

KASZĚBSKÔ JEDNOTA

Statute

CHAPTER I GENERAL RULES

1. The association is to be known as the Kaszëbskô Jednota and herein will be called the Association.
2. The activity area of the Association is the whole of the Republic of Poland.
3. For the implementation of statutory objectives the Association may act outside the Republic of Poland, in other countries, respecting their local laws.
4. Head quarters are in the city of Gdynia.
5. The Association has legal personality.
6. The Association creates local branches.
7. The Association may be a member of national and international organizations for purposes which are non-contradictory with the objectives of the Association.
8. The Association's activities are based on the work of its members. To conduct its affairs it can hire employees. The authority in that matter remains with the Board of the Association.
9. The name and symbols of the Association are legally protected.
10. Whenever this Statutes refers to "the authorities of the Association" it means the governing bodies of the Association.
11. Authorities of the Association express their will by the means of resolutions. The resolutions, taken on matters within the scope of their jurisdiction, are binding for lower-level authorities and members of the Association, whom the resolutions relate to.
12. Resolutions of the Association are voted on by simple majority vote with at least half of the members entitled to vote present, unless the provisions of the Statute say otherwise. In the case of a split vote, the deciding vote belongs to the chairman of the meeting. Resolutions are taken by open vote, unless a secret ballot is requested by one third of the members present at the meeting or by the decision of the chairman of the meeting. Resolutions of the Congress of Delegates can be voted on later that day, however, not sooner than 15 minutes after the first vote, which must be made clear in the invitation to the

meeting, regardless of the number of those attending and entitled to vote and by simple majority vote, with the exception of electing the President of the Association, the changes in the Statute and the dissolution of the Association, which shall be made by an absolute majority of votes.

13. The authorities of the Association shall be elected by secret ballot with simple majority of votes in the presence of at least half of the members entitled to vote, with the exception of electing the President of the Association which shall be made by an absolute majority of votes.
14. For supplementary elections refer to paragraphs 11&12.
15. Members of the authorities of the Association may be dismissed by the body which elected or appointment them. The dismissal application can be put forward by at least 1/3 of the statutory members of the body or by its chairman. The dismissal of members of the authorities shall be voted in a secret ballot with an absolute majority of the votes in the presence of at least half of those entitled. The exception is the dismissal of the President of the Association, which shall be done simultaneously with the appointment of a new president by a 2/3 majority vote in the presence of at least half of eligible voters. Dismissing delegate to Congress of Delegates is unacceptable.
16. It is not permissible to simultaneously be a member of the legislative body and inspecting body.
17. The term of office for members of the governing bodies of the Association lasts from the election until the next election.

CHAPTER II

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION AND WAYS OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. Our aim is to develop national, civic and cultural consciousness of Kashubians, protection of their language, traditions, as well as scientific and educational activity for the benefit and development of local communities, national and ethnic minorities using regional language, supporting development in the field of physical culture and sports, protection of natural heritage; promoting European integration; developing contacts and cooperation between communities and in particular:
 - a) resurgence and establishment of the national consciousness of Kashubians,
 - b) revival of Kashubian culture,
 - c) promoting knowledge about Kashubians,
 - d) protecting the ethnic rights of people declaring Kashubian nationality,

- e) shaping and developing active attitude amongst young generation of Kashubians, fostering the creation of governance and a sense of full responsibility for their homeland,
 - f) to care about tourist attractions and at the same time care for the natural environment of Kashubia,
 - g) promotion and protection of human rights, freedoms and civil liberties, and promoting the development of democracy,
 - h) promoting European integration, developing contacts and cooperation between communities,
 - i) maintaining cultural and economic contacts with Kashubians to support their emotional ties with the homeland, regardless of their residence,
 - j) promoting a positive image of Kashubia,
 - k) health promotion and health protection,
 - l) promotion of healthy foods, including fish and fish products and regional produce,
 - m) environmental protection and promotion of environmentally friendly behaviour.
2. The Association pursues its objectives in particular through:
- a) program activity,
 - b) cultural and educational activity,
 - c) scientific activity,
 - d) publishing,
 - e) popularizing activity,
 - f) social and charitable activity,
 - g) running and supporting economic activity,
 - h) working with young people,
 - i) establishment and running of schools, educational centres, teacher training centres and other educational and cultural institutions,
 - j) organization of camps and colonies, and other forms of recreation for children and young people,
 - k) cooperation with organizations whose activities are consistent with the objectives of the Association.

