

STATUTE OF THE POLISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
AS AMENDED AT THE PTS ASSEMBLY HELD ON JUNE 9, 2018.

CHAPTER I
General provisions

§1

The Association shall be called in English the Polish Sociological Association, abbreviated as PTS.

§2

The Polish Sociological Association operates on the territory of the Republic of Poland and the seat of its authorities is the city of Warsaw.

§3

The PTS is a registered association operating under the provisions of the Association Act and the Public Benefit and Volunteer Work Act, which has legal personality.

§4

The PTS relies on the voluntary work of all its members.

§5

The PTS may establish branches.

§6

The PTS can be a member of Polish and international scientific associations.

§7

The PTS uses a round seal with an inscription on the rim: "Polskie Towarzystwo Socjologiczne^[u1]".

§8

In all matters related to the activity of the PTS that have not been settled by the provisions of this Statute, the final decisions rest with the designated PTS authorities, who will make them based on current practice, rules of social coexistence, and the legislation in force.

CHAPTER II
Goals and mode of operation

§9

The aim of the PTS is to act for the benefit of the development of sociology and the popularisation of sociological knowledge among society.

§10

The PTS fulfils its objectives by:

1. Initiating, organising, and conducting scientific research
2. Organising lectures, discussion meetings, conferences, seminars, as well as scientific and popular science courses
3. Fostering the exchange of ideas and organising the exchange of scientific information within the sociological community and between the sociological community and other scientific communities and practitioners of social life
4. Establishing scholarships and awards
5. Disseminating ethical standards of the sociological profession and conduct of scientific research
6. Cooperating with research organizations and non-academic research centres in the formulation and dissemination of ethical and methodological standards in applied social research
7. Initiating, organising, and conducting workshops in the fields of interest of the PTS
8. Participating in public debate and supporting the use of reliable knowledge about society in it, in particular, issuing opinions in public matters which can be solved using sociological knowledge
9. Supporting initiatives that serve the development of civil society with sociological knowledge and competence
10. Initiating, editing, and publishing research publications in the fields of interest of the PTS, in particular, the Polish Sociological Review
11. Organising libraries, research groups, reading rooms, and clubs
12. Cooperating with the Polish Academy of Sciences, universities, and other scientific organizations and associations at home and abroad in the fields of interest of the PTS
13. Being a member of international organizations and associations dealing with the practice and promotion of sociology and participating in their activities
14. Participating in congresses and conferences devoted to the fields of interest of the PTS
15. Establishing a non-mandatory fund for mutual self-help
16. Developing other forms of activity aimed at achieving the statutory objectives of the PTS.

§11

The PTS conducts economic activity in its own Research Department under general principles defined by separate regulations. The income from the economic activity of the Association serves to achieve statutory goals and cannot be distributed among its members.

CHAPTER III Members, their rights and obligations

§12

The members of the PTS are divided into the following:

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

§13

1. The PTS may grant the title of an honorary member to persons of particular merit for the development of sociology and the dissemination of sociological knowledge.
2. A supporting member can be any person, natural or legal, who recognises the statutory goals of the Association and is ready to support the Association financially, organisationally, and intellectually.

§14

Ordinary members belong to branches according to their place of residence or place of work. Members living and working outside the area of existing branches indicate the branch to which they wish to belong.

§15

1. Ordinary and Supporting members are accepted by the Executive Board. The admission decision becomes valid after the membership fee has been paid.
2. The applicant should complete and sign a declaration. The declaration shall be submitted through a branch with territorial jurisdiction (§ 14). The Branch Board gives its opinion on the declaration and sends it to the Executive Board. Applicants for Ordinary Membership who live and work outside the area of existing branches shall send their declarations directly to the Executive Board. Persons, natural or legal, applying for Supporting Membership shall send their declarations directly to the Executive Board.
3. If the applicant was previously an ordinary member of the PTS, the Executive Board, when deciding to readmit them as a member of the Association, shall take into account the circumstances in which the applicant's membership ceased (§ 21).
4. The title of honorary member shall be conferred by a resolution of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates on the motion of the Executive Board.

