

THE FULL TEXT OF THE STATUTES

of the civic association EQUITA

Article I.

Basic provisions

1. The name of the civic association is **EQUITA**.
2. The headquarters of the EQUITA civic association is Pod Vinicami 3217/25, 811 02 Bratislava - Staré Mesto, Slovak Republic.
3. The EQUITA Civic Association is a voluntary, selective, women-led, non-political association that bases its activities on humanistic, humanitarian, democratic, human rights and civil-societal principles.
4. The EQUITA Civic Association enters as an independent entity into a relationship with other organizations pursuing similar goals in the Slovak Republic and abroad.

Article II.

Objectives and activities of the association

1. The mission of the civil association EQUITA (hereinafter referred to as "the association" in the appropriate grammatical form) is to promote and protect the right to achieve the highest possible level of physical and mental health of excluded and vulnerable populations and to eliminate health inequalities.
2. The main objectives of the association are:
 - a) Increasing access to health care and services that impact health and mental well-being for excluded and vulnerable populations;
 - b) Provision of social assistance;
 - c) Humanitarian aid;
 - d) Prevention of an adverse social situation, resolution of an adverse social situation or alleviation of an adverse social situation of an individual, family or community;
 - e) Promoting the social inclusion of excluded population groups;
 - f) Improving the living conditions of excluded groups;
 - g) Applying and promoting the principles of equality and non-discrimination in all activities of the Association for Everyone .
3. The activities of the association, in pursuit of the set objectives, consist mainly in the following activities:
 - a) Provision of health care and other health-related services to excluded populations, mainly through public health interventions, provision of support in emergency situations and humanitarian crises,

- b) Provision of humanitarian assistance, especially health care, protection from physical and psychological harm, including sexual and gender-based violence, water and sanitation, food and cash assistance.
- c) Support for social inclusion of excluded population groups, especially through field work, community work, crisis intervention and low-threshold programmes, education, leisure activities, advocacy and lobbying activities.
- d) Preparation and implementation of consulting and educational activities related to the objectives of the association.
- e) Supporting other organisations and institutions working in the field of health care for homeless people and other excluded and/or vulnerable populations.
- f) Consultation and analytical work to exercise the right to health protection and promotion for homeless people and other populations with poor access to health care.
- g) Collaboration with professional medical staff and health care providers to fulfill the goals of the association.
- h) Support for health professionals, health care providers, public health institutions, educational institutions, public administrations and organisations active in other health-related services.
- i) Providing services and support to people experiencing gender-based violence.
- j) Scientific research activities, publishing and promotional activities in connection with the main objectives of the association.
- k) Expanding the membership base of the association, as well as establishing cooperation with other organizations in the Slovak Republic and abroad that pursue similar goals.
- l) Obtaining personnel, material and financial resources, donations and grants in order to meet the objectives of the association;
- m) The provision and production of goods and services for remuneration in order to raise funds to meet the objectives of the association;
- n) Provision of social services in accordance with Act No. 448/2008 Coll. 455/1991 Coll. on trade business (Trade Licensing Act), as amended;
- o) Ensuring quality and accessible professional assistance through accredited programs, obtaining accreditation to perform such activities;
- p) Implementation of activities aimed at the development of professional, semi-professional and voluntary assistance and services.

The association further:

- a) promotes freedom of expression, creation and assembly,
- b) supports projects related to the objectives and activities of the association or to analogous activities,
- c) provides assistance to other organizations in Slovakia in projects and activities with a similar focus to the objectives of the association, with an emphasis on the promotion of humanism and human rights,
- d) contributes to raising the professional level of its membership,
- e) ensures the protection of the interests of the trade unions of the members of the association, people sympathetic to the association and defends professional interests and rights members of the association.

Article III.
Membership in the association

1. Membership in the association may be ordinary, extraordinary and honorary:
 - a) Natural persons - citizens of the Slovak Republic or persons from abroad, persons of good character and over 18 years of age, regardless of gender, nationality, ethnicity, colour, origin, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religion, who are interested in participating in the activities of the association and actively contribute to the creation of projects falling within the portfolio of the association and adhere to its statutes, may become **a full member of the association**. Full membership is conditional on having previously volunteered and/or worked for the association for a period of 1 year.
 - b) Natural persons - citizens of the Slovak Republic or persons from abroad, persons of good character and over 18 years of age, regardless of sex, nationality, ethnicity, colour, origin, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religion, who sympathize with the aims of the Association and are interested in participating in specific projects of the Association and adhering to its statutes, may become **an extraordinary member of the Association**.
 - c) **Honorary member of the association** can become natural persons - significant domestic or foreign personalities from the fields of health care, science, research, public health and cultural and social life, who contribute to the improvement of health care in Slovakia and abroad with their professional and personal qualities, share the values, mission and goals of the association, and at the same time agree with their honorary membership in the association. Legal entities from the Slovak Republic or from abroad, which contribute to the activities of the association by sponsorship donation/contribution, may also become an honorary member of the association.
2. Membership in the association shall be established:
 - a) in the case of Full and Extraordinary Members: approval of the Member by the Committee of the Association on the basis of a written application by the applicant for membership,
 - b) in the case of an Honorary Member: acceptance by the candidate of an invitation for Honorary Membership issued by the Director or the Committee of the Association.
3. Acquisition of membership shall be dated on the date of approval of the application by the Committee of the Association or, in the case of an honorary member, on the date of acceptance of the invitation by the invited person. In the case of full and special membership, payment of the membership fee shall be a condition of approval of the application. The amount of the membership fee shall be determined by the General Assembly of the Association for the calendar year in question.
3. Proof of membership in the association is a written document in the form of a membership card.
4. Termination, suspension and renewal of membership:

- a) Membership of the association shall cease on the death of a member, on his or her resignation or expulsion, or on his or her dissolution,
- b) the member shall notify the Director or the Association Committee in writing of his or her resignation from the Association,
- c) the membership of full and special members may be suspended if, despite repeated warnings from the Association's Director, the member in question fails to pay his or her membership fees for a period of more than one year; upon payment of the membership fees in arrears for the period in question, the membership shall be automatically renewed and shall be deemed to be continuous,
- d) a full, special or honorary member may be expelled for good cause, in particular if his or her conduct is in serious conflict with the law and/or the duties of a member as specified in the constitution,
- e) the expulsion of a member from the Association is decided by the Committee of the Association; the expelled member has the right to appeal against the expulsion decision to the highest body of the Association, i.e. to the General Assembly.

Article IV.

Rights and obligations of full, special and honorary members

- 1. A full member of the Association shall have the right to:
 - a) to vote and be elected to all the bodies of the association,
 - b) make motions and vote on motions made at meetings of the General Assembly of the Association,
 - c) information about the activities of the association and all its events, to participate in these events,
 - d) to use the facilities and services available to the association for its activities.
- 2. A full member of the association has the duty to:
 - a) to take an active part in the activities of the association and to defend its interests,
 - b) to observe the provisions of the statutes of the association,
 - (c) defend freedom of expression, creation and assembly,
 - d) pay membership fees as decided by the General Assembly of the Association.
- 3. An Extraordinary Member shall have the right to:
 - (a) to attend and make proposals at meetings of the General Assembly of the Association,
 - b) be informed about the activities of the association and all its events, and participate in these events,
 - (c) benefit from the services provided by the association.
- 4. An Extraordinary Member of the Association has the duty to:
 - (a) participate in the activities of the association and defend its interests,
 - (b) to observe the provisions of the statutes of the association,
 - (c) defend freedom of expression and creation,
 - (d) to pay membership fees as decided by the General Assembly of the Association.

5. An honorary member of the Association shall have the right to:
 - (a) make proposals at meetings of the General Assembly of the Association,
 - b) receive information about the activities of the association and all its events, and participate in these events,
 - (c) benefit from the services provided by the association,
 - (d) for the year in which the association has received a sponsorship donation/contribution, the person shall be listed among the project sponsors in the spaces provided for this purpose.
6. An honorary member of the association has the duty to:
 - a) defend freedom of expression, creation and assembly,
 - b) defend the interests of the association,
 - c) observe the provisions of the statutes of the association.
7. Membership dues shall normally be paid in one lump sum for the calendar year in question, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise. The amount of membership fees for full and special members shall be determined by the General Assembly of the Association; honorary members shall not be obliged to pay membership fees.

Article V. Bodies of the Association

The bodies of the association are:

1. **General Assembly** - the supreme body,
2. **Committee** - executive body,
3. **Director** - statutory body,
4. Branches, sections, clubs.

Article VI. General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Association. The **Ordinary** General Assembly is convened by the Committee of the Association once every calendar year. **An Extraordinary** General Assembly shall be convened by the Committee of the Association on its own initiative or at the request of at least three quarters of the total number of full members, no later than thirty days from the date of submission of a written request.
2. The competence of the General Assembly includes:
 - a) election and dismissal of the Association Committee,
 - b) approval and amendment of the statutes of the association,
 - c) determining the main lines of action of the association for the next period,
 - d) deciding on appeals against decisions of the Director or the Association Committee,

- e) the establishment and dissolution of branches, sections and clubs of the association,
 - f) to decide on the dissolution of the association,
 - g) approving and changing membership fees.
3. A quorum for the General Assembly shall be a two-thirds majority of the total number of full members of the Association.
 4. The General Assembly shall be chaired by the Director of the Association or by a full member or a member designated by the Director of the Association.
 5. A resolution shall be adopted if a two-thirds majority of the full members of the Association present and voting are in favour of it.
 6. The approval of at least three-quarters of the total number of full members of the association shall be required for the approval or amendment of the statutes.
 7. The dissolution of the association shall require the consent of at least three-quarters of the total number of full members of the association.
 8. Each full member of the association is entitled to authorize another full member of the association to vote on its behalf at the General Assembly, whereby the representing member is obliged to prove a notarized power of attorney from the represented member. The member so represented shall be deemed to be present at the General Assembly.
 9. The Extraordinary General Assembly shall have the same rights as the Ordinary General Assembly of the Association.

