

STATUTE OF THE MACEDONIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Statute establishes the title, seat, activity and tasks of the full Macedonian Medical Association (hereinafter: the Association), the rights and responsibilities of its members, its organisation and administration, its manner of securing the funds necessary for its work and other matters of importance for the work of the Association.

Article 2

The Association is a professional organisation of medical doctors (hereinafter: doctors).

Membership of the Association is an honour and a moral obligation to doctors living in North Macedonia.

Article 3

The Association is organised, as a functional whole, as the unique professional body linking regional, specialist, sub-specialist and interdisciplinary societies.

Article 4

The activity and work of the Association consists of the realisation of its tasks and aims on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Article 5

The Association has the nature of a legal entity.

The Association's name is: the Macedonian Medical Association.

The seat of the Association is: ul. Dame Gruev no. 3, Skopje

The stamp of the Association is circular (diameter 3.5 cm) with Aesculapius' symbol in the centre around which is the text 'Macedonian Medical Association'.

Article 6

The activity of the Association is public.

The informing of and mutual communication with its membership is conducted by holding Assemblies of the Association, meetings of regional and specialist societies, through the Macedonian Medical Review and other publications and announcements.

The informing of and communication with the wider public is carried out through the press and other media and through the Association's web-site.

II THE ASSOCIATION'S TASKS AND AIMS

Article 7

The basic aims and tasks of the Association are the advancement of the medical and allied sciences. The Association is the basic agent of continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) and concerns itself with preserving and furthering the honour, dignity, standing and interests of the medical profession, as well as with the protection of the rights of its members. The Association deals with professional matters and participates in the organisation and implementation of the continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) of its membership. The Association is engaged in publishing and other activities in accordance with positive legal regulations. The Association cooperates with and is a member of various professional medical and other international organisations with common interests, aims and tasks, in accordance with positive legal regulations. The Association monitors the development of health care provision and medical science in the Republic of North Macedonia and is concerned with their growth. Within this framework it undertakes initiatives and makes suggestions for the systematic solving of questions in the field of medical science and health care provision. The Association continually advances the professional knowledge of its membership and is concerned with the development of medical ethics.

Article 8

The Macedonian Medical Association:

- coordinates, stimulates and gives direction to the work of its membership, and that of regional and specialist societies;
- evaluates the activity of the various societies according to their common and fundamental aims and other criteria;
- implements the Association's programme;
- is engaged in the planned professional advancement of its membership and in the organisation of congresses, symposiums, professional meetings and other forms of work;
- concerns itself with realising the rights and responsibilities of its members arising from this Statute;
- cooperates with the Ministry of Health, the Medical Faculty, the Macedonian Chamber of Medicine (as the four fundamental pillars) and with other state bodies, non-governmental organisations and similar institutions through the active engagement of its representatives;
- engages in, participates in and upholds campaign programmes for the promotion of initiatives in health care provision for the population: vaccination, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, high blood-pressure, diabetes, obesity, smoking, alcoholism, healthy life-style, etc., and it stimulates and supports scientific research activities;
- is concerned with and monitors the development of health care and the medical sciences and collaborates with scientific and higher educational institutions;
- cooperates in the planning of doctors' undergraduate and postgraduate studies;
- publishes the Macedonian Medical Review and other periodicals;

- cares for and promotes the ethics of the medical profession through its Ethical Committee, the Macedonian Code of Medical Deontology and the International Code of Medical Ethics of the World Medical Association, and ethics in medical practice by collaborating with the relevant bodies of the Macedonian Chamber of Medicine and the Medical Faculty;
- collaborates with the World Medical Association, the European Forum of Medical Associations and the World Health Organisation, with the South East European Forum of Medical Association, with the European Union of Medical Specialists and other allied professional associations;
- has bilateral cooperation with other Medical Associations within Europe and beyond;
- Keeps files of its membership and issues membership cards.

III MEMBERSHIP

1. Regular members

Article 9

Every doctor who is a citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia and who, by signing an application form expressing the wish to be a member of the Macedonian Medical Association, accepts the Statute and decisions of the Association and regularly pays the membership fee is entitled to be a member.

2. Associate members

Article 10

Persons with higher education qualifications in professions relating to medicine (biologists, physicists, chemists, etc.) may become associate members taking part in the work of the Association but not entitled to be elected to leading functions of the Association. The conditions for becoming an associate member are the signing of an application form, acceptance of the Statute and regular payment of the membership fee.

Associate members receive a membership card as associate members of the Macedonian Medical Association.

3. Honorary members

Article 11

Doctors, scientific or educational personnel and other citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia and foreign citizens who have contributed to the advancement of medicine and science or the healthcare education of citizens or made a contribution in some other form to the work of the Association may become honorary members.

Honorary members are elected by the Assembly of the Association on proposal by the Management Committee.

4. Benefactors of (donors to) the Association

Article 12

Every citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia, or foreign citizen, who has bequeathed moveable or real estate or financial means to the Association may become a benefactor of the Association.

The decision on benefactor (donor) status of the Association is taken by the Assembly on a proposal by the Management Committee.

