

# DELIVERABLE D5.1.2

## *Statute draft*

(of CROATIAN SSF association)

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Pursuant to Article 13 of the Associations Act (Official Gazette 74/14, 70/17, 98/19), at the meeting held on 23rd November 2021, the Constitutional Assembly of the Association has adopted the following:

## **THE STATUTE**

### **OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERMAN OF THE ADRIATIC**

#### **I**

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### **Article 1**

- (1) The Association of Small-scale Coastal Fishermen of the Adriatic (hereinafter: the Association) is an association, comprised of artisanal fishermen (natural and/or legal persons) from the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Italy, belonging to the small-scale coastal fisheries sector, whose methods and conditions of commercial fishing and business are defined by relevant national laws and regulation as well as EU regulations and recommendations.
- (2) Small-scale coastal fishing is a segment of commercial fishery at marine and inland waters, which is carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of less than twelve (12) meters, which do not use towed fishing gear, as defined in Article 2 paragraph 1 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006, or without vessels, including shellfish collection.
- (3) The reason for establishing the Association is the protection and promotion of common professional, environmental, cultural, administrative, informational, economic, scientific, social and other interests and goals and the improvement and development of the small-scale coastal fishing sector in the Adriatic, through implementation of programs and plans for the long-term management and exploitation of fish stocks, and the protection and conservation of the marine ecosystem and biological resources of the sea.
- (4) Full membership in the Association, have and may had natural and/or legal persons from the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Italy, who own only vessels smaller than 12 meters and fishing privileges (licences) in which towed fishing gear is not registered and who actively perform fishing activities.
- (5) In the legal transaction of the Association, version of the Statute in Italian and English languages can be used equally. The translation must be made by a certified court interpreter.

## Article 2

This Statute shall regulate the following:

- Provisions about the name, registered office and territorial area of the Association
- Appearance of the stamp and logo of the Association,
- Association's field of action,
- Purpose and objectives of the Association,
- Activities for the realization of goals of the Association,
- Economic activities of the Association pursuant to the Association Act,
- Target groups of the Association,
- Publicity of the Association's work,
- Membership, rights, obligations and responsibilities of members of the Association,
- Associating and organizational forms of the Association,
- Authorized representatives of the Association,
- Internal organization and bodies of the Association,
- Assets and property, disposition of assets, property and possible revenues of the Association,
- Manner of resolving disputes and conflicts of interest within the Association,
- Termination of work and liquidation procedure,
- Disposition of assets and property in case of the termination of the Association.

## II

### NAME, SEAT, SEAL, SIGN AND TERRITORIAL AREA OF THE ASSOCIATION

#### Article 3

- (1) Name of the Association in Croatian language is: Udruga malih priobalnih ribara Jadrana
- (2) The abbreviated name in Croatian language is: UMPRIBAADRI
- (3) Besides the official name in Croatian, the following name of the Association in English language shall be used:
  1. The name of the Association in English language is: Association of small-scale coastal fishermen of the Adriatic.
  2. The abbreviated name of the Association in English language is: AFISHADRI

#### Article 4

- (1) The registered office (seat) of the Association is in the city of Poreč.
- (2) The Association is registered with the competent administration authority in the Istra County, and entered in the Register of associations of the Republic of Croatia.
- (3) The decision to change the name and address of the seat (registered office) of the Association is made by the Board of Directors.

#### Article 5

The Association may have its own logo/sign, the shape and appearance of which is decided by the Board of Directors of the Association.

#### Article 6

- (1) The territorial area of activity of the Association is the coastal area of the Adriatic Sea.
- (2) The Association is a non-governmental and non-profit legal entity established on the principles of independence, publicity, democratic organization and free participation in public life, which includes activities in the coastal area of the Adriatic Sea, aimed at achieving the goals and activities of Art. 8 and 11 of this Statute.
- (3) The Association may carry out only the activities and actions prescribed by this Statute.

### III

#### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES, FIELDS OF ACTION, TARGET GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

#### Article 7

The purpose of the Association's activity is to strengthen the role of stakeholders in the small-scale coastal fishery sector, improve conditions and competitiveness and strengthen the capacities in professional, social, cross-sectoral, economic and market activities at the local, regional, national and international levels.

#### Article 8

The objectives of the Association are as follows:

1. Promotion and increase of standards and working conditions of small-scale coastal fisherman in the Adriatic area.
2. Encouraging the protection of the Adriatic coastal zone with the aim of achieving sustainable fisheries in the small-scale coastal fisheries sector.
3. Strengthening the competitiveness and excellence of entrepreneurs and craftsmen in the small-scale coastal fisheries sector.
4. Strengthening the economic environment to create, maintain and improve jobs and strengthen employment capacity, stimulate employment and increase jobs in the small-scale coastal fishing sector.
5. Job creation in the sector and the consequent economic and demographic recovery of rural coastal and island communities.
6. Creating preconditions for appropriate education of stakeholders in the small-scale coastal fishing sector and strengthening the capacity of existing educational institutions.
7. More favourable positioning of small-scale artisanal fishermen on the market
8. Manufacturing products with higher added value through various forms of certification
9. Promotion of responsible fishing and fisheries activities with the purpose of conservation of fishery resources, their long-term sustainable management and exploitation/utilization and the development of small-scale coastal fisheries in the coastal area of the Adriatic Sea.
10. Promotion of cooperative management of the Adriatic basin, where exploitation of linked and shared fishery resources requires joint management programs.
11. Adhere to and promote the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982).
12. Adhere to and promote the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992).
13. Adhere to and promote the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992).
14. Adhere to and promote the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1973).
15. Adhere to and promote the principles and international standards of the United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO, 1995) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), and in particular, encourage the linking of small-scale coastal fishermen with



representatives of the public, private, educational and scientific sectors for the purpose of:

- Improving technical, financial and other cooperation in the conservation of fish stocks and in the management and development of fisheries,
  - Improving the contribution of fisheries to food security and food quality, especially at the local level,
  - Improving the protection of living aquatic resources, their environment and the coastal areas,
  - Promotion of trade of fish and fishery product in conformity with relevant national and international rules,
  - promoting research in fisheries and ecology,
  - ensuring and establishing standards of conduct for all persons involved in small-scale coastal fisheries sector.
16. Promotion of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, developed by FAO (2015; 2018).
  17. Promote and conduct actions which will contribute to achieve Goal 14 (Life Below Water) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely, Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
  18. Promote and conduct actions which will contribute to achieve Goal 13 (Climate Action) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely, Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact.
  19. Promote and conduct actions which will contribute to achieve Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely, Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.
  20. Promote the activities that support and contribute to responsible fisheries and sustainable social and economic development.
  21. Promoting environmental, cultural, social, economic and infrastructural development.
  22. Development, promotion and implementation of strategies, protocols and measures for sustainable management and exploitation of marine biological resources.

