6. Convening of the General Assembly.
7. Adopting resolutions regarding accepting and expelling of ordinary and supporting members and confer the honorary membership.
8. Setting up and dissolving local branches.
9. Resolve disputes between members, arising in connection with activities of the Association.
10. Reporting on its activities to the General Assembly.
11. Adopt internal regulations.
12. Representing the Association and acting on its behalf.
13. Determining the amount of membership fees.

§ 20.

1. To accomplish tasks, the Board may open an office and appoint its Director.
2. Director oversees the work of the Office under the regulations, which is subject to approval of the Board.

§ 21.

To perform certain tasks the Board may establish and dissolve permanent and temporary committees and working groups. They may include members of the Association, members of the Board and other persons collaborating with the Association.

The Audit Committee

§ 22.

1. The Audit Committee is the body of the Association appointed to exercise control and supervision of its activities.
2. The Audit Committee consists of 3 to 5 members, including the Chairman of the Committee, elected by the General Assembly.
3. The term of the Audit Committee shall be three years.
4. The Audit Committee does not report to the Board with regards to the performance of internal control or supervision, and the members controlling and supervising:
 - a. cannot be employed by the Association or perform any other functions in the Association or be related, connected, married to members of the Board;
 - b. have not been convicted of an offence of wilful misconduct.

§ 23.

The responsibilities of the Audit Committee include:

1. Controlling overall activities of the Association and the Board.
2. Submitting to the Board conclusions of the checks carried out and demanding an explanation.
3. The right to request the convening of an extraordinary General Assembly.
4. Proposing to the General Assembly to give the Board the vote of acceptance.
5. Reporting on Audit Committee's activities to the General Assembly.

§ 24.

Resolutions of the Audit Committee shall be passed by open vote, by simple majority of votes in the presence of all members.

§ 25.

1. The Audit Committee operates under its own regulations adopted in accordance with this Statute.
2. The Audit Committee members are entitled to participate in the meetings of the Board in an advisory capacity.
3. The Audit Committee has the right to apply to members and to the authorities of the Association at all levels to submit written or oral explanations relating to controlled cases.

Chapter V

Local branches

§ 26.

1. Local branches are units of Association and consist of members of the Association from a particular area.
2. Local branches do not have legal personality.
3. To appoint a local branch by the Board a proposal is required by at least 10 people who are ordinary members.
4. Authorities of a local branch are:
 - a. General Assembly of the branch;
 - b. Branch Board.
5. Local branch can be dissolved in the case of:
 - a. cessation of activities by the local branch or decrease in the number of members below that required for its establishment;
 - b. submission by Branch Board motion to dissolve the local branch;
 - c. undertaking by the Branch Board activity inconsistent with the law, provisions of the Statute or resolutions of the supreme authorities.

§ 27.

1. General Assembly of the branch is the supreme authority of the local branch.
2. General Assembly of the branch may be:
 - a. ordinary;
 - b. extraordinary.
3. The ordinary General Assembly of the branch is convened every 3 years. The Branch Board shall notify about the date of General Assembly no later than 14 days before the date of the meeting. Along with the announcement Branch Board provides agenda of the meeting.
4. Extraordinary General Assembly of the branch is convened at the request of the Branch Board or 1/3 of the total number of members of the branch no later than 30 days from submitting the request. The Branch Board shall notify about the date of the extraordinary General Assembly no later than 14 days before the date of the meeting. Along with the announcement Branch Board provides agenda of the meeting.
5. The powers of the General Assembly of the branch are:

- a. adopting a program of action of the branch;
- b. appointment and dismissal of the President and members of the Branch Board;
- c. review and approval of reports submitted to the branch authorities and to give Branch Board the vote of acceptance.

§ 28.

1. Branch Board directs the activities of the Association in the area of its operation, in accordance with the resolutions of the supreme authority.
2. Branch Board consists of the President and two members elected by the General Assemble of the branch.
3. The powers of Branch Board are:
 - a. implementing the resolutions of the General Assembly of the branch and Association authorities;
 - b. identifying specific tasks for the local branch and carry them out;
 - c. representing the local branch to the outside world;
 - d. convening of the General Assemblies.

Chapter VI

The Association's assets and financial management

§ 29.

The sources of the assets of the Association are:

1. Membership fees.
2. Donations, bequests and falls with the benefit of inventory, funds resulting from private and public generosity.
3. Proceeds from statutory activities of the Association, income from own business, income from the assets of the Association, income from capital (interest, deposits, and stocks).
4. Grants, subsidies, contracts, public funding.

§ 30.

To make declarations of will in all matters, including the property of the Association, contracts and to grant power of attorney on behalf of the Association, documents must be signed by two members of the Board.

§ 31.

The Association may not:

1. To give out loans or use its assets to secure contractual obligations of association members, board members or employees, and persons with who the employees are married or in a relationship or kinship in a straight line, consanguinity or affinity in the collateral line to the second degree, or are associated with the of adoption, guardianship or custody hereinafter referred to as "relatives".
2. Transfer its assets for the benefit of its members, employees or their relatives in a manner other than in relation to third parties, in particular if the transfer is free of charge or on preferential terms.
3. Use the property for the benefit of members, board members or employees and their relatives in a manner other than in relation to third parties, unless it is directly due to the use of for the statutory purpose of the organization or entity as referred to in Art. 3, paragraph 3 of the Act of 24 April 2003. on Public Benefit and Voluntary Activities.
4. Buy goods or services from entities, where members of the Association, board members or employees and their relatives are part of in a manner other than in relation to third parties or at prices higher than the market prices.

Chapter VII

Amendments to the Statutes and the dissolution of the Association

§ 32.

1. Amendments to the Statute by the General Assembly require a qualified majority of two thirds of the votes in presence of members holding at least half of the votes.
2. Adoption of a resolution to dissolve the Association by the General Assembly requires a qualified majority of 3/4 of the votes in presence of members holding at least 2/3 of the votes.
3. Adopting a resolution to dissolve the Association, General Assembly appoints a Liquidation Committee, which will carry out liquidation of the Association. General Assembly also indicates organizations having similar statutory objectives to those of the Association, for which the assets of the Association will go, after fulfilling all the obligations of the Association.

This Statute was adopted on 28 June 2014.

Signatures of the Board of the Association:

Mateusz Meyer –

Adam Hebel –

Natalia Landowska –

Karol Rhode –

Arkadiusz Stanecki –