5. Rights and responsibilities of members of the Association

Article 13

The rights and responsibilities of members are:

- to participate in the work and be involved in all forms of activity of the Association;
- to participate in elections, and to be elected, to the bodies of the Association;
- to enjoy all the benefits secured by the Association;
- to participate in or be present at all the professional events organised by the Association;
- the possibility of advanced training, continuing medical education (CME) and continued professional development (CPD) within the framework of the work of professional associations (professional meetings, workshops, symposiums, congresses, schools and other forms of advanced professional training, electronic forms of education) with concessionary participation fees;
- the possibility of receiving accreditation points, licensing and re-licensing;
- the possibility of concessionary admission fees and selective access to the web-page of the Macedonian Medical Association;
- the possibility of holding professional meetings at the Macedonian Medical Association premises and using appropriate equipment;
- participation in the financial management of the various activities of the societies of the Macedonian Medical Association;
- the right to use the web-page, the Ethical Handbook for Doctors, the 2006 Pharmacotherapeutic Handbook, clinical instructions founded on medicine based on evidence, up-to-the-minute diagnostics and treatment in Medicine 2000, etc. Instructions in organising CME and CPD activities using registration forms registering these activities as well as information on planned professional activities both in Macedonia and abroad, and other professional and social information;
- free legal aid relating to the protection of the rights of doctors;
- an obligation to accept the Statute of the Macedonian Medical Association, to sign an application form, to pay the membership fee regularly and to respect the decisions of the Macedonian Medical Association;
- to ensure that their behaviour contributes to upholding the status and dignity of the medical profession, their own and that of the Macedonian Medical Association, abiding by the Code of Deontology of the doctors of Macedonia and the World Medical Association (WMA).

6. Cessation of membership

Article 14

Membership of the Association will cease:

- on a written announcement from the member that s/he resigns;
- on exclusion from membership by a decision of the Ethical and Legal Committee;
- because of continuous non-payment of the membership fee over a period of 12 months and following a previous written warning;
- on the death of a member.

IV ORGANISATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 15

The aims and tasks of the Association are carried out through the following organisational forms and activities: regional societies, specialist societies, sub-specialist societies and interdisciplinary societies.

1. Regional societies

Article 16

For the purpose of establishing separate professional scientific, cultural or other interest groups, at least 30 regional members in one or more municipality may form a regional society.

Regional societies are formed by holding an inaugural meeting.

Following the holding of the inaugural meeting, the complete necessary documentation (Minutes of the inaugural meeting, a list of the members of the regional society with documentary evidence, the Rule Book of the regional society, the decisions on election to its bodies and evidence of paid membership fees from all members) is submitted to the Management Committee of the Macedonian Medical Association which gives its consent as required and after carrying out consultations with the relevant professional bodies.

The inauguration or dissolution of regional societies is confirmed by the Assembly of the Association.

No one who is not a member of the Association can be a member of its regional societies.

The stamp of the regional societies is identical to that of the Association with the addition of the seat and the text: Macedonian Medical Association – Bitola, Ohrid, Strumica, etc. Medical Society.

Article 17

The membership fee of the regional societies for their own purposes is determined by the Assemblies of the regional societies.

The financial means of the regional societies consists of what remains after they have met their financial obligations to the Macedonian Medical Association (that part of the membership fees which remains) and other means (sponsorship, donations, etc.).

Article 18

The work of the regional societies is determined by special rule books on the subject, in agreement with this Statute. The rule books for the functioning of the regional societies are agreed by the membership of the regional societies at their meetings and are confirmed thereafter by the Assembly of the Association.

2. Specialist, Sub-specialist and Interdisciplinary Societies

Article 19

In order to achieve the aims and tasks of the Association, members who are employed in the same or allied branches of the medical profession may, within the framework of the Association, form specialist, sub-specialist or interdisciplinary societies.

Within these societies as per paragraph 1 of this article members of the Association employed in particular specialisations or activities may associate with the aim of better professional work and education of the membership in particular branches of medicine or interdisciplinary activities.

Article 20

A doctor who is not a member of the Association may not be a member of the specialist, sub-specialist or interdisciplinary societies.

With the exception as per paragraph 1 of this article, a person who is not a doctor may be an associate member of the specialist societies provided that s/he has worked for a period of years together with doctors on problems which are a subject of professional interest to the specialist society.

Associate members have all the rights of other members with the exception of participation in elections and the Association's licensing of doctors.

Article 21

A request for the formation of a new specialist, sub-specialist or interdisciplinary society should be made by at least 20 members who in their daily work are involved in the field for which the society is to be formed or in allied fields of medicine.

The formation of a new society must be approved by the Association Management Committee, if need be following a preliminary discussion by the relevant professional commission of the Ethical and Legal Committee.

The formation of a new specialist, sub-specialist or interdisciplinary association proposed by the Management Committee must be approved by the Assembly of the Association.

Article 22

In order to carry out their functions more successfully specialist, sub-specialist and interdisciplinary societies may form their own sections or groups with a more specific special interest which is regulated by the rule book of the society.

Sections may be formed within the framework of the relevant existing societies insofar as there is not a sufficient number of members for the formation of a new society.

The rule book for the functioning of the society is passed by its members at the Assembly of the society and in agreement with this Statute.

Article 23

The society has the same stamp as the Association with the addition of the emblem of the society for which it receives particular written agreement from the Management Committee of the Association.

The seats of the societies are decided upon by the membership of the societies at their general election meetings.

The societies hold an annual general meeting and hold election meetings every four years. The Assembly of the society agrees upon the society's Management Committee's report.

Article 24

The societies pass their own rule books which must be in agreement with the Association's Statute. The rule book is kept in the archive of the Association, as well as the list of members with their personal details (address, e-mail, telephone no., etc.).

The Association Management Committee supports the societies in their work and aids them in carrying out their tasks.

The Association Management Committee coordinates the work of the societies directly or through its bodies.