§16

1. The Executive Board shall notify the applicant of the decision related to PTS membership through the Branch Board responsible for the area (§ 14).
2. The applicant has the right to appeal to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates against the decision of the Executive Board refusing admission as an ordinary or supporting member of the PTS. The written appeal must be sent to the Executive Board within 14 days from the date of receipt of the negative decision. The appeal shall be considered during the next PTS General Assembly of Delegates, whose decision in this case shall be final.

§17

1. An ordinary member of the PTS has the right to:
 - 1) Elect members of the Branch Board, the Branch Audit Committee, and the Boards of Specialised Sections to which they belong, and participate in the election of PTS authorities: the PTS Audit Committee and the Peer Court – by electing delegates to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates
 - 2) Stand for election to the Branch Board, Branch Audit Committee, and the Board of Specialised Section to which they belong, as well as for election as the PTS President, to the Executive Board, PTS Audit Committee, and Peer Court, and as a delegate to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates
 - 3) Participate in lectures, discussion meetings, conferences, seminars, and scientific and popular science courses, Polish and international, organised by the PTS or with the participation of the PTS
 - 4) Use the mutual self-help fund
 - 5) Have access to all reports and minutes of the PTS authorities at the PTS head office
 - 6) Participate in other forms and types of PTS statutory activities.

2. An honorary member can participate in all PTS proceedings and be present and speak at the PTS General Assembly of Delegates and the General Assembly of Members of each branch office; however, they shall be entitled to rights specified in § 17 sec. 1 items 1 and 2 provided that they are, at the same time, ordinary members of the PTS; they shall have the right to vote at the PTS General Assembly of Delegates if, in addition, they are delegates to this Assembly.
3. A supporting member of the PTS has the same rights as an ordinary member, except for those mentioned in § 17 sec. 1 items 1, 2 and 4.

§18

An ordinary member is obliged to:

- 1) Respect the provisions of this Statute, as well as other regulations and resolutions of the PTS; and regular payment of membership fees
- 2) Participate in the realisation of the statutory objectives of the PTS
- 3) Respect the norms of social coexistence and professional ethics of sociologists.

§19

- (1) All elected functions in PTS authorities are held in an honorary capacity.
- 2) If a conflict of interest arises between an elected function in the PTS and any other commitment, obligation, or function, the member holding the position in the PTS or standing for election to it shall be responsible for preventing the said conflict by resigning from one of the conflicting functions. If there is any doubt as to whether such conflict exists, the PTS member should leave this matter for the Peer Court to resolve.

§20

An ordinary member who anticipates that they will not be able to participate in the work of the PTS for the duration of at least one year can apply to the Executive Board for suspension of their membership rights (§17) and obligations (§18) for a specified period. After this time, the suspension shall cease, unless the ordinary member requests to extend the suspension for a further specified period. The Executive Board shall pass a resolution to this effect, which shall be final.

§21

1. Ordinary and Supporting Membership shall cease as a result of:
 - 1) Voluntary withdrawal from the PTS submitted in writing to the Executive Board directly or through the Branch Board
 - 2) Exclusion from membership in the PTS by the Executive Board due to an unjustified default in payment of membership fees for the period of 1 year despite written notice
 - 3) Exclusion from the PTS by a Peer Court ruling for acting to the detriment of the PTS, for committing an unethical act violating the good name of the PTS, or in relation to a final and binding court sentence on the additional penalty of loss of public rights.
2. Any member of the Association can apply for exclusion from the PTS.
 - 1) A written request is submitted to the Executive Board, which, within a month, after examining whether arguments justifying the request have been presented, adopts a resolution on referring the request to the Peer Court
 - 2) The Peer Court shall issue a ruling on the matter
 - 3) A person excluded from the PTS may appeal against the Peer Court's ruling to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates. A written appeal should be sent to the Executive Board within one month of receiving the ruling on exclusion
 - 4) The appeal shall be considered during the next PTS General Assembly of Delegates, whose decision in this case shall be final
 - 5) In the period between the Peer Court's ruling on exclusion from the PTS and a resolution of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates deciding on the appeal against the ruling, the membership rights of the appellant shall be suspended.
3. The Executive Board may reinstate the membership of an excluded person if they pay the overdue membership fees, provided that the arrears in payment do not exceed a three-year amount.
4. The PTS General Assembly of Delegates can deprive an honorary member of their title for the reasons described in § 21 sec. 1 item 3 on the motion of the Peer Court.