23. Ensuring the efficient flow of information and knowledge transfer between fishermen, the scientific community, professional organizations and associations, and governing bodies at local, regional, national and international levels.
24. Encouraging and achieving cooperation with other associations, non-governmental organizations and other organizations in order to achieve the goals set by this Statute.

### **Article 9**

In accordance with the goals, the Association operates in the field of:

- Sustainable development,
- Nature protection,
- Economy,
- International cooperation,
- Education, science and research,
- Culture and arts,
- Democratic political culture,
- Social activities.

### **Article 10**

Association is not allowed to perform its activities for the purpose of gaining profit for its members. If in the performance of its activities the Association realizes a surplus of income over expenses, it must, in accordance with the Statute, be used exclusively for the performance and improvement of the activities of the Association, which achieve the goals set by the Statute.

### **Article 11**

(1) The objectives are achieved by the following activities of the Association:

1. Collaboration with state administration bodies, regional and local self-government bodies, international organizations, social communities and scientific organizations to encourage the protection of biological diversity of the marine ecosystem through measures for long-term conservation and sustainable management and exploitation of fishery resources,

2. Encouraging the creation of public awareness of the need for protection and management of coastal resources,
3. Promoting awareness of the importance of responsible and ethical fisheries through education and practice,
4. Encouraging the protection of intangible historical and cultural assets and heritage, such as traditional fishing methods and practices, skills and customs and the development of local fishing communities,
5. Encouraging the use of fish and other fishery products for human consumption,
6. Encouraging the marketing and processing of fishery products in accordance with nationally and internationally accepted standards and regulations,
7. Development, implementation, and promotion of documents, protocols or plans for the management of marine biological resources,
8. Encouraging the restoration of fish stocks, through the use of artificial reefs, fish aggregation devices and similar appropriate activities,
9. Encouraging the development of a strategy, i.e. systematic management of artificial reefs and fish aggregation devices,
10. Encouraging the creation of protected areas and zones intended for small-scale coastal fishing,
11. Encouraging the application of selective and environmentally safe fishing gear, practices and techniques,
12. Promoting innovation and development of fishing gear, practices and techniques that increase survival rates of escaping fish but also minimizes the catch of under-sized fish, by-catches of non-target fish species and protected species of animals,
13. Specialization and training of its members and improvement and advancement of professional knowledge and expertise in the field of fishing,
14. International cooperation and mobility in education,
15. Advisory support to stakeholders in the sector of small-scale coastal fishing sector,
16. Coordinating the activities of its members, providing them with professional assistance in their work, taking care of the most favourable position of members and their legal protection,
17. Development and promotion of training programs or professional qualifications in accordance with international standards and guidelines,
18. Promotion and development of volunteering,
19. Protection and promotion of human rights,



20. Development of civil society and local community,
21. Presentation of the Association and members at fairs, exhibitions, professional and scientific conferences in the country and abroad,
22. Cooperation with social communities and scientific organizations for the purpose of exchanging experience and knowledge transfer and organization and participation in biological, socio-economic and other professional areas of research,
23. Cooperation with competent state administration bodies and international organizations and agencies in making proposals of drafts of laws and other relevant regulations, which regulate the issues of small-scale coastal fishing as well as regulations of regional and local self-government,
24. Encouraging cooperation at the appropriate administrative levels in resolving the issues of beneficiaries of fishery resources and other users of the coastal area,
25. Cooperation with related associations, federations and institutions in the country and abroad in order to achieve the basic goals of the sector at the local, national and interstate level,
26. Encouraging international cooperation and coordination, but also the exchanges of knowledge and experience in the small-scale coastal fishing sector,
27. Encouraging the establishment of bilateral, sub regional or regional fisheries organizations (cooperatives, producer organizations),
28. Cross-sectoral connection production-processing-trade,
29. Protection and representation of the interests of small-scale coastal fishermen in the use of the coastal area and the inclusion of strategies for the conservation of fishery resources in the management, planning and development of the coastal area,
30. Representation of common interests towards third parties,
31. Coordinating and encouraging the implementation of research, analysis and assessment of the situation in the small-scale coastal fishery sector,
32. Preparation and implementation of development projects in terms of strengthening the entrepreneurial infrastructure and joint competitiveness of members,
33. Planning, development and application of projects for national and international funds, tenders of foundations, local and regional self-government administrative units, central state administration bodies and other edible tenders,
34. Strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders to design and implement projects, including fostering their project management skills,

35. Development and implementation of strategic projects in order to improve the competitiveness of the sector,
36. Implementation of projects from available sources of financing, as well as grants and EU funds,
37. Determining the need for new investments within the sector,
38. Promoting short supply chains,
39. Promoting the certification of fish caught with selective fishing gear and techniques,
40. Promotion of a brand marking fishery products from the small-scale coastal fishery sector, promotion of the brand holder, promotion of fishery products from small-scale coastal fishing,
41. Creating a stimulating environment for trade, processing and catering activities,
42. Other activities that contribute to the achievement of the goals set by this Statute.

(2) The Association will carry out these activities on the basis of its own program and work plans, independently or in cooperation with other natural and legal persons from the country and abroad.

### **Article 12**

The activities of the Association will be based on and be in accordance with the adopted national, county, city and municipal development strategies and programs, as well as regulations and laws of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Italy.

### **Article 13**

(1) In order to achieve its goals, the Association shall, in accordance with special regulations, perform economic activities, taking into account the Statute and the law.

(2) The goals are achieved by the following economic activities of the Association:

1. Publishing and sale of own printed and digital publications (professional, scientific, popular), educational materials (brochures, leaflets, etc.) as well as multimedia works in the field of activity of the Association, and in accordance with special regulations,
2. Organization of formal and non-formal education,

3. Organization of seminars, conferences, training, study trips, public forums, workshops, fairs, exhibitions and campaigns in the areas of activity of the Association,
4. Marking (branding) of fishery products from small-scale coastal fishery,
5. Development of fishing tourism in the area of its activity,
6. Providing advertising space to members of the Association,
7. Other economic activities in accordance with the law, the Statute and other acts of the Association.

(3) The Assembly shall decide on the form and manner of performing economic activities at the proposal of the Board of Directors.