The work of the societies is managed by their management committees, whose composition and functioning are regulated by the society's rule book.

Article 25

The societies are obliged to inform the Association Management Committee in good time of their activities, professional and other meetings in the fields of CME and CDP, as well as of their own meetings, and once a year to submit a written report on their work and a plan for the year ahead, and also on their current more important events and activities.

Once a year the societies submit to the Association Management Committee a report on the professional work of the previous year and plans for the coming year.

The reports and work programmes of the societies are an integral part of the Association's Annual Report and Work Plan for the coming year.

Article 26

The material assets of the societies are:

- the membership fees as decided upon at their Assembly;
- income from events, publications, etc.;
- funds allocated by the Association Management Committee;
- voluntary and other contributions;
- societies may approve the collection of special contributions from their members;
- non-profit-making economic activity, etc.

Article 27

The membership fees and other income of the societies, as per article 27 of this Statute, are paid into the Association's account and are held in a separate account in its book-keeping as the society's funds.

Article 28

Funds as per article 27 of this Statute are used by the societies independently. The society may not enter into obligations in excess of the funds at its disposal.

Article 29

The societies are obliged to keep a record of their members as well as evidence of membership fees paid by their members and are obliged to inform the Association Management Committee of these annually.

Article 30

A specialist society ceases to function:

- if it infringes the Association Statute;
- if the number of its members falls below 15;
- if the Ethical and Legal Committee establishes that the society is not functioning, it recommends that the Association Management Committee proposes the cessation of the society to the Assembly;
- if the society itself seeks this;
- if the society amalgamates with another society.

The material assets of a society which ceases to exist are passed over to the Association or to the newly-formed society if there has been an amalgamation of two societies.

V BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 31

The bodies of the Association are:

- its Assembly;
- Management Committee;
- Supervisory Committee;
- Ethical and Legal Committee;
- Educational Centre;
- the Macedonian Medical Association Council;
- the Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS).

The period of the mandate of the Association bodies is 4 years.

No one can be elected more than twice successively to the same Association body, nor at the same time be a member of the same body in both the Association and the Macedonian Chamber of Medicine.

All the bodies of the Association are answerable to the Assembly.

1. The Assembly

Article 32

The Assembly is the supreme body of the Association.

It meets once a year.

The Assembly is called by the President of the Association. The Assembly includes one representative from each of the regional societies and one from each of the specialist societies.

The Assembly's decisions are valid if at least half of the representatives of the active regional societies and the specialist societies are present.

An extraordinary Assembly may be called by the Management Committee on its own initiative or at the request of at least one third of the societies.

Article 33

The Management Committee announces the holding of the Assembly at least 30 days in advance with a proposal of the agenda and informs the regional and specialist societies in writing. Every member of the Association is entitled to attend the Assembly.

The representatives of the active regional and specialist societies have the right to participate in decision-making. The decisions of the Assembly of the Association are valid provided that they are voted for by a majority of the representatives present. The Assembly is quorate if more than half of the elected representatives are present.

The Assembly can decide on alterations to the Statute or the dissolution of the Association if there is a two-thirds majority of the representatives in favour. If the leadership of the Association resigns or a vote of no confidence in it is passed, the Association Management Committee calls an extraordinary election assembly.

Article 34

The Assembly:

- passes the Statute and other general acts of the Association and can carry out alterations and amendments to the Statute;
- reviews and decides upon the reports from the Management Committee and its bodies;
- accepts the reports of the Supervisory Committee, the Ethical and Legal Committee and the Educational Centre;
- elects and discharges the bodies of the association;
- elects honorary members and donor members of the Association;
- discusses and passes the Association's work programme for the forthcoming period;
- entrusts the Management Committee with the execution of the agreed decisions;
- confirms and passes the final accounts and passes the financial plan;
- decides on a disbanding of the Association;
- decides on proposals by the representatives and proposals put forward by the Association Management Committee;
- decides on the formation or disbanding of regional and specialist societies;
- decides on appeals by the membership;
- carries out any other functions determined according to the provisions of the Statute or other Acts of the Association.

Article 35

Elections take place at the Election Assembly.

Election Assemblies take place every four years.

Elections take the form of secret voting while nominations are public.

The Assembly confirms the agenda, elects the working presidency, the verification commission, the minutes-secretary and two verifiers of the minutes and a commission for decisions and appeals.

The Assembly nominates a Candidacy Commission which initiates the implementation of the candidacy procedure at least 30 days before the elections. The Assembly reviews the list of candidates.

The elections are carried out by the Election Commission nominated by the Association Assembly.

The manner and procedure for conducting the elections to the bodies of the Macedonian Medical Association are determined by the Rule Book.

For the sake of continuity one third of the previous personnel of the Management Committee may continue into the new term.

2. Management Committee

Article 36

The Management Committee's duties are:

- to implement the decisions of the Assembly;
- to lead and organise the work of the Association in the period between two Assemblies;
- to ensure the implementation of the Association's programme;
- to nominate both permanent and temporary commissions;
- to elect a Publications Council and the chairperson of the Publications Council;
- to elect the Editorial Committee of the Macedonian Medical Review and its chairperson;
- to stimulate, monitor and coordinate the work of the regional societies;
- to stimulate and monitor the work of the specialist societies;
- to take care of financial activities;
- to nominate delegates to the Chamber of Medicine and other organisations;
- to manage the Association's property;
- to prepare proposals for and the agenda of the Assembly;
- to discuss proposals for honorary and donor membership and other awards;
- to review the rule books of regional, specialist, sub-specialist and interdisciplinary societies and to approve them insofar as they are in accordance with the Statute of the Association.