CHAPTER IV PTS Authorities

§22

1. The PTS authorities include:

- 1) PTS General Assembly of Delegates
 - 2) Executive Board
 - 3) PTS Audit Committee
 - 4) Peer Court
 - 5) General Assemblies of Branch Members
 - 6) Branch Boards and Branch Audit Committees.
2. Each collegial PTS governing body may co-opt a member to replace a person who vacated the position during the term of office. The extent of accepting new members of the Association's authorities (Board, Audit Committee, Peer Court) by co-option must be limited to a half of the elected members. The term of office of the person co-opted expires at the end of the term of office of the person whose place they took. The co-option shall be subject to approval by the next General Assembly appointing the body in question.
 3. Decisions of the governing bodies of the PTS are made in the form of resolutions adopted by a simple majority of votes in the presence of at least half of the members of a given body, unless the Statute says otherwise. In case of a tie, the chairperson of the meeting shall have the casting vote.
 4. If a reasonable need arises to decide urgently on a matter, the voting procedure on resolutions of PTS authorities may also be conducted electronically. In this mode, decisions shall be made by a simple majority of votes, provided that the chairperson of the body ordering the vote receives confirmation of receipt of the electronic call to vote from all members of the body in question, and at least half of them send their votes (for, against, or abstaining) within the designated time limit. The vote should be preceded by a discussion in which each member of the body has the opportunity to express their opinion on the proposition. The possibility of electronic voting does not apply to PTS General Assemblies of Delegates and General Assemblies of Branch Members.

CHAPTER V

PTS General Assembly of Delegates

§23

1. The PTS General Assembly of Delegates is the highest authority of the Association and makes final decisions on all matters related to the activities of the PTS that stem from the realisation of its statutory goals.
2. The General Assembly of Delegates can be ordinary or extraordinary.

§24

3. The Ordinary PTS General Assembly of Delegates is convened by the Executive Board once a year during the first half-year.

§25

1. The Extraordinary PTS General Assembly of Delegates shall be convened by the Executive Board either on its own initiative or upon a written request of

the PTS Audit Committee, the Boards of at least three Branches, or 1/3 of ordinary members of the PTS.

2. The request to convene an Extraordinary PTS General Assembly of Delegates must include proposals for the agenda. If these proposals are not contradictory to the PTS Statute, the Executive Board shall be obliged to consider them; however, it may supplement the agenda with additional topics.
3. The Extraordinary PTS General Assembly of Delegates shall be convened by the Executive Board within two months of the date of submission of the request and shall discuss the issues on the proposed agenda.

§26

1. The PTS General Assembly of Delegates consists of delegates elected at General Assemblies of Branch Members and members of the Executive Board.
2. Honorary members participate in the PTS General Assembly of Delegates on the principles defined in §17 sec. 3.
3. Members of the PTS Audit Committee and members or alternate members of the Peer Court shall participate in the PTS General Assembly of Delegates; however, they shall not vote unless they are simultaneously delegates.
4. Any PTS member, other than those listed in § 26 sections 1–3, can be present at the PTS General Assembly of Delegates and speak in the discussion; however, they may only submit motions through any of the delegates to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates and shall not participate in voting.
5. If necessary, the Executive Board may invite to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates persons to whom the chairperson of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates will give the floor on relevant topics from the agenda.