#### **Article 14**

The target groups of the Association with regard to membership and/or users to which the Association is directed include fishermen, small and medium enterprises, business organizations, citizens (general population), regional, local, national and international self-government, consumers, tourists, educational institutions, rural population, volunteers, associations and civic initiatives and support and professional organizations (Croatian Chamber of Crafts, Croatian Chamber of Commerce, development agencies, Local Action Groups in Fisheries and others).

### **IV**

#### **PUBLICITY OF THE WORK**

#### **Article 15**

- (1) The work of the Association and its bodies is public.
- (2) Publicity of work is achieved by timely informing its members and other interested bodies and organizations or the public, with the programs, decisions, guidelines and conclusions of the Association and in other ways determined by this Statute.
- (3) Informing about the work of the Association can be done through:

- Regular and special reports and other notices and decisions from the sessions of the Assembly and other bodies of the Association,
- Public insights into the Statute and general acts of the Association,
- Through information and communication technologies (websites, social networks, etc.) of the Association,
- Through the newsletter of the Association, if the Association publishes it,
- Occasional analysis, studies and in other appropriate ways,
- If necessary through daily and other press, radio, television and other media,
- In another convenient way.

(4) Sessions of the bodies of the Association are public, and in accordance with the rules of procedure, the bodies may be closed to the public when required by the interests of the Association.

(5) The bodies of the Association may at their sessions consider acts and data marked as business secrets, whereby they are obliged to warn the members of the bodies of the obligation to keep secrets. At the sessions of the bodies at which the business secret is discussed, the public is excluded.

(6) The decision on the exclusion of the public from the session of the body of the Association is made by the body of the Association that is in session.

#### **Article 16**

The Association does not allow any form of discrimination (racial, national, ethnic, sexual, religious, political and others) and the prevention of freedoms and rights of man and citizen.

### **V**

#### **MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION, AND RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS**

#### **Article 17**

- (1) Membership in the Association is voluntary and can be regular, associate and honorary.
- (2) Membership in the Association is realized on the basis of the membership application.

- (3) Legal and natural person in the work of the Association is represented by an authorized person. Authorized persons may have their replacements.
- (4) The decision on admission to the membership of the Association is made by the Board of Directors.
- (5) The Board of Directors checks the receipt of applications for membership on a monthly basis.
- (6) The Association keeps a list of members, for which a person is authorized to keep the list of members, whose election and duration of the list keeping is decided by the General Assembly at the proposal of the Board of Directors.
- (7) The list of members is kept in electronic form and must contain information on the name of the member, personal identification number (OIB), date of birth (establishment), communication data, date of joining the Association, membership category and date of termination of membership in the Association, and may contain other information. The content of other used data may be prescribed by an ordinance or other general act of the Association.
- (8) The list of members is available for inspection to all members and competent bodies, at their request.
- (9) The decision on the membership category is made by the Board of Directors.
- (10) The decision on the amount of the membership fees is made by the Assembly on the proposal of the Board of Directors.

### Article 18

- (1) A regular member of the Association can become any able-bodied natural person, i.e. citizen of the Republic of Croatia or the Republic of Italy or a duly registered legal entity with its registered office in the Republic of Croatia or the Republic of Italy, who is a holder of a fishing privilege (licence) that belongs to the segment of small-scale coastal fisheries, i.e., in which towing gear is not registered, and which accepts the Statute of the Association.
- (2) If a natural and/or legal person is a holder of several fishing privileges, then all privileges must belong to the small-scale coastal fishing segment.
- (3) As an exception to paragraph 2 of this Article and Article 1, paragraph 4 of this Statute, the Board of Directors may decide to admit to regular membership fishermen who, beside using passive fishing gear, use also towed fishing gear, if they are active in improving conditions



in the small-scale coastal fisheries sector, and have excelled in promoting the values of fishing methods in the small-scale coastal fishing sector.

- (4) The application for regular membership in the Association is submitted through the application form and the written Decision on accession.
- (5) The Decision on admission to regular membership is made by the Board of Directors.
- (6) The application for membership is submitted by and the representatives of legal entities in membership of the bodies of the Association is appointed by a person authorized to represent the legal entity.
- (7) In the event of a change in the person who will represent the legal entity, it is obliged to notify the Board of Directors in writing within fifteen (15) days from the date of the change.
- (8) Regular members of the Association have the right to participate in the work of the Association and the bodies of the Association, the right to elect and be elected to the bodies of the Association and the right to decide in the bodies of the Association.
- (9) Regular members of the Association are obliged to pay membership fees.

#### **Article 19**

- (1) Any able-bodied natural person and duly registered legal entity that accepts the Statute of the Association and who wishes to occasionally join the work of the Association and participate in the implementation of certain activities may become an associate member of the Association.
- (2) The application for associate membership in the Association is submitted through the application form and the written Decision on accession.
- (3) The decision on admission to associate membership is made by the Board of Directors.
- (4) Associate members of the Association have the right to participate in the work of the Association, but they do not have the right to vote and be elected to the bodies of the Association or the right to decide in the bodies of the Association.
- (5) Associate members of the Association are not obliged to pay membership fees.

#### **Article 20**

- (1) Honorary members of the Association may be legal and natural persons who are especially responsible for the work and development of the Association.
- (2) The decision on the proclamation of an honorary member is made by the Assembly on the proposal of the Board of Directors or on the proposal of twenty (20%) percent of the members of the Assembly.

- (3) Honorary members have the right to participate in the work of the Association, but they do not have the right to elect and be elected to the bodies of the Association or the right to decide in the bodies of the Association.
- (4) Honorary members of the Association are not obliged to pay membership fees.

### **Article 21**

(1) The rights of all members of the Association are:

- Contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Association in accordance with their possibilities,
- Actively participate in all activities and actions of the Association in accordance with its expertise and interest,
- Participate in the work of the Association and the work of the bodies of the Association,
- To be informed about the work of the Association,
- Have insight into the decisions of the bodies of the Association,
- Propose new activities, actions, programs and projects of the Association,
- Express opinions, suggestions and criticisms.

(2) The obligations of all members of the Association are:

- Respect the Statute of the Association and the decisions of its governing bodies,
- Consistently perform the assumed obligations in the work of the Association,
- Participate in the work of the bodies of the Association,
- Adhere to adopted national and international regulations and standards,
- Actively participate, in accordance with its capabilities, in activities organized by the Association,
- Promote the activities of the Association,
- Preservation and raising the reputation of the Association,
- Giving proposals, opinions and remarks on the work of the Association and its bodies,
- Respect and honour other members of the Association and their differences.

(3) A member of the Association is not authorized without the prior approval of the Board of Directors:

- To act on its own initiative and independently on behalf of the Association,

- Independently and on its own initiative to initiate and conduct activities and actions on behalf of the Association.