Article 39

The President of the Association:

- represents and acts on behalf of the Association;
- calls and chairs meetings of the Management Committee, the Assembly and other meetings;
- concerns him/herself with the implementation of decisions taken;

- signs documents and written correspondence;
- signs financial documents once these have been initialled by the head of the financial service;
- is responsible for ensuring the transparency of the work of the Association.

Article 40

The Vice-presidents of the Association act in the stead of the President when s/he is absent and carry out the duties entrusted to them by the President.

Article 41

The Secretary General of the Association:

- prepares material for the sessions of the Management Committee and is concerned with the implementation of its decisions;
- organises current administrative matters;
- compiles reports to the Assembly;
- verifies and signs the minutes of the sessions and meetings of the Management Committee;
- carries out particular duties as determined by the President and the Management Committee;
- takes care of the regular collection of membership fees and other financial means for the functioning of the Association.

Article 42

In order to look into particular issues and to draw up proposals the Management Committee forms both permanent and temporary commissions.

The permanent commissions are: the Organisational, the International Cooperation and the Awards and Recognition Commissions, and the Commission for Securing Financial Means for the work of the Association.

The work and duties of the permanent commissions are determined in accordance with their rule books which are passed by the Management Committee.

The composition and duties of the commissions are established by the Management Committee which both nominates and discharges them.

3. Supervisory Committee

Article 43

The Supervisory Committee consists of a chairperson and two members elected by the Assembly. Its duties are to review and supervise the financial and material functioning of the Association and to report on this to the Assembly. In accordance with the rule book, the Supervisory Committee may propose the date for the dissolution of the Association's Management Committee. The Supervisory Committee also monitors the functioning of all the other bodies of the Association. Its decisions are valid when all three members of the Committee are present and two or more of them vote in favour of a decision.

The Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee participates by right in the work of the Association Management Committee.

4. Ethical and Legal Committee

Article 44

The Ethical and Legal Committee reviews questions relating to the application of the Statute and other legal acts of the Association; in cases where members of the Association have acted in breach of the Association's Statute, the Macedonian Code of the Medical Deontology, the rule books of the Association or the directives of the World Medical Association, it proposes to the Management Committee that it instigates procedures and takes relevant measures. It likewise carries out other functions on issues of an ethical and legal nature.

Article 45

The Ethical and Legal Committee concerns itself with the nurturing and promotion of medical ethics, and with the deepening and intensifying of the study of medical ethics and their dissemination among students and doctors (through the organisation of workshops, seminars and other forms of educational activity).

It prepares and organises the meetings of the Ethical Forum.

The Ethical Forum

Article 46

The Ethical Forum is a body of the Association which is more broadly concerned with the ethical implications of all issues which relate to the medical profession in relation to both the public and the state.

The Ethical Forum consists of distinguished individuals, experts in a variety of fields as doctors, lawyers, philosophers, moral philosophers, theologians, etc.

Article 47

The Ethical and Legal Committee consists of a chairperson and 4 members selected by the Assembly for a period of 4 years. Members of this committee may not be members of the Management Committee or the Supervisory Committee of the Association.

The work of the Legal and Ethical Committee is regulated by a rule book.

5. Educational Centre

Article 48

The Educational Centre is a body of the association formed by the Management Committee (for organisational reasons) whose duty is the implementation of Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and the preparation, organisation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of CME and CPD.

The Educational Centre consists of 10 – 12 distinguished doctors with various specialisations.

The functioning of the Educational Centre is regulated by a rule book.

The Council of the Association

Article 49

The Council of the Association is the Association's advisory body, consisting of past Presidents of the Association, past chairpersons of the Supervisory Committee and other past leading functionaries of the Association.

Meetings of the council are called when necessary and give opinions on issues of crucial interest to the Association.

7. Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS)

Article 50

The Academy of Medical Sciences, as a body of the Association, is formed by the Association's Assembly with the aim of developing and stimulating the medical profession, science and scientific research activity, health care, and other activities and tasks of the Association which are of lasting significance for the advancement of health care and the health of the nation.

Distinguished members of the Association who through their long-term professional and scientific activity in the Association and beyond have made a significant contribution to the creation of lasting values in the development and furtherance of medical science and health care activities and to the work and affirmation of the Association may be elected to membership of the AMS.

The Association Management Committee, on the basis of proposals made by the coordinating body, confirms the criteria for its personnel and for the manner and procedure of election of the first members of the Association.

The AMS, upon being constituted, passes a rule book which determines its aims, duties, membership, rights and responsibilities, organisation, bodies and other matters in accordance with the Statute of the Association.

The Management Committee of the Association carries out the verification of the Rule Book as per paragraph 4 of this article insofar as it is in accordance with the Statute of the Association.

VI THE ASSOCIATION'S PUBLISHING ACTIVITY

Article 51

The Association publishes its own professional and scientific periodical, the Macedonian Medical Review (MMR).

The assignments of the MMR, as the principal medical review of the Association, are professional, scientific and of the nature of a professional guild. Its assignments and the nature of its work are determined by a rule book.

The Rule Book of the MMR is passed by the Assembly of the Association acting on a proposal from the Association's Publications Council.

Article 52

The Publications Council and the Editorial Committee are in charge of the MMR and are responsible for its regular appearance.

The Publications Council consists of a chairperson and 15 members.

Article 53

The Editorial Committee consists of:

- an Editor-in-Chief;
- two secretaries;
- nine members.