§27

1. The principles of electing delegates to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates shall be determined by the Executive Board, specifying the number of branch delegates proportionally to the number of branch members.
2. The General Assembly of Branch Members may elect alternate delegates and rank them in the order in which they assume the rights and duties of branch delegates who could not attend the PTS General Assembly of Delegates.

§28

1. The Executive Board shall notify the Branch Boards, the PTS Audit Committee, and the Peer Court in writing or electronically at least six weeks before the date of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates of the date, place, and agenda of the General Assembly of Delegates and the number of delegates per branch.

2. The Branch Board shall send a list of elected delegates and alternate delegates to the Executive Board at least two weeks before the date of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates.

§29

1. The PTS General Assembly of Delegates shall be opened by the PTS President. The PTS General Assembly of Delegates shall then elect its chairperson and secretary and, having approved the minutes of the previous PTS General Assembly of Delegates, shall proceed to the subsequent items on the agenda.
2. The proceedings and resolutions of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates are recorded in the minutes of the meeting, which are then signed by the chairman and the secretary of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates. Not later than one month after the PTS General Assembly of Delegates, the signed minutes shall be made available at the Office and on the PTS website to the participants of the Assembly for the duration of the following month, during which time they may submit amendments in writing.

§30

1. The PTS General Assembly of Delegates can adopt resolutions on the first date of presentation in the presence of at least half of the persons entitled to vote, and on the second date, irrespective of the number of persons present.
2. Resolutions of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates are adopted by a simple majority of votes cast by those present and entitled to vote, with the exception of resolutions concerning changes to the Statute (§ 52) and dissolution of the PTS (§ 53, sec. 1). In the event of a tie, the chairperson of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates shall have the casting vote.

§31

1. The following matters are exclusively at the discretion of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates:
 - 1) Adopting resolutions that establish the main directions of the substantive and financial activities of the PTS
 - 2) Electing the PTS President, the Executive Board, the PTS Audit Committee, and the Peer Court
 - 3) Examining reports of the Executive Board, the PTS Audit Committee, and the Peer Court
 - 4) Adopting resolutions on vote of approval for the Executive Board
 - 5) Deciding on appeals in the matters of refusing to admit an ordinary member to the PTS or exclusion of such members from the PTS
 - 6) Granting and depriving of the title of an honorary member

- 7) Setting the amount of membership fees
 - 8) Approving a resolution of the General Assembly of Branch Members on charging additional fees from Branch members
 - 9) Passing resolutions amending the PTS Statute
 - 10) Adopting rules and regulations related to the activity of PTS authorities, the Branches, and other PTS bodies established on the basis of this Statute
 - 11) Passing resolutions on the dissolution of the PTS
- 12) Passing resolutions on other matters in which the legislation in force requires a decision of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates.

CHAPTER VI The President and the Executive Board

§32

1. The Executive Board consists of the PTS President and 14 members.
2. The PTS President is elected by the PTS General Assembly of Delegates in a secret ballot for a period of 3 years. The same person can be elected for the next term of office only once.
3. The remaining members of the Executive Board are elected by the PTS General Assembly of Delegates by secret ballot for a period of 3 years. Each year, four or five members step down, respectively, according to the seniority of their election. Former members of the Executive Board may be re-elected.
4. The PTS President and each of the other members of the Executive Board or the entire Executive Board can resign before the end of their term of office or be dismissed by a resolution of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates. In the event of resignation of the entire Executive Board, the Audit Committee shall be entitled to convene the General Assembly of Delegates to elect a new one.

§33

Election of the members of the Executive Board takes place in such a way that each participant of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates, present and authorised to vote, casts their votes, the maximum number of which equals the number of candidates to be elected to the Executive Board. Candidates who received the highest number of votes shall be elected as members of the Executive Board. In the event of equality of votes, a draw shall decide.