### **Article 22**

Membership in the Association is terminated in the following cases:

- By resigning,
- Exclusion,
- Death/termination of membership,
- Failure to pay membership fees,
- With the termination of the Association.

### **Article 23**

- (1) Each member of the Association may voluntarily withdraw from membership by fulfilling all due obligations and submitting a written statement of withdrawal to the Board of Directors of the Association.
- (2) The decision on the right of a member who resigns or is excluded from membership in the Association, right to a refund of membership fees, a share in the property of the Association or any monetary claims from the Association, is made in each individual case.
- (3) The decision on withdrawal of a member from membership in the Association and on the rights to a refund of membership fees, a share in the property of the Association or any monetary claims from the Association, is made by the Board of Directors.

### **Article 24**

A member may be expelled in the following cases:

- Gross violation of the provisions of this Statute, other acts of the Association and the law,
- Abuse of its membership and the name of the Association,
- Abuse of authority and position and use of the activities of the Association for its own political and economic promotion or promotion of any political party,
- Endangering the interests of the Association, damaging the reputation and causing material damage to the Association and its members,
- Non-payment of membership fees for a period longer than one year from the deadline for payment.

### Article 25

- (1) If a member of the Association who is obliged to pay without a justified reason does not pay it within one year from the deadline for payment of membership fees for the current year, the Board of Directors makes a decision on termination of membership.
- (2) The Board of Directors shall decide on the justification of the reasons for non-payment of membership fees.

### Article 26

- (1) A disciplinary measure may be imposed on the members of the Association in the form of a written warning or expulsion from the Association.
- (2) Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by any member of the Association with an explanation.
- (3) The decision on disciplinary measures against members shall be made by the Board of Directors by a majority vote.
- (4) An appeal against the decision on a disciplinary measure may be lodged with the Assembly within eight (8) days from the day of receipt of the decision. The appeal postpones the exclusion.
- (5) The Assembly shall review the disciplinary measure and decide on the appeal within thirty (30) days from the day of its receipt.
- (6) The decision of the Assembly is final and is made by a two-thirds majority of the present members of the Assembly.

## VI

### MERGERS, AFFILIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS OF THE ASSOCIATION

#### Article 27

- (1) The Association may associate and join domestic and international alliances, communities, networks, coordinations or other forms of associations, regardless of the area of its activities and if it is in the interest of the Association.
- (2) The decision on associating and membership is made by the Assembly on the proposal of the Board of Directors.

- (3) The Association may cooperate and participate in joint activities with related associations and organizations and institutions at the national and international level in order to achieve the goals of the Association.

### Article 28

- (1) The Association may establish organizational forms (branches, clubs, etc.) in other cities on the territory of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Italy.
- (2) Branches are established in order to achieve the goals, improve the work and more efficient operation and functioning of the Association.
- (3) The decision on the establishment and abolition of a branch in a certain area is made by the Board of Directors. The decision to establish a branch may be made by the Board of Directors in the event that the need arises. The Board of Directors appoints a person or several persons authorized to represent the organizational form and defines the manner of work in accordance with the Law, the Statute and the decisions of the bodies of the Association. The manner of work and the area of activity of other organizational forms will be regulated by an internal act issued by the Board of Directors.
- (4) Branches shall, as a rule, be established on a territorial basis either at the county or regional level, provided that a joint single branch may be established for several territorially close counties while fulfilling other conditions referred to in this Article. Branches from territorially close areas may, in order to pursue specific interests, as well as for reasons provided by the Statute, act through coordination (regional principle). The affiliation of branches to regional areas will be determined by a special decision of the Board of Directors of the Association.
- (5) Branches may have legal personality or be branches without legal personality. The decision on the legal personality of organizational forms is made by the Assembly on the proposal of the Board of Directors.
- (6) A branch may have legal personality if it submits a request, on which the Assembly decides on the proposal of the Board of Directors, if it is justified by the activities and actions performed by the Branch and if they have the status of a branch for at least two (2) years, and as a rule, more than 30 regular members.
- (7) A branch that has legal personality for the purpose of performing activities may have a sub-account.



- (8) The Branch of the Association acts in accordance with the provisions of this Statute, while the Branches which have legal personality also in accordance with the provisions of their own Statutes which must be harmonized with this Statute.
- (9) The provisions of the Association Act shall apply to branches that have legal personality in an appropriate manner. The Statute of the Branch with legal personality is approved by the Assembly on the proposal of the Board of Directors.
- (10) In order to achieve the goals and perform economic activities, the Association and its branches that have legal personality, may establish companies in accordance with the Companies Act.

## VII

### REPRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

#### Article 29

- (1) Persons authorized to represent the Association are the President, Vice President and General Secretary of the Association.
- (2) The persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article represent the Association individually and independently.
- (3) In case of absence of the President, Vice-President and General Secretary, the Association is represented by a person authorized for representation.
- (5) Persons authorized to represent the Association:
  - are responsible for the legality of the work of the Association,
  - manage the affairs of the Association in accordance with the decisions of the Assembly and the Board of Directors, unless otherwise prescribed by this Statute,
  - submit to the Assembly the proposal of the annual financial report and the proposal of the annual program and financial plan,
  - submit the minutes from the regular session of the General Assembly of the Association to the competent administrative body in the Istra County,
  - enter into contracts and take other legal actions in the name and on behalf of the Association,

- perform other tasks in accordance with the Law, the Statute and the acts of the Association.

### **Article 30**

- (1) Regular members of the Association manage the Association directly at the Assembly and through elected representatives in other bodies of the Association.
- (2) The bodies of the Association are the Assembly, the Board of Directors, the President, Vice-President and the General Secretary.
- (3) In addition to the Bodies referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the Assembly, upon the proposal of the Board of Directors, may establish other permanent or occasional Bodies.
- (4) The term of office for the work of the Board of Directors, the President, Vice-President and the General Secretary lasts four (4) years with the possibility of reappointment.
- (5) Upon termination of the mandate of a member of a body of the Association before the expiration of the regular term, regardless of the manner of termination, the new member of that body performs the same duty until the end of the current term of the member whose mandate was terminated.
- (6) In case of expiration of the mandate of the persons authorized to represent the Association, the session of the Assembly is authorized to convene one third of the members enrolled in the list of members before the expiration of the mandate or the President and Vice President of the Association, i.e. a person authorized to represent who performed the specified duty until the expiration of his/her term of office.