The Editor-in-chief is proposed from among the members of the Editorial Committee and is nominated by the Management Committee of the Association.

VII PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Article 54

The professional services of the Association consist of its administrative, professional and auxiliary personnel. The Association Management Committee, i.e. one of its members who is authorised to be so, is in charge of professional services.

Article 55

Salaries and other rights and responsibilities of employees in the Professional Services are regulated by legal Acts of the Association in accordance with the law, the collective agreement for health service personnel and other ordinances.

VIII MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 56

The Accounts Department of the Association is in charge of the separate material and financial activities of the Association, of individual societies and of the Macedonian Medical Review and the Academy of Medical Sciences.

The income of the Association is:

- membership fees of the Association, which are determined by the Management Committee of the Association;
- commissions, and the sale of doctors' licences;
- funds distributed by state bodies, insurance and other institutions;
- advertisements, donations, legacies and other allocations for restricted purposes;
- income from non-profit-making economic activities.

The financial plan and final accounts for each year are prepared by the Association's accounting department and are passed by the Supervisory Committee and the Management Committee of the Association and ultimately by the Assembly of the Association.

The material and financial activity of the Association is carried out in accordance with the legal ordinances and the Rule Book on the material and financial activities of the Association.

IX PROPERTY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 57

The property of the Association consists of both moveable and real estate. The Assembly of the Association, the Management Committee and the Professional Services take care of the Association's property.

The Association secures the material means for its existence and functioning through:

- membership fees as established by the Assembly of the Association;
- issuing doctors' licences;
- income from events, courses, publications, etc.;
- voluntary donations, gifts and legacies;
- its own real estate;
- income from non-profit-making economic activities.

X AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Article 58

The Assembly, acting on proposals from the Commission for Awards and Recognitions, distributes recognitions for achievements in the profession, in health care and in the work of the Association.

The grounds for receiving recognitions, their purpose and other conditions for receiving each recognition are determined by a special rule book.

The Commission for Awards is formed by the Management Committee and consists of distinguished members of the Association who are not members of the Management Committee.

XI CESSATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 59

The Association ceases to exist:

- when it is established that the Association has ceased to function;
- when the members decide upon the aforementioned;
- when the number of members falls below the number specified at its inception.

A decision on the cessation of the Association is taken by the Assembly with a two-thirds majority vote on the part of the delegates.

In the event of cessation of the Association, once its obligations have been met, the entire property of the Association is transferred to the Macedonian Red Cross.

XII TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 60

Alterations and amendments to the Statute are carried out in the same fashion as at its initial adoption.

Article 61

In the course of one calendar year from the day of the coming into force of this Statute all the general acts of the Association are to be in accordance with the provisions of this Statute.

Article 62

With the coming into force of this Statute the Statute of the Macedonian Medical Association passed on 23.12.1992 ceases to be valid.

Article 63

This Statute comes into force from the day of its being adopted.



STATUTE of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry of North Macedonia

STATUTE

I. GENERAL REGULATIONS

Article 1.

Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (later referred to as Association) is professional organization of child and adolescent psychiatrists and allied professionals (clinical psychologists, psychologists, special educators, mental health social workers, etc.). It is an interdisciplinary society under the umbrella of the Macedonian Medical Association with specific activities dedicated to promote theory, practice, education and research in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry and allied professions.

The Association will be promoting and developing evidence based approach to child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing, establishing good practices in the field to fulfill common expert interests for more successful prevention and early intervention, optimal evidence based treatment, and providing support to all children and adolescents living in North Macedonia, regardless of their ethnic, class and social background.

Article 2.

Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry will accomplish its goals, objectives and activities according to the Statute of the Macedonian Medical Association and according to this Statute.

Article 3.

The Association is situated at following address:
Macedonian Medical Association: str. Dame Gruev no. 3, 1000 Skopje

Article 4.

Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is legal entity and has got its own stamp. The stamp of the Association is circular (diameter 3.5 cm) with Aesculapius' symbol in the centre around which is the text: "Македонско здружение за детска и адолесцентна психијатрија".

II. MISSION, GOALS AND TASKS

Article 5.

The **MISSION** of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:

Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is established to advance child and adolescent psychiatry and allied professions. The Association is the basic agent of continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) and concerns itself with preserving and furthering the honor, dignity, standing and interests of child and adolescent psychiatry and allied professions, as well as with the protection of the rights of its members. The Association deals with professional matters and participates in the organization and implementation of the continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) of its membership. The Association is engaged in publishing and other activities in accordance with positive legal regulations. The Association cooperates with and is a member of Macedonian Medical Association and various professional medical organizations with common interests, aims and tasks, in accordance with positive legal regulations. The Association monitors the development of health care provision and medical science in the Republic of North Macedonia and is concerned with their growth. Within this framework it undertakes initiatives and makes suggestions for the systematic solving of questions in the field of child and adolescent mental health and health care provision to this population group. The Association continually advances the professional knowledge of its membership and is concerned with the development of medical ethics.

Article 6.