CHAPTER III

MEMBERS, THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Types of members:
 - a) ordinary members,
 - b) supporting members,
 - c) honorary members.Members belong to the structure of their local branch,
2. Citizens of the Polish Republic and foreigners may become members of the Association,.
3. Ordinary member may become a person aged 16 years and over.
4. Minors over the age of 13:
 - a) may be accepted as an ordinary members of the Association with the consent of their parents or legal representatives,
 - b) they posses no active or passive voting rights to choose authorities of the Association.
5. Admission of an ordinary member to the Association occurs after correct completion and signing of the membership declaration. Resolution regarding admittance is made by the Board within a month from submission.
6. A supporting member of the Association may become an individual or legal person who contributes to the development of the Association and recognizes the objectives contained in the Statute. Supporting members may declare payment of the membership fees or support the activities of the Association in other form. Resolution to grant supportive membership is made by the Board.
7. Title of an honorary member of the Association is given by the Congress of Delegates to an individual in recognition of outstanding achievements consistent with the objectives of the Association.
8. Ordinary members have right to:
 - a) participate in the activities of the Association,
 - b) submit postulates to the Association authorities,
 - c) passively and actively choose the Association authorities.
9. Ordinary members have responsibility to:
 - a) comply with the provisions of the Statute, regulations and adhere to the resolutions of the Association,
 - b) actively participate in the work of Association,

- c) participate in the work of member's local branch,
 - d) regularly pay membership fees,
 - e) worthily represent the Association conducting social activities,
 - f) worthily and honestly perform duties assigned to the filled position,
 - g) care for the good name of the Association.
10. If persons submitting proposal to set up a local branch (founding members), are not members at the time of submission, they are becoming members on the date of validation of the resolution approving establishment of the local branch and after having completed and signed the declaration of membership.
 11. Supporting and honorary members are entitled to participation in the proceedings of the General Assembly in an advisory capacity and, with the exception of passive and active voting rights, possess rights of ordinary members.
 12. Supporting members have responsibilities specified in the section 9 with the exception of paragraph "f".
 13. Honorary members have responsibilities specified in the section 9 with the exception of paying membership fees.
 14. Members may not belong to an organization with the objectives contrary to the objectives of the Association.
 15. Membership in the Association shall cease in case of:
 - a) voluntary resignation submitted in writing to the Board,
 - b) exclusion from the Association by a resolution of the Board,
 - c) removal from the register of members,
 - d) member's death.
 16. The Board removes from the register of members in the event of a non-payment of membership fees for the period of two years.
 17. Suspension of membership occurs when:
 - a) submitted in writing by the very person to the Board of the Association for a period not exceeding one year,
 - b) by the decision of the Board.
 18. During suspension period the member does not exercise membership rights, and is exempted from paying membership fee and participating in the work of the Association.
 19. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Statute and regulations, failure to comply with resolutions of the Association, acting in a manner inconsistent with the objectives of the Association and in the event of disgraceful allegations made against a member, the member may be punished by the Board.

20. Types of penalties the Board may impose on members:

- a) warning,
- b) reprimand,
- c) removal from his/her position,
- d) suspension of membership rights for a period of 12 months,
- e) exclusion from the Association.

Suspension of membership rights results in being excluded from the governing bodies of the Association.

21. A person sentenced by the Board has the right to appeal to the Congress of Delegates within 30 days from the date of the appropriate resolution. Resolution of the Congress of Delegates on the matter is final.

22. The Board, with regard to chairmen of the local branches, where appropriate, by a resolution passed by an absolute majority, may:

- a) suspend the implementation of the resolutions and propose a motion to the Audit Committee,
- b) dismiss the chairman, order new elections, set the Commissioner in his place until new elections in the next 6 months.

CHAPTER IV

ASSOCIATION AUTHORITIES

1. The bodies of the Association are:

- a) Congress of Delegates,
- b) Programme Council,
- c) The Board,
- d) The President of the Association,
- e) The Audit Committee.

2. Term of office for the bodies shall be three years.

3. Congress of Delegates becomes the body of the Association after creation of at least 8 local branches. Until then its powers performs the General Assembly. Whenever this Statute refers to the Congress of Delegates, it shall also mean the General Assembly.