## **VIII**

### **GOVERNING BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 31**

- (1) The General Assembly is the highest governing and decision-making body of the Association.
- (2) The General Assembly consists of all regular members of the Association.
- (3) The General Assembly shall sit in session that may be regular or extraordinary.
- (4) Regular sessions of the General Assembly may be reporting-programming and elective.
- (5) The General Assembly is chaired by the President of the Association, and in case of his impediment by the Vice-President of the Association.

- (6) In the absence of the President and Vice President of the Association and the person authorized by the President or Vice President of the Association, the members of the Assembly shall, at the beginning of the session, determine by public vote the person who will chair the session.
- (7) At the beginning of the session, the members of the Assembly shall elect the recorder and the certifier of the minutes.
- (8) Sessions of the Assembly may be held by physical attendance at sessions and/or via electronic media (virtual audio-visual transmission in real time, hereinafter: video session) and in certain cases by applying a written procedure (e-mail, physical mail). The application of voting by written procedure is prescribed by the Assembly by a general act of the Association.
- (9) Minutes shall be kept at the session of the General Assembly, which shall be permanently kept in the archives of the Association.
- (10) Decisions and conclusions of the General Assembly must be published on the website of the Association and/or newsletter of the Association, and may also be published through the media.

### **Article 32**

- (1) Regular sessions of the General Assembly are convened by the President of the Association.
- (2) All members of the Assembly must be notified of the place and time of the session at least ten (10) working days before the date of the session, and the agenda at least five (5) working days before the date of the session.
- (3) Regular reporting sessions of the General Assembly are held once a year, and in case of need it is possible to hold them several times during the year.
- (4) Regular elective sessions of the General Assembly shall be held every four (4) years.

### **Article 33**

- (1) The extraordinary session of the Assembly is held as needed and convened by the President at its own discretion or at the request of the Vice President or Board of Directors of the Association or at the request of at least one third of the General Assembly members, with a written explanation for convening and the proposed agenda.
- (2) If the President of the Association does not convene an extraordinary assembly at the request of authorized proposers within thirty (30) days of the request, the Assembly may be convened by an authorized proposer, by invitation which must contain information on the

reason for convening an extraordinary session, proposed agenda and place, the day and hour of the session.

- (3) The convener of the extraordinary session of the General Assembly is obliged to organize the holding of the session and at least ten (10) working days before the session to inform all members of the Assembly about the time, place and reason for convening the extraordinary session of the Assembly.
- (4) At the extraordinary session of the General Assembly, only the issues for which the session was convened, shall be discussed.

#### **Article 34**

- (1) The General Assembly of the Association may make valid decisions if more than half of all members of the General Assembly are present at the session of the Assembly.
- (2) If the majority referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is not present at the General Assembly session within the scheduled time, the convener shall convene a new session within not less than thirty (30) minutes, provided that the General Assembly of the Association may make valid decisions if at least one third of the members of the General Assembly of the Association.
- (3) The General Assembly makes decisions by a simple majority of votes of the present members. The application of voting by written procedure is prescribed by the Assembly by a general act of the Association.
- (4) Decision of the General Assembly shall, as a rule, be made by public vote, unless the General Assembly determines to decide on certain issues by secret ballot. Issues of secret ballot of the General Assembly are regulated by the Rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
- (5) Decision of the Assembly oblige the bodies of the Association and all members to implement them.

#### **Article 35**

The General Assembly of the Association is responsible for performing the following tasks:

1. Adopts the Statute and other general acts of the Association and their amendments at the proposal of the Board of Directors,
2. Elects and dismisses the members of the Board of Directors, the President, the Vice-President, Liquidator and members of other bodies established by the General Assembly,

3. Adopts the work plan and financial plan for the next calendar year and the work report for the previous calendar year,
4. Approves the annual financial report,
5. Makes a decision on the status changes of the Association,
6. Decides on the amount of annual membership fee at the proposal of the Board of Directors.
7. Confirms the admission to membership of the Association of Honorary Members,
8. Determines the development policy of the Association,
9. Decides on the change of goals and activities, termination of work and distribution of the remaining property of the Association,
10. Adopts the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,
11. Adopts the ordinance on business secrets in the Association,
12. Adopts other acts and decisions related to the work of the Association,
13. Decides on the establishment of branches and other organizational forms at the proposal of the Board of Directors,
14. Decides on association in domestic and international alliances, communities, networks and other forms of linkage on the proposal of the Board of Directors,
15. Decides on appeals of members against decisions on expulsion from the Association,
16. Decides on other issues for which the Statute does not determine the competence of other bodies of the Association,
17. Performs other tasks determined by law or the Statute.

## **PRESIDENT**

### **Article 36**

- (1) The President of the Association is a person authorized to represent the Association, who manages the work of the Association in accordance with the law, the Statute and general acts of the Association and the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.
- (2) The President of the Association represents the Association individually and independently.
- (3) In case of absence or impediment of the President of the Association, he is replaced by the Vice President or a person to whom the President of the Association gives a special power of attorney to perform certain actions.
- (4) The President of the Association is also the President of the Board of Directors and the Assembly of the Association.



### **Article 37**

- (1) The President of the Association is elected by the General Assembly as a rule by secret ballot, unless the Assembly decides to vote on the candidates for the President of the Association in public.
- (2) The candidate for the President of the Association must be a member of the General Assembly.
- (3) The President of the Association becomes the candidate who receives more than half of the votes of the present members of the General Assembly, and if no candidate receives the required majority, the two candidates who received the largest number of votes are re-elected, with the President becoming the member who wins more votes.

### **Article 38**

- (1) The term of office of the President of the Association lasts four (4) years.
- (2) In the year of expiration of the current term of office, the President convenes an extraordinary session of the Assembly on time, at which the President of the Association is elected.
- (3) The same person may be re-elected to the position of President of the Association.

### **Article 39**

- (1) The President of the Association is responsible for his work to the General Assembly.
- (2) The General Assembly is authorized to dismiss the President of the Association in case of long-term illness or prolonged inability to participate in work, serious violations of the provisions of this Statute and general acts of the Association, serious crimes, death.
- (3) The decision on dismissal of the President of the Association is made by the General Assembly by a simple majority of the members of the General Assembly at the request of at least one third (1/3) of the members of the Assembly, with a written explanation.