Article VII. Committee

1. The Committee shall be the executive body of the Association and shall be accountable to the General Assembly. It shall manage the activities of the Association between the meetings of the General Assembly.
2. The Committee shall have at least four members whose term of office shall be 5 years. The Committee shall meet at least three times a year. Its meetings shall be convened and chaired by the Director of the Association.
3. A quorum of the Committee shall be present if a two-thirds majority of its members are present. The Committee shall act by a two-thirds majority of the members present.
4. In voting and passing resolutions at meetings of the Committee of the Association, each member of the Committee shall have 1 vote and the Director shall have 2 votes.
5. The Committee shall decide on all matters of the Association which are not reserved by the Statutes to the competence of the General Assembly, in particular:

- a) elects and dismisses the Director,
- b) manages and ensures the activities of the association,
- c) convenes and prepares the content of the General Assembly's deliberations and subsequently ensures the implementation of its decisions,
- d) draw up the activity plan and the activity report, the draft budget and the management report of the association,
- e) be responsible for the management and maintenance of the association's accounts and draw up the financial statements,
- f) decides on the admission and expulsion of members and sets the amount of membership fees,
- g) decide on the dissolution of the association if the General Assembly does not meet within three months to decide on the dissolution of the association,
- h) appoint a liquidator or liquidator in the event of the winding-up of the association.

Article VIII. Director

- 1. The statutory body of the association is the director, who manages the association, ensures its activities and acts on its behalf. Only a member of the Association's Committee may become a Director.
- 2. Restrictions on the Director's right to act on behalf of the Association are ineffective against third parties.
- 3. Signing on behalf of the association is carried out by attaching the handwritten signature of the director or a person authorised by her to the name of the association or the official stamp of the association.
- 4. The Director shall be accountable to the Committee of the Association.
- 5. The Director shall be elected by the Association Committee for a term of three (3) years.
- 6. In the event of a proven gross violation of the Association's statutes, the Director may be removed by the Association's Committee during her term of office. During her term of office, the Director may resign at her own request.

Article IX. Branches, sections, clubs

- 1. In socially important centres (scientific, pedagogical, cultural, industrial), where the necessary prerequisites are present, branches of the association may be established with the consent of the General Assembly of the association. The role of the branches is to manage the local activities of the association, to organise the membership and to carry out the tasks of the association within their area of competence.

2. In order to improve the coordination of work, the Association may create sections, specialised groups and clubs, to which the membership shall associate itself according to its specialisation within the framework of the Association's activities. Membership of the Association is not conditional on working in a section, specialised group or club.

Article X.

Management of the association

1. The association manages movable and immovable property, which is the inviolable property of the association and serves exclusively for the fulfilment of its objectives. The assets of the association must be managed in accordance with the principles of sound management.
2. The management and accounting of the Association shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable law of the Slovak Republic.
3. All funds of the association shall be deposited in a separate account established for that purpose with the appropriate monetary institution.
4. Sources of revenue are legally permitted financial and other resources, primarily in the form of:
 - a) contributions, donations from legal and natural persons from home and abroad,
 - b) proceeds from public collections, lotteries, educational and cultural and social events,
 - c) income from activities in pursuit of the objectives of the association,
 - d) income from the association's own economic activities,
 - e) interest on funds in monetary institutions,
 - f) subsidies from the state budget, national, regional and municipal grant programmes, from the European Union Structural Funds or from funds of other international organisations and institutions,
 - g) subsidies from grant programmes of private companies or non-profit organisations from the Slovak Republic or abroad,
 - h) the proceeds from the assets of the association.
5. The funds of the Association may be used exclusively for the pursuit of the objectives and activities in accordance with Article II.

Article XI.

Dissolution of the association

1. The association shall be dissolved by voluntary dissolution if the General Assembly resolves on its dissolution by three quarters of the total number of full members of the association within the meaning of Article VI, point 7., or by merger with another civil association under the above conditions. The provisions of §70 and §75k of the Commercial Code shall apply mutatis mutandis to the voluntary dissolution of the association.

2. If the Association is dissolved by voluntary dissolution, the Committee of the Association shall appoint a liquidator or liquidator.
3. On winding up the association, all claims of the association shall be paid first.
4. In the event of liquidation, the assets shall be used exclusively to support projects related to the objectives of the association.

Article XII.
Final provisions

1. The Statutes shall enter into force on the date of approval by the General Assembly.
2. The association was established on the date of registration by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic according to the relevant statutory regulations, i.e. on 20.2.2009.
3. These statutes were approved by the General Assembly on 31.7.2023 and come into force on that date.

In Bratislava 31.7.2023