4. Congress of Delegates shall be convened in ordinary or extraordinary mode.

5. Congress of Delegates in ordinary mode is convened by the Board at least a month before the scheduled date. Congress of Delegates convened in the ordinary mode is held at least one every year.
6. Congress of Delegates in extraordinary mode is convened by the Board to discuss specific issues contained in the motion to convene the Congress of Delegates. The initiative to convene the Congress of Delegates in the extraordinary mode can come from the Board or the Audit Committee.
7. The Board convenes the extraordinary Congress of Delegates in special circumstances:
 - a) election of the President of the Association,
 - b) to complete the Audit Committee by at least 2/3 of composition.
8. Delegates to the Congress are seconded by the individual branches of the Association in the proportion fixed by the Board. Members of the Association referred to in points 1b and 1c are delegates to the Congress of Delegates from office. The term of office for delegates is 3 years.
9. Delegates to the Congress of Delegates convened in the extraordinary mode are the delegates seconded to the last Congress of Delegates convened in a ordinary mode, and the members of the Association referred to in points. 1b, c, d and e.
10. Information about the Congress of Delegates the Board sends to the delegates at least four weeks before the date of the Congress of Delegates. If Congress of Delegates is convened in the extraordinary mode, information should be sent at least two weeks before the scheduled Congress of Delegates.
11. Programme Council, consisting of five to ten people is chosen by the Congress of Delegates; each time the resolution of Programme Council determines the number of members of a given term.
12. Chairman of the Programme Council shall be elected from among the members of the Programme Council.
13. Administrative support for the Programme Council shall be provided the Board of the Association.
14. Programme Council shall meet between assemblies of the Congress of Delegates.
15. Program Council prepares projects of the Association and supervises their current implementation.
16. Congress of Delegates:
 - a) draws up the Statute of the Association,
 - b) draws up regulations of the Programme Council, the Board and the Audit Committee of the Association,

- c) prepares, at the request of the Program Council, the program and course of action of the Association,
- d) elects and dismisses the Programme Council of the Association,
- e) from its members elects and dismisses the President of the Association,
- f) elects and delegates 3 of its members to the Audit Committee, and upon request of the President of the Association, elects 4-5 people to the Board, including one to two Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer,
- g) draws up its own rules of procedure,
- h) examines report of the Board and the Audit Committee at the end of the office term and grants the Board a discharge right upon the request of the Audit Committee,
- i) decides on appeals against the resolutions of the Board,
- j) shall decide on the termination or conversion of the Association,
- k) considers matters and adopts resolutions on matters submitted by the Association's authorities and by the delegates of the Association,
- l) shall set the budget and approve report on its implementation.

17. President of the Association:

- a) directs the Association, in the period between meetings of the Board,
- b) represents the Association,
- c) convenes meetings of the Board, proposes the agenda and direct its work,
- d) authorizes other members of the Board to represent the Association in the specified range,
- e) presents to the Congress of Delegates the term report of the Board.

18. The Board consists of:

- a) President of the Association,
- b) one to two Vice Presidents of the Association, appointed at the request of the President of the Association by the Congress of Delegates from among its members by the absolute majority of votes,
- c) Secretary and Treasurer, appointed at the request of the President of the Association by the Congress of Delegates by the absolute majority of votes,
- d) Board comprises a total of no more than 5 people.

19. Board meetings shall be convened by the President of the Association at least once every two months or at the request of at least 1/3 of Board's members.

20. In particular the Board:

- a) ensures the implementation of resolutions of the Congress of Delegates,
 - b) takes a stand on matters of interest to the Association,
 - c) convenes the Congress of Delegates,
 - d) appoints representatives or teams to perform specific tasks,
 - e) coordinates the ongoing activities of the Association,
 - f) approves the term report prepared by the President of the Association,
 - g) prepares the regulations of the Board, with particular emphasis on the tasks of the Association's Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer,
 - h) accepts and cancels members from the Association's register,
 - i) establishes and dissolves local branches.
21. The Audit Committee is the controlling authority of the Association.
22. The Audit Committee shall consist of three members. The Committee amongst itself selects the President, his deputy and the Secretary.
23. Audit Committee:
- a) at least once a year carries out the overall control of the Association's activities, with particular emphasis on the financial activities, and submits inspection reports to the Board,
 - b) submits the post-control proposals to the Board,
 - c) informs the Board in the event of violation of the Statute,
 - d) at the Congress of Delegates submits proposals to grant discharge to the retiring Board,
 - e) supervises the activities of the Board, as well as the local branches on its own initiative or at the request of the Board or the Programme Board,
 - f) submits to the Board a request to convene the Congress of Delegates in extraordinary mode.
24. Audit Committee meetings are held at least once a year, and its members have access to all of the documents of the Association.
25. The detailed working procedures of the Audit Committee are determined by the regulations adopted by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board.
26. Members of the Audit Committee:
- a) may not be members of the Board or to be blood-related, subordinate or in employment to the Board members,
 - b) cannot be convicted as a result of an intentional misconduct,
 - c) carry out their social functions and do not receive in connection with it any payment or reimbursement.

27. It is forbidden:

- a) securing loans or financial commitments using assets of the Association in relation to its members, board members or employees, and persons with whom the employees are married or in a relationship by blood or affinity in a straight line,
- b) to transfer the assets of the Association to its members, Board members or employees and 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,
- c) to use the assets of the Association for the benefit of the members, the employees or their relatives, in a manner other than in relation to third parties, unless this use results directly from the statutory aim of the Association,
- d) to purchase goods or services on special terms from entities to which members of the Association, members of its bodies or employees and their relatives are connected to.