### **Article 40**

President of the Association:

1. Represents the Association,
2. Responsible for the legality of the work of the Association,
3. Organizes and coordinates the work of the Association,
4. He is a member of the Assembly and the Board of Directors of the Association,

5. Convenes, organizes and chairs the sessions of the Assembly and chairs the work of the General Assembly,
6. Convenes, organizes and chairs the meetings of the Board of Directors and manages the work of the Board of Directors of the Association,
7. Manages the affairs of the Association in accordance with the law, the Statute and general acts of the Association and the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors,
8. Submits to the General Assembly a report on the work of the Board of Directors of the Association,
9. Responsible before the General Assembly for the work of the Board of Directors of the Association,
10. Responsible for submitting to the Assembly the proposal of the annual financial report and the work report for the previous calendar year,
11. Concludes contracts and takes other legal actions in the name and on behalf of the Association,
12. Responsible for the financial operations of the Association,
13. Responsible for the property of the Association,
14. Together with the members of the Board of Directors, determines the work plan and financial plan for the next calendar year, which is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and adoption,
15. Takes care of the execution of the adopted work plan and implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors,
16. Makes decisions on the establishment and termination of employment within the association and on salaries and any other material benefits related to employment,
17. Makes decisions on the establishment and termination of volunteer work within the Association and fees for the same,
18. Makes decisions on the establishment and termination of professional training relations and other trainee relations,
19. Takes care of acquainting the public and the bodies of the Association with the work of the Association,
20. Signs decisions made by the Assembly and the Board of Director of the Association,
21. Decides on the establishment of expert working bodies and commissions and on the appointment and dismissal of their members,
22. Performs other tasks determined by the Statute of the Association.

## VICE PRESIDENT

### Article 41

- (1) The Vice President of the Association represents the Association, assists the President in his work, changes him in the management of the Association in case of impediment, absence or conflict of interest and performs other tasks of the Association in accordance with law, Statute and general acts of the Association, and tasks entrusted to him by the President, the General Assembly or the Board of Directors of the Association.
- (2) The provision of this Statute on the election, mandate, duties and responsibilities of the President shall apply accordingly to the Vice President of the Association.

## GENERAL SECRETARY

### Article 42

- (1) The General Secretary of the Association is a person authorized to represent the Association, who performs professional and administrative tasks in the Association in accordance with the law, the Statute and general acts of the Association and the decisions of the Assembly and the Board of Directors.
- (2) In case of absence or impediment of the General Secretary of the Association, he shall be replaced by a person to whom the President of the Association gives authorization to perform certain actions.

### Article 43

- (1) The General Secretary of the Association is elected by the Board of Directors as a rule by secret ballot, unless the Board of Directors decides to vote on the candidate for General Secretary of the Association in public.
- (2) A candidate for the General Secretary of the Association does not have to be a member of the General Assembly.
- (3) The General Secretary of the Association becomes the candidate who receives more than half of the votes of the present members of the Board of Directors, and if no candidate receives the required majority, re-election includes two candidates who received the largest number of votes, whereby the General Secretary of the Association becomes the member who wins more votes.

#### **Article 44**

- (1) The term of office of the Secretary of the Association lasts four (4) years.
- (2) In the year of expiration of the valid term of office, the President shall convene a session of the Board of Directors in time, at which the General Secretary of the Association shall be elected.
- (3) The same person may be re-elected to the position of the General Secretary of the Association.
- (4) The General Secretary may also perform his function professionally.

#### **Article 45**

- (1) The General Secretary of the Association is responsible for his work to the Board of Directors.
- (2) The Board of Directors is authorized to dismiss the General Secretary of the Association in case of long-term illness, or prolonged inability to participate in work, serious violations of the provisions of this Statute and general acts of the Association, serious crimes, death.
- (3) The decision on dismissal of the General Secretary of the Association is made by the Board of Directors by a majority of votes of the present members of the Board of Directors.

#### **Article 46**

The General Secretary of the Association is responsible for performing the following tasks:

1. Represents the Association,
2. Management of administrative and technical affairs of the Association in accordance with the law, the Statute and general acts of the Association and the decisions of the Assembly and the Board of Directors.
3. Monitoring of the laws and regulations related to the work of the Association,
4. Preparation and drafting of general acts of the Association,
5. Keeping minutes of the bodies of the Association and submitting them to the President and competent bodies of the Association,
6. Keeping the archives of the Association,
7. Keeping the register, i.e. records of the list of members,
8. Care for the functioning of the Association's office,

9. Determining the proposal of the work plan and financial plan for the next calendar year, which is proposed to the President of the Association and the Board of Directors,
10. Execution of the financial plan and disposal of the planned funds, whereby he must take care of the purpose and regularity of the use of these funds,
11. Execution of the adopted work plan and implementation of the decisions of the Assembly and the Board of Directors,
12. Submission of the proposal of the annual financial report to the Assembly,
13. Concluding contracts and taking other legal actions in the name and on behalf of the Association,
14. Performs other tasks determined by the Statute of the Association or tasks for which he is authorized by the President and other bodies of the Association.

## **BORD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Article 47**

- (1) The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Association that manages the work of the Association between two sessions of the General Assembly.
- (2) The Board of Directors has a total of nine (9) members, namely the President and Vice-President of the Association and seven (7) regular members of the Association, elected by the General Assembly, whose term lasts four (4) years, with the possibility of reflection.
- (3) The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the General Assembly, as a rule, by secret ballot, unless the Assembly decides to vote in public.
- (4) The duty of the President of the Board of Directors is performed by the President of the Association.
- (5) The President of the Association is a member of the Board of Directors by position.
- (6) The members of the Board of Directors are elected from among the members of the General Assembly.
- (7) Members of the Board of Director become the candidates who receive the most votes, and if there are two or more candidates with the same number of votes at the entry border, they are re-elected until the required number of members of the Board of Directors is obtained.

### **Article 48**

- (1) The members of the Board of Directors are accountable to the General Assembly for their work.



- (2) The General Assembly has the authority to dismiss members of the Board of Directors who do not fulfil the obligations established by the Statute or do not fulfil them satisfactorily, members who damage the reputation of the Association and members who grossly exceed their powers or negligently cause significant material damage to the Association.
- (3) The General Assembly shall make a decision on dismissal of the members of the Board of Directors by a simple majority of the present members of the General Assembly.
- (4) A proposal for recall of individual or all members of the Board of Directors may be submitted by at least one third of the members of the Assembly in writing with an explanation.
- (5) The President of the Association is obliged to convene the Assembly within thirty (30) days from the date of submission of the request for revocation. At the same session at which the decision on revocation is decided, the Assembly elects a new member of the Board of Directors whose term of office runs until the expiration of the term of the previous member.
- (6) If the President does not convene within thirty (30) days from the day of submitting the request for revocation without a justified reason, the General Assembly is authorized to convene by one third of the regular members of the Association.
- (7) If it is proposed to recall the President of the Association, the Assembly is convened by one third of the regular members of the Association.