The **GOALS** of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry are:

- Stimulating and giving direction of work of its membership, as a specialist and interdisciplinary society, under coordination of the Macedonian Medical Association;
- Promotion and development of professional skills and competences of child and adolescent psychiatrists and allied professionals, and supporting research in this field.
- Engaging in professional advancement of its membership and in the organization of congresses, symposia, professional meetings and other forms of work;
- Engaging in continuous development of educational programs in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry, psychotherapy, developmental psychopathology and allied disciplines;
- Realizing the rights and responsibilities of its members arising from this Statute;
- Cooperating with the Macedonian Medical Association, the Ministry of Health, the Medical Faculty, the Macedonian Chamber of Medicine (as the four fundamental pillars) and with other state bodies, non-governmental organizations and similar institutions through the active engagement of its representatives;
- Engaging in, participating in and upholding campaign programs for the promotion of initiatives in mental health care provision for children, adolescents and their families, and stimulating and supporting scientific research activities;
- Publishing research data in the referent field;

STATUTE of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

- Monitoring the development of mental health care for children and adolescents and their families, and collaborating with scientific and higher educational institutions;
- Cooperating in the planning of postgraduate and specialist studies of doctors, psychiatrists, child and adolescent psychiatrists, psychologists and allied professionals;
- Implementing the ethics of the mental health professions through the Ethical Committee of the Macedonian Medical Association, the Macedonian Code of Medical Deontology and the International Code of Medical Ethics of the World Medical Association, and ethics in medical practice by collaborating with the relevant bodies of the Macedonian Chamber of Medicine and the Medical Faculty;
- Collaborating with other professional associations within the Macedonian Medical Association, other national and international associations, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and other allied professional associations;

Article 7.

The **TASKS** of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry are:

- To conduct continuous educational activities for child and adolescent psychiatrists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and allied professions in line with the European Union of Medical Specialists – Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (UEMS-CAP) criteria;
- To enable acquisition, expansion and exchange of knowledge, skills and experience in the respected field;
- To put into practice evidence based approaches in child and adolescent psychiatry;
- To support the development of mental health services for children and adolescents throughout the country;
- To conduct and develop research activities in the respected field, throughout national, regional and international projects;
- To organize and participate at national and international congresses, symposia, seminars, tribunes, lectures and workshops in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry, psychotherapy and research practice.
- To support and publish expert's and scientific work, articles, books, research publications, manuals etc., from the field of child and adolescent psychiatry, developmental psychopathology, clinical psychology, child and adolescent psychotherapy, family psychotherapy, etc.

The realization of all mentioned above activities, carried out by the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, will be in line with the statute of the Macedonian Medical Association, with respect to the field of psychotherapy and psychology, such as: Ethical Codex, Law for Protection of Patients and Human Rights, Law for Protection of Personal Data, Law for Psychological work etc.

Article 8.

By decision of authorities, Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry may enter in alliances with other or become member of similar organizations and associations inside and outside the country.

III. BODIES OF THE MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

Article 9.

Bodies of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry are:

- The President
- The Vice President
- The Secretary
- The Treasurer
- The Executive Board

IV. MANAGEMENT OF THE MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

Article 10.

The Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is managed by the President, Vice-president, the Secretary and the Executive Board.

Article 11.

The Executive Board is an executive body of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, consisted of at least 3 and not more than 5 members. Each member of the Executive Board has equal rights, obligations and responsibilities for the operation and the development of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in accordance with the Statute.

Article 12.

Members of the Executive Board are elected for 4-years term with a possibility for re-election. The Executive Board members elect the Chair, with open voting, with 4 years mandate and a possibility to be re-elected.

Article 13.

The Executive Board holds meeting at least once a month and calls extraordinary meeting if necessary.

Sessions of the Executive Board are called by the Chair or upon a proposal of a 2 members of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board makes decisions with full capacity if the Chair and at least simply majority of the members of the Board attending the meeting.

Decisions of the Executive Board are taken with a majority of the Board's members attending a meeting.

Article 14.

The Executive Board is responsible for:

- Control of the implementation of the decisions;
- Proposing measures for prevention and elimination of mismanagement;
- Taking decisions upon objections and complaints;
- Taking decisions for establishment of permanent or temporary committees, appointment of the committees' members and guidance of their work;
- Organization and active participation in various actions and events;
- Establishment, if necessary, of other working bodies and appointment of their members;
- Performing other activities in accordance with the Statute, general acts and the law.

Article 15.

The President of the Association:

- Represents and acts on behalf of the Association;
- Calls and chairs meetings of the Association
- Represents the Association in the Assembly of the Macedonian Medical Association and other meetings;
- Concerns him/herself with the implementation of decisions taken;
- Signs documents and written correspondence;

Article 16.

The Vice-president of the Association acts in the stead of the President when s/he is absent and carry out the duties entrusted to them by the President.

Article 17.

The Secretary of the Association:

- Informs the members and prepares material for the meetings of the Association and organizes current administrative matters;
- Keeps the minutes of the sessions and meetings of the Association;

□

Article 18.

The Treasurer of the Association:

- Takes care of the regular collection of membership fees and other financial means for the functioning of the Association.

Article 19.

Rights and obligations of members of the Association

- Members are obligated to obey the Statute of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry;
- Members are obligated to promote mental health and wellbeing of children, adolescents and their families, to practice evidence based methods, treatments and programs in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry and other allied disciplines;
- Members are obligated to participate in development and fully realization of defined educational program and other activities of the Association;
- Members have the right to active participation in creation of program tasks and goals of the Association and obligation to intercede in favor of realization of the same
- Members have right on education and additional education in the area of child and adolescent psychiatry and other allied disciplines;□
- Members are obligated to share acquired knowledge, experience and skills with the other members of the Association
- Members have right to attend and participate at domestic and foreign congresses, seminars, symposia, workshops and other expert, scientific and cultural meetings as well as obligation to inform members of the Association on that;
- Members have right to initiate and organize domestic and international congresses, seminars, workshops, and other expert, scientific and cultural meetings as well as obligation to timely inform members of the Association;
- Members have right to enable and organize education and additional education for interested groups of citizens, interested in the field, according to previously prepared program which is submitted for inspection and adoption by the Association;

V. MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 20.

The income of the Association is:

- Membership fees of the Association, which are suggested by Management Committee of the Macedonian Medical Association and confirmed by the Executive Board of the Association;
- income from events, courses, publications, etc.;
- income from non-profit-making project activities.