CHAPTER V LOCAL BRANCHES

1. Local Branches are the basic organizational unit of the Association, which consist of a minimum of 5 members. Acceptable is membership in only one branch. Every town or district of the city may have just one local branch.
2. Member of the Association may apply for a transfer to another branch of their choice. The decision about the transfer is made by the Board. The Board shall immediately forward relative information to the chairman of the appropriate branch, which the member leaves.
3. The Board accepts or refuses to appoint a local branch within one month of the request. In case of refusal, the applicant can appeal to the Congress of Delegates, whose decision is final.
4. A request for the appointment of the branch may come from a persons who at the time of submission are not members of the Association (founding members), which is reflected in the provisions of Chapter III, point 10 of this Statute.
5. Any member of the Association may submit the application of the dissolution of a branch. Branch can only be dissolved in such a case, when members of the branch conduct activity in flagrant breach of the statute, the resolution of the Association or discontinue statutory activity.

6. Within the scope of a branch competence is to act for the Association in all matters of interest to the Association in the geographical area of the branch, and which are not reserved to other bodies of the Association.
7. Gathering of members of the branch may pass resolutions at the meeting if at least 3/5 of members of the branch are present. Resolutions on personal matters may be taken in the presence of at least half of those entitled to vote.
8. A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the branch, together with the resolutions taken, the chairman shall pass to the Board within one month from the date of the meeting.
9. The authorities of the branch are:
 - a) the gathering of members of the branch,
 - b) the Chairman, elected by the gathering of members of the branch by an absolute majority.
10. The competences of the gathering of members of the branch are:
 - a) to elect the Chairman of the branch,
 - b) to elect delegates to the Congress of Delegates,
 - c) making decisions and resolutions on matters of interest to Association within the geographical area of the branch, not reserved by statute to the exclusive jurisdiction of other statutory bodies of the Association,
 - d) approving branch's program of action,
 - e) evaluating the activities of the branch,
 - f) any other competences under this Statute.
11. Gathering of members of the branch, which has not selected delegates to the Congress of Delegates, within the period specified by the Board of the Association may, with the consent of the Board, select delegates after this date.
12. The competences of the chairman of the branch:
 - a) to convene gathering of members on his/her own initiative, not less frequently than once every 3 months or at the written request of at least 1/3 members of the branch within 14 days from the date of this request; proposing agenda and managing branch's work,
 - b) representation of the branch,
 - c) other competences under this Statute.

CHAPTER VI

ASSETS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. Assets of the Association are the properties, movable assets and other property rights and intangible assets.
2. The sources of wealth creation of the Association are:
 - a) membership fees,
 - b) income from property,
 - c) gifts and grants,
 - d) bequests,
 - e) income from public activity,
 - f) income from business activity.
3. For the validity of declaration of intent, as well as any correspondence concerning the rights and obligations of the Association two signatures of members of the Board are required.
4. For the validity of other papers and documents signature of the President of the Association is required and on matters relating to the branch – signature of the branch Chairman.
5. Membership fees shall be set by the Congress of Delegates. They should be paid by the end of the first quarter of each year. The newly admitted members pay fees according to the rules set by the Board within 2 weeks of receiving the certificate of acceptance as a member.
6. By 30th of June 10% of the amount derived from membership fees shall be paid into the Association's account.
7. The Association may engage in business activity on the general principles set out in separate regulations. Income from business activities of the Association serves the statutory purposes and may not be distributed among its members.
8. Association's financial year is the calendar year.
9. Principles of financial management of the Association are being established by the Board.

CHAPTER VII
AMENDMENT TO THE STATUTE, DISSOLUTION AND
LIQUIDATION OF ASSOCIATION

1. A request to amend the Statute or dissolution of the Association may be made by:
 - a) Audit Committee,
 - b) The Board,

- c) Programme Council,
 - d) a group of at least 2/5 members of the General Assembly of the Association or of the delegates to the Congress of Delegates.
2. The Statute and its amendments, and dissolution of the Association shall be adopted by the Congress of Delegates by a 2/3 majority vote in the presence of at least 1 / 2 delegates.
 3. If the resolution to dissolve the Association is passed, the Congress of Delegates shall appoint a liquidation committee, which will conduct the liquidation in accordance with the established guidelines. Congress of Delegates may indicate the organization or institution to whom the assets of the Association pass following liquidation.

The above Statute had been accepted on the 4th of June 2011.

Signatures of the Founding Committee :

Artur Jabłoński –

Natalia Landowska –

Karol Rhode –