#### **Article 49**

- (1) The Board of Directors works in sessions.
- (2) Members of the Board of Directors must be notified of the time and place of the meeting of the Board of Directors at least four (4) days before the meeting.
- (3) Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held by physical presence at the meetings and/or through electronic media (video sessions) and in certain cases by applying a written procedure, whereby holding a session requires a statement of more than half of the total number of members of the Board of Directors. The application of voting by written procedures prescribed by the Board of Directors in the Rules of Procedure of the Board of Directors.
- (4) Sessions of the Board of Directors are convened, organized and chaired by the President of the Association and in case of his impediment, the Vice President of the Association or a person authorized by the President of the Association.
- (5) The President of the Association is obliged to convene a session at the request of one third of the members of the Board of Directors.
- (6) Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as needed, and at least twice a year.

- (7) Minutes shall be kept at the session of the Board of Directors, which shall be permanently kept in the archives of the Association.
- (8) The Board of Directors may make valid decisions if more than half of the members of the Board of Directors are present at the session.
- (9) The Board of Directors decides by a simple majority of the present members of the Board of Directors.
- (10) Decisions of the Board of Directors are, as a rule, made by public vote, unless the Board of Directors determines to decide on certain issues by secret ballot.

### **Article 50**

The Board of Directors of the Association is responsible for performing the following tasks:

1. Implements the decisions of the General Assembly and other bodies of the Association,
2. Leads the activities of the Association between the two sessions of the General Assembly,
3. Prepares the proposal of the work plan and financial plan for the next calendar year and the proposal of the work report for the previous calendar year,
4. Prepares the annual financial report,
5. Executes the financial plan and disposes of the planned funds, taking care of the purpose and regular use of funds,
6. Coordinates the work of the members of the Association and organizes the activities of the Association as a whole,
7. Organizes and coordinates cooperation with other organizations,
8. Proposes the Statute of the association and its amendments,
9. Proposes to the General Assembly the amount of the annual membership fee,
10. Decides on the hiring of an external expert,
11. Proposes to the General Assembly the association in alliances, communities, networks and other forms of linkages,
12. Elects and dismisses the General Secretary of the Association,
13. Decides on the shape and/or appearance of the logo/sign of the Association,
14. Decides on the amount of compensation for the engagement of an external expert,
15. Decides on the inclusion of members in regular and associate membership,
16. Decides on resolving disputes and conflicts of interest within the Association,
17. Decides on the disciplinary responsibility of members in the first instance,
18. Adopts the rules of procedure of the Board of Directors,

19. Adopts various documents, protocols and measures for the management of biological resources of the sea,
20. Adopts other general and internal acts of the Association, the adoption of which is not within the competence of the General Assembly,
21. Decides on the establishment and appoints members of professional working bodies and commissions, whose establishment and appointment is not within the competence of the General Assembly,
22. Makes other decisions important for the work and functioning of the Association,
23. Performs other tasks entrusted to him by the General Assembly and those that are not placed under the competence of other bodies of the Association by the Statute.

## **EXTERNAL EXPERT**

### **Article 51**

- (1) At the proposal of the Board of Directors, the General Assembly may make a decision on the engagement of an external expert by a simple majority of members.
- (2) An external expert shall be hired for the purpose of performing the following tasks:
  - coordinating the preparation and application for various projects within the implementation of measures of the Operational Program intended for fisheries of the Republic of Croatia and measures of other European Union funds, which may contribute to the development of the Association,
  - application and implementation of projects financed or co-financed by local, regional and national bodies that contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Association,
  - performing other tasks in accordance with the law, the Statute and the acts of the Association.
- (3) The function of an external expert can be performed for a financial fee, the decision on which is made by the Board of Directors of the Association.

## **IX**

### **PROPERTY, MANNER OF ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF ASSOCIATION PROPERTY**

#### **Article 52**

- (1) The property of the Association consists of funds acquired by the Association by paying membership fees, voluntary contributions and gifts, funds acquired by the Association by performing economic activities that achieve its goals, grants from the state budget and local and regional self-government units and EU funds and/or foreign sources and other funds acquired in accordance with the law, immovable and movable property of the Association and other property rights.
- (2) The property of the Association is disposed of by the President, Vice President and Board of Directors, in accordance with the decisions, conclusions and plans of the General Assembly of the Association, exclusively for achieving goals and activities determined by the Statute of the Association, in accordance with the law.
- (3) The President and the Vice President of the Association may make decisions on the disposal of financial resources in each individual case, adhering to the decisions and conclusions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.
- (4) The President and the Vice President of the Association are responsible for the records of the use of the Association's property.
- (5) Financial and material operations of the Associations are performed through giro accounts in accordance with legal regulations and by applying regulations relating to financial and material operations of non-profit organizations, based on the financial plan adopted by the Board of Directors for each calendar year and accepted by the General Assembly.
- (6) The Association keeps business books and prepares financial reports in accordance with regulations governing the manner of financial operations and accounting of non-profit organizations.

### Article 53

Programs and projects and regular work of the Association are financed by revenues from:

1. Membership fees,
2. Voluntary contributions and gifts,
3. Funds acquired by performing activities that achieve the goals of the Association,
4. Grants from the state budget, the budget of local and regional self-government units and funds and/or foreign sources, with special emphasis on EU funds,
5. Different property rights,
6. Other sources of income in accordance with the law.

#### **Article 54**

- (1) The Association is responsible for its obligations with its entire property.
- (2) Members of the Association and members of its bodies are not responsible for the obligations of the Association.
- (3) Bankruptcy may be filed against the Association, in accordance with the law.

#### **Article 55**

The Association and the persons authorized to represent the Association for damage done in the Association or damage from the Association to third parties, are liable in accordance with general regulations on liability for damage.

### **X**

#### **RESOLVING DISPUTES AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **Article 56**

- (1) Members of the Association in all matters of interest and importance to the Association must act honestly, fairly, conscientiously, responsibly and impartially, preserving their own credibility and the credibility of the Association.
- (2) In performing the activities of the Association, members may not put their private interests above the interest of the Association.
- (3) In case of a dispute between the members of the Association that makes the work of the Association difficult or impossible and cannot be resolved through the procedures prescribed by this Statute, the members of the Association are obliged to try to resolve the dispute by conciliation.
- (4) If the conciliation procedure fails, the members of the Association resolve the dispute before the competent municipal court.
- (5) Conflict of interest is considered a situation when members of the Association in the performance of their duties in the Association come to a situation where their decisions or other actions favour themselves or their close people, social groups and organizations, to the detriment of the Association or members of the Association. Each conflict of interest is decided separately.