VI. TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 21.

Motion to adopt, amend or add to the Statute may be brought by the Management team of the Association.

Article 22.

This Statute shall enter into force on the day of its adoption and start being applied on the date of the inscription of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Skopje, February the 21st 2022

Macedonian Association for Child and
Adolescent Psychiatry
President

Prof. dr. Marija Raleva



Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: An overview

Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry was founded on 21.02.2022 as a branch of the Macedonian Medical Association. During the last two decades a subsection for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry has been active in the field within the Macedonian Psychiatric Association. Recognizing the importance of the establishment of an association for child and adolescent psychiatry and allied professions and its vital professional role in the development of the field in the Republic of North Macedonia, it was decided to set the organization as a separate entity.

Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (later referred to as Association) is a unique professional organization of child and adolescent psychiatrists and allied professionals (psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, psychologists, special educators, mental health social workers, pediatricians etc.). It is an interdisciplinary society under the umbrella of the Macedonian Medical Association with specific activities dedicated to promote theory, practice, education and research in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry, and allied disciplines.

Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is established to advance child and adolescent psychiatry and allied professions. The Association participates in the organization and implementation of the continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) of its membership in accordance to medical ethics.

The aims of the Association are to promote and develop evidence based approach to child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing, to establish good practices in the field, to fulfill common expert interests for successful prevention, early diagnosis and early intervention, optimal treatment, research and to provide support to children and adolescents in the country.

The aims of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry are:

- Stimulating and giving direction of work of its membership, as a specialist and interdisciplinary society, under coordination of the Macedonian Medical Association;
- Promotion and development of professional skills and competences of child and adolescent psychiatrists and allied professionals;
- Engaging in professional advancement of its membership and in the organization of congresses, symposia, professional meetings and other forms of work;

- Engaging in continuous development of educational programs in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry, psychotherapy, developmental psychopathology and allied disciplines;
- Promoting and developing evidence based approach to child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing, establishing good practices in the field, promoting successful prevention, early diagnosis and early intervention, optimal treatment, and research;
- Engaging in programs for the promotion of initiatives in mental health care provision for children, adolescents and their families in the country, regardless of their ethnic, class and social background.
- Cooperating with other professional associations, the Macedonian Medical Association, the Macedonian Chamber of Medicine, and with other state bodies, non-governmental organizations and similar institutions through the active engagement of its representatives;
- Stimulating and supporting scientific research activities;
- Publishing research data in the referent field;
- Cooperating in the planning of postgraduate and specialist studies of doctors, psychiatrists, child and adolescent psychiatrists, psychologists and allied professionals;
- Collaborating with other professional associations within the Macedonian Medical Association, with other national and international professional associations, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and other allied professional associations;

The activities of the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry are:

- To conduct continuous educational activities for child and adolescent psychiatrists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and allied professions in line with the European Union of Medical Specialists – Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (UEMS-CAP) criteria;
- To enable acquisition, expansion and exchange of knowledge, skills and experience in the respected field;
- To put into practice evidence based approaches in child and adolescent psychiatry;
- To support the development of mental health services for children and adolescents throughout the country;
- To conduct and develop research activities in the respected field, throughout national, regional and international projects;
- To organize and participate at national and international congresses, symposia, seminars, tribunes, lectures and workshops in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry, psychotherapy and research practice.
- To support and publish expert's and scientific work, articles, books, research publications, manuals etc., from the field of child and adolescent psychiatry, developmental psychopathology, clinical psychology, child and adolescent psychotherapy, family psychotherapy, etc.

Activities during 2022:

Conferences, symposia and webinars

In line with the above mentioned activities, the Association organized an online symposium on the topic "Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Comorbid States", inviting national and international experts to present their work in this field, held on 5th - 6th of May 2022. The symposium was attended by over 150 participants from different professional background – child and adolescent psychiatrists, psychiatrists, neurologists, pediatricians, psychologists and special educators.

In collaboration with the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU) and the NGO "In My World" (Association for support and treatment of children with ASD), the Association took part in the organization of the International Conference "The situation with neurodevelopmental disorders in North Macedonia: Needs to introduce standards in diagnostic and treatment", held on 21st– 23rd of September 2022.

The Association organized two webinars for family doctors, pediatricians and psychiatrists, the theme was "Anxiety and depressive disorders in children and adolescents" – on 25th of March 2022 and "Psychosocial stress in children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic" – on 14th of April 2021.