§34

1. The Executive Board elects from among its members a Presidium comprising, in addition to the PTS President, the following: the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and three members of the Executive Board.

2. The Presidium shall convene as the need arises; however, at least six times a year.
3. The Presidium adopts resolutions by a simple majority of votes with at least half of the members present. In the case of equality of votes, the chairperson of the meeting shall have the casting vote.
4. Resolutions of the Presidium on matters falling within the competence and responsibilities of the Executive Board shall be subject to approval at the next meeting of the Board in order to remain valid.

§35

The PTS President manages the work of the Executive Board and is the superior of PTS employees.

§36

1. The Executive Board shall convene as the need arises; however, at least three times a year.
2. Chairpersons of Branch Boards and Boards of Specialised Sections can participate in the meetings of the Executive Board; however, they do not vote on resolutions.

§37

1. The competences and responsibilities of the Executive Board include the following matters:
 - 1) Representing the PTS outside and acting on its behalf
 - 2) Managing PTS activities in accordance with the provisions of this Statute, as well as resolutions and recommendations of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates
 - 3) Managing PTS assets and funds
 - 4) Adopting budget estimates and approving the annual balance sheet and the profit and loss account of the PTS
 - 5) Convening and preparing the PTS General Assembly of Delegates
 - 6) Admitting ordinary members of the PTS
 - 7) Applying to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates to grant the title of an honorary member (§ 15, sec. 4)
 - 8) Suspending membership rights and obligations (§ 20),
 - 9) Excluding PTS members and restoring membership in situations defined in § 21, sec. 1 item 2

10) Adopting a resolution to refer a request for exclusion of a PTS member to the Peer Court (§ 21, sec. 2 item 1)

11) Establishing and dissolving branches,

12) Establishing and dissolving specialised sections,

13) Taking any other actions aimed at the realisation of the PTS statutory goals, which are not reserved by the Statute for other authorities of the Association.

2. Between the meetings of the Executive Board, the PTS President represents the Association externally and acts on its behalf in accordance with the provisions of this Statute, as well as resolutions and recommendations of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates.

CHAPTER VII Specialised sections

§38

1. The sections deal with the realisation of the statutory objectives of the PTS in relation to specific issues of sociology, its subdisciplines, and ways of its promotion. Upon a written request of at least 15 members, the Executive Board shall establish a specialised section and approve its scope of activity. Every three years, the section shall elect a section board comprising a chairperson and at least two other members at a general assembly of its members.
2. A section can create its own rules and regulations, in which it shall determine additional conditions for membership of the section. The Section Rules and Regulations must be approved by the Executive Board.
3. Should the number of members of a section fall below 15 or should it cease to conduct any activity for at least two years, the Executive Board may decide to dissolve it.

Chapter VIII PTS Audit Committee

§39

1. The PTS Audit Committee is a collegial control body of the Association, separate from the Executive Board and not subordinate to it in exercising internal control.
2. The PTS Audit Committee shall consist of at least three members who are not members of the Executive Board or the Peer Court, elected for a period of three years by the PTS General Assembly of Delegates in a secret ballot according to the manner in which the members of the Executive Board are elected (§ 33).
3. Members of the PTS Audit Committee cannot have a relationship of kinship, affinity, or subordination with members of the PTS Executive Board.

4. Members of the PTS Audit Committee cannot be sentenced with a valid sentence for an intentional guilt crime.
5. The PTS Audit Committee elects a chairperson from among its members.

§40

1. At least once a year, before the PTS General Assembly of Delegates, the PTS Audit Committee shall conduct an audit of the overall activity of the Association, with particular consideration of the financial and economic activity in terms of its purposefulness, reliability, and economy.
2. The PTS Audit Committee controls the activity of the Executive Board and the organisational units subordinate to it, and it can also control the activity of the branches and specialised sections.
3. The Audit Committee shall submit an annual report of its audits to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates.