- (6) If there is a dispute or conflict of interest between the members of the Association related to the activities of the Association, the members will try to resolve the dispute amicably, and if they fail to do so, the Board of Directors in competent.
- (7) The Board of Directors shall appoint a council of three members to resolve a dispute or conflict of interest.
- (8) The Council may also decide on disputes and conflicts of interest on the principle of fairness.
- (9) The Council shall conduct the proceedings with the appropriate application of the provisions of the Arbitration Act, and the proceedings shall end with the award of the Council which has the force of a final court judgment against the parties.

## XI

### TERMINATION AND LIQUIDATION PROCEDURE

#### Article 57

- (1) The reasons for the termination of the Association are:
  1. Decision of the Assembly on the termination of the Association made by a two-thirds majority of all members of the General Assembly,
  2. Merger with another association, division of the Association by separation,
  3. Twice as much time elapsed as the time allotted for holding a regular session of the General Assembly, and it was not held,
  4. Final decision of the court on the termination of the Association,
  5. Initiation of bankruptcy proceedings,
  6. At the request of a member, if the number of members of the Association fell below the number of founders required to establish the association in accordance with the law, and the General Assembly of the Association within one year of the occurrence of this fact has not decided to admit new members.
- (2) In the case referred to in paragraph 1, points 1 and 5 of this Article, the liquidator is obliged to submit a request to the competent administrative body for entry of termination of the Association in the register of associations within eight (8) days from the date of termination of the Association, i.e. initiation of bankruptcy proceedings.
- (3) The facts referred to in paragraph 1, points 3 and 6 of this Article shall be determined by a decision of the competent office ex officio or at the proposal of the person authorized to

represent the Association, the competent body of the Association, members of the Association or other interested natural and legal persons.

(4) Based on the final court decision on the termination of the Association, the competent office shall issue a decision on initiating liquidation proceedings.

### **Article 58**

- (1) In cases determined by law, liquidation proceedings shall be conducted.
- (2) The competent administrative body shall issue a decision on termination of operation and initiation of liquidation proceedings, which shall contain the reasons for initiating proceedings, the personal name of the liquidator and the manner of conducting liquidation proceedings and information on changing the name of the Association.
- (3) By initiating the liquidation procedure, the authorizations of the persons authorized to represent the Association shall cease.
- (4) The liquidator is obliged to carry out the liquidation procedure within sixty (60) days from the day of receipt of the decision of the competent office on the opening of the liquidation procedure.
- (5) In the liquidation procedure, the liquidator is obliged to determine the balance on the business account of the Association, bookkeeping of debts and receivables, determine other assets of the Association and obtain from the official records of the Ministry of Finance – Tax Administration a certificate of non-existence of debt. In case it determines that the Association has debts, the liquidator is obliged to publish an invitation to creditors to report their claims to the Association within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of the invitation, and for any claims it is obliged to invite debtors to pay debts within thirty (30) days. The remaining assets shall be distributed by the liquidator in accordance with the provision of Article 57 of this Statute.
- (6) After the distribution of the remaining assets in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Article, the liquidator is obliged to submit the final account and the report on the conducted liquidation procedure to the competent office within eight (8) days from the days of completion of the liquidation procedure.
- (7) In the event that the liquidator determines that the assets of the Association are not sufficient to settle liabilities, he is obliged to notify the competent court according to the seat of the Association within the period referred to in paragraph 6 of this Article to initiate bankruptcy proceedings.

- (8) Based on the received report on the conducted liquidation procedure, the competent office shall issue a decision on deleting the Association from the register of the associations of the Republic of Croatia, unless the debts of the Association have been determined.

### **Article 59**

- (1) The liquidator is appointed and recalled by the General Assembly of the Association at the proposal of the President/Board of Directors for an indefinite period.
- (2) The liquidator is a natural or legal person and does not have to be a member of the Association.
- (3) The liquidator represents the Association in the liquidation procedure and by opening the liquidation procedure is entered in the register of associations as a person authorized to represent the Association until the end of the liquidator procedure and deletion of the Association from the register of associations.
- (4) The liquidator must have the appropriate professional knowledge in order to be able to take care of the distribution of assets.
- (5) The liquidator has the right to reimbursement of expenses for his work in the liquidation procedure from the funds of the Association, in the amount determined by the President/Board of Directors after the appointment of the liquidator.
- (6) The term of office of the Liquidator is unlimited.

## **XII**

### **PROCEDURE WITH PROPERTY IN CASE OF TERMINATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **Article 60**

- (1) In case of termination of the Association, the property, after settling creditors and costs of liquidation, court and other proceedings, based on the decision of the General Assembly of the Association, is handed over to the association and/or institutions that have the same or similar statutory objectives, and their seat is in the geographical area of the Association actives. In the event that such an association and/or institution does not exist, the property is handed over to the regional self-government unit in whose territory the seat of the Association is located.

- (2) The Association has no right to distribute the property of the Association to its founders, members of the Association, persons authorized for representation, employees or persons related to them.
- (3) Related persons are persons who are a spouse or common-law partner, same-sex partner, blood relatives in an upright line, siblings, guardian and adoptive parent, i.e. adoptive parent and other natural and legal persons who are justified on other grounds and circumstances may be considered of interest to the founders, members of the Association, persons authorized to represent and employees.

### **XIII**

#### **TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

##### **Article 61**

- (1) The Statute is the basic general act of the Association.
- (2) The Statute of the Association is adopted by the General Assembly by a majority vote of the total number of members of the General Assembly of the Association after the discussion.
- (3) Amendments to the Statute may be proposed to the Assembly by the Board of Directors or at least one third of the total number of members of the General Assembly. The initiative for amendments to the Statute is submitted in writing to the president of the Association, who is obliged to include the proposed amendments to the agenda of the first following session of the General Assembly. All amendments to the Statute are adopted by the General Assembly after the discussion, by a two-thirds majority of votes of the present members.

##### **Article 62**

- (1) The General Assembly of the Association has the right to interpret this Statute.
- (2) The right to interpret other acts of the Association has the body of the Association that adopted the act.
- (3) This Statute, as well as all normative acts of the Association, is signed by the President of the Association.

##### **Article 63**

- (1) This Statute shall enter into force on the day of its adoption at the session of the Assembly of the Association, and shall apply from the day of entry in the Register of associations of the Republic of Croatia with the competent administrative body in Istria County.

(2) For all issues that are not regulated by the Statute or acts of the Association, the provisions of the Associations Act and other valid and relevant regulations shall apply.

In Poreč, 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2021

President of the Association  
Kazimir Bogović