Members of the Association took part in, and presented their work at:

- The 19th International Congress of ESCAP – "Networks in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry", held in Maastricht on 19th – 21st of June 2022;
- The VI Congress with international participation of the Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions of Serbia DEAPS – "Mental Health of Children and Youth: New Realities, Experiences and Knowledge" 26th – 28th of May 2022, Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia.
- The 13th Autism-Europe International (hybrid) Congress – "A happy Journey through Life" held in Cracow, Poland, 7th – 9th of October 2022;
- The EFTA (European Family Therapy Association) 2022 Congress – "Systemic Resonances and Interferences", held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 7th – 10th of September 2022;

Projects:

- Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in collaboration with the Department of Child and Adolescent psychiatry, Medical Faculty, at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje undertook a research study on "Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Comorbid States". The findings of this study were presented at the above mentioned symposium.
- The Association in collaboration with the Association of Special Educators and rehabilitators, supported by UNICEF is actively participating in implementation of the new model of functional assessment of children with disabilities in the Republic of North Macedonia based on the International Classification of Functioning and Health (ICF);
- The Association takes part in:
 - the project "Be In, Be Inclusive, Be Included", supported by the European Commission, Ministry of Education and "Step by Step" Foundation, training of educational assistants for the support of inclusion of children with autism in regular schools;
 - implementation of the model of Early intervention in children with developmental problems 0-6, in collaboration with the Association of Special Educators and Rehabilitators, supported by Government of North Macedonia and UNICEF;

- the project RISE: Prevention of behavioral problems in children in South-East Europe, supported by European Commission – Horizon 2020
- the research study: Mental Health of Adolescents and Their Caregivers During COVID-19 Pandemic, supported by UNICEF;
- The Association participates in the development of the National Strategy for the rights of people with disabilities 2023 – 2030 in Republic of North Macedonia, supported by GIS (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and UN;
- The Association participates in the National strategy for parenting, supported by UNICEF;

Membership in the Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

As a section of the Macedonian Medical Association, Macedonian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is constituted primarily by MDs, child and adolescent psychiatrists and psychiatrists (working with adolescents), which are the founders of the Association. There are 21 founding members, 11 child and adolescent psychiatrists, 7 psychiatrists experienced in working with adolescents, and 3 medical doctors, trainees in child and adolescent psychiatry. They can be elected in the management positions in the Association.

Other allied professionals such as psychologists, special educators, speech therapists, mental health social workers can also be members of the association, but do not have the opportunity to be elected in the management of the association. There are 19 members with such professional backgrounds: 5 clinical child psychologists, 3 psychologists, 7 special educators, 3 speech therapists and 1 mental health social worker.

Overall, the Association consists of 40 members, 21 MDs – psychiatrist and child and adolescent psychiatrists and 19 allied professionals.

Situation in the country regarding Child and Adolescent Psychiatric services

Overall there are 415 382 children 0-18 years living in North Macedonia (according to the last census in 2021).

The Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University Clinic of Psychiatry, Medical Faculty (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje) is the unique tertiary health care provider in the Republic of North Macedonia. It has inpatient department with 15 beds, out-patient department, Day-care hospital and Cabinet for Neurodevelopmental Disorders. The outpatient department provides services to around 300 children per month, the day care hospital provides services to 15-20 children, and the Cabinet for approx. 25 children.

It is the central educational and training institution in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry. There are 4 child and adolescent psychiatrist currently working at the department – one professor, and one associated professor in the field, and 2 other specialists, as well as 2 trainees in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry also employed at the Clinic. Beside medical doctors, at the department there is a multidisciplinary team consisting of: 2 clinical psychologists, 1 special educator, 1 mental health social worker and 4 nurses. The department is closely collaborating with the University Clinic of Pediatrics and also with the Institute for rehabilitation of hearing, speech and voice for children with neurodevelopmental disorders.

On the secondary level the Institute for Mental Health of Children and Adolescents, situated in Skopje, the capital, is providing mental health care to children and adolescents in the out-patient department. It's role is early diagnostic and treatment of mental health problems in children and adolescents. There are 3 child and adolescent psychiatrists, 1 clinical child psychologist, 3 psychologists, 5 special educators, 4 speech therapists and 3 social workers, working in the Institute. The Institute is closely collaborating with kindergartens, primary schools and Centers for Social Work.

Throughout the country there is one Center for Mental Health of Children and Adolescents in Bitola, in the South-West in the country, consisting of a multidisciplinary team: child and adolescent psychiatrist, 2 clinical psychologists, special educator, speech therapist and social worker, also working as an out-patient unit.

In 4 major towns in the country there are Counselling services for developmental problems in children, operating through local health centers, which also have multidisciplinary teams consisted of: psychologist, special educator and speech therapist in close relation to the family doctors and pediatricians in primary health care. Implementation of the model of Early intervention in children with developmental problems 0-6, is being implemented, mainly through these services, and the intention is to develop them in the other parts of the country where there is a lack of such services.

The rest of the country does not have services for mental health of children and adolescents.

As it was mentioned, Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in collaboration with the Association of Special Educators and rehabilitators, are jointly implementing the new model of functional assessment of children with disabilities in the Republic of North Macedonia based on the International Classification of Functioning and Health (ICF). All children with disabilities 5-6 years are being assessed by the multidisciplinary commission and recommendations for further inclusion of children in regular schools is being provided.

Training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

The training in child and adolescent psychiatry is a postgraduate training of medical doctors and lasts for 5 years. The training (specialization) in the field is organized by the Ministry of Health, Medical Faculty at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje and University Clinic of Psychiatry – Skopje and was established in 2015. The program was developed in line with the European Union of Medical Specialists – Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (UEMS-CAP) criteria. Up to now, there are already 4 child and adolescent psychiatrists, trained by this program, and 3 more trainees. The training during the first 2 years is the same with general psychiatry training, and the next 3 years are deeper training in this particular field.

There is also a sub-specialization in child and adolescent psychiatry which lasts for 2 years and is aimed for psychiatrists, for their further education in this field.

In the whole country there are 14 child and adolescent psychiatrists, who were trained as general psychiatrists and later had been trained for 2 years in child and adolescent psychiatry.