CHAPTER IX Peer Court

§41

1. The Peer Court shall consist of three members and two alternates, who are not members of the PTS Executive Board or the PTS Audit Committee, elected for a period of three years by the PTS General Assembly of Delegates in a secret ballot according to the manner in which the members of the Executive Board are elected (§ 33).
2. The Peer Court elects a chairperson from among its members.

§42

1. The jurisdiction and duties of the Peer Court include:
 - 1) Settling disputes between PTS members on matters that fall within the scope of PTS activities
 - 2) Deciding on issues of professional ethics and principles of conduct in the affairs of the Association in response to queries addressed to it or on its own initiative
 - 3) Issuing rulings on exclusion from the PTS (§ 21, sec. 1 item 3)
 - 4) Submitting a motion to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates to deprive an honorary member of their title (§ 21, sec. 4).
2. The Peer Court shall present a report on its activities during each PTS General Assembly of Delegates.

CHAPTER X Branches

§43

1. Upon a written request of at least 15 ordinary members living or working in one or more neighbouring provinces, the Executive Board shall establish a branch.
2. A branch shall comprise members living or working in the province where the branch was established and members living or working in the neighbouring provinces determined by the Executive Board in the form of a resolution establishing the branch.
3. If the number of members in a branch falls below 15, the Executive Board can pass a resolution to dissolve the branch.

§44

1. The branch organises lectures, discussion meetings, conferences, seminars, and scientific and popular science courses.
2. A branch shall disseminate information about the Association's activities among its members.

§45

1. The authorities of the Branch are the following: the General Assembly of Branch Members, the Branch Board, and the Branch Audit Committee.
2. The General Assembly of Branch Members elects, in a secret ballot, delegates and alternate delegates to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates, Branch Board members, and the Branch Audit Committee.
3. The Branch Board shall consist of at least three persons elected by secret ballot for the period of 3 years. The Branch Board shall elect a Branch chairperson and a deputy chairperson from among its members.
4. The Branch Board shall convene as the need arises; however, at least three times a year.

§46

1. Branches receive funds from membership fees from their members to carry out their activities. The amount of these funds is determined by the Executive Board each year.
2. The Executive Board transfers funds to the Branches for the realisation of PTS statutory goals.
3. The General Assembly of Branch Members can adopt a resolution on charging additional fees from the Branch members to support Branch goals. This resolution requires the approval of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates.

§47

Each year, four weeks before the date of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates, the Branch Board submits a report on the activity of the Branch to the Executive Board. The Executive

Board shall include it in the general report submitted to the PTS General Assembly of Delegates.

CHAPTER XI Assets and funds

§48

PTS assets include properties, movables, and funds.

§49

The sources of funds of PTS are:

- 1) Membership fees
- 2) Subsidies, donations, and bequests
- 3) Income from PTS assets
- 4) Income from statutory activities
- 5) Income from the economic activity carried out by the PTS Research Department.

§50

Revenues from public benefit activities and income generated by the PTS business activity are entirely allocated to the implementation of the Association's statutory objectives.

§51

To be valid, incurring financial liabilities on behalf of the PTS requires the signatures of the Treasurer of the Executive Board and the President of the PTS or the Vice-president or Secretary of the Executive Board.

CHAPTER XII Amendment to the Statute and dissolution of the PTS

§52

A resolution to amend the Statute of the PTS is adopted by the PTS General Assembly of Delegates by a majority of 3/4 votes in the presence of at least half of those entitled to vote.

§53

1. The PTS can be dissolved by a resolution of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates; in order to be valid, such a resolution requires the majority of 3/4 votes in the presence of at least half of those entitled to vote.
2. The manner and principles of dissolution of the Association are adopted by the PTS General Assembly of Delegates by a simple majority of votes of those present and entitled to vote; in the event of a tie, the chairperson of the General Assembly of Delegates has the casting vote.
3. The resolution of the PTS General Assembly of Delegates on the allocation of the Association assets is subject to approval by the registration authority.

As amended at the PTS General Assembly of Delegates on June 9, 2018.