



STATUTES OF THE BALKAN SOCIOLOGICAL FORUM (BSF)

Introduction

The Statutes were originally adopted at the Constituent Meeting held in Tirana-Albania, November 22nd, 2011 where the BSF was formally established.

Article one: the BSF Purposes

1.1 The Balkan Sociological Forum (BSF) is an Association of Collective Members, composed by the National Sociological Associations of Balkan Countries, Regional Associations inside Countries, research institutions, and Universities or its faculties/departments.

1.2 BSF is opened for the organizations and institutions of sociologists, regardless of their school of thought or scientific approaches.

1.3 BSF is opened for the organizations and institutions of other social sciences.

Article two: the Objectives of BSF

2.1 The goal of the BSF is to advance sociological knowledge in Balkan, to support and strengthen the free development of sociology in cooperation with similar associations of social scientists;

2.2 Establishing permanent cooperation between the existing National Sociological Associations, sociologists and other social scholars of Balkan region;

2.3 Promoting National Associations (NAs) of Sociology and other social sciences in Balkans; Promoting the development of sociology and other social sciences in this region, Stressing the disciplinary identity, and the intellectual tradition of sociology and other social sciences;

2.4 Identifying the common problems of Balkans countries and developing supra-national research networks; Making sociology and social sciences more visible to policy makers of Balkans countries;

2.5 Improving communication among sociologists and other social scholars of Balkan countries; providing a more substantial cooperation between associations, institutions and networks of Balkans countries; secure and develop institutional and personal contacts between sociologists and other social scientists throughout the Balkans; exchanging information, studies, databases, scholars, students etc.; having spaces in journals, newsletters, websites etc., for advertising the activities of each other;

2.6 Organizing the Annual Balkan Sociological Forum, or the BSF Annual Conference, possibly by turn in each country;

Article three: the Members of BSF

- 3.1 BSF is an organization of collective members, either regular or affiliated;
- 3.2 Regular collective members shall be countrywide sociological associations of Balkan Countries, Regional Associations inside Countries, research institutions and Universities (or their departments);
- 3.3 Affiliated collective members shall be countrywide associations of Balkan Countries, Regional Associations inside Countries, research institutions and Universities (or their departments) of other social sciences;
- 3.4 Regular and affiliated collective members shall be admitted to membership by a decision of the BSF Representative Council;
- 3.5 All members shall respect the principles upon which the BSF is founded, and contribute to its purposes;

Article four: the Representative Council

- 4.1 The Representative Council of BSF represents the collective members within BSF;
- 4.2 The Representative Council of BSF shall be composed of:
 - (a) Two national representatives for each National Association regular member of BSF;
 - (b) One representative from each of the other members of BSF such as: Regional Associations inside Countries, research institutions and Universities (or their Faculties/Departments);
- 4.3 Each affiliated member may have one representative in the Representative Council will the right to participate, but not to vote;
- 4.4 A quorum of at least one half the members is necessary for the Representative Council of BSF to reach decisions. Decisions shall be taken by a majority vote of those present and voting (including electronic voting or voting in postal ballots);
- 4.5. The Representative Council of BSF shall normally meet at every the Annual Balkan Sociological Forum (or Conference);
- 4.6 If it is necessary, but not possible to organize a meeting of the Representative Council between regular annual meetings, the President or the Vice-President of BSF may initiate electronic ‘meetings’ of Representative Council and decisions may be taken by electronic votes.

Article five: the President and the Vice-President of BSF

- 5.1 The BSF President shall legally represent the BSF both internally and externally, and shall have general responsibility for the activity of BSF during its presidency, for the implementation of the policy of BSF and for supervision of the activity of the BSF Secretariat. S/he shall chair the meetings of the Representative Council; in his/her absence, the meeting will be chaired by a Vice-President;
- 5.2 As a rule, the President of BSF would be from the organizer country of the Annual Forum/Conference;

5.3 As a rule, the Vice-President of BSF would be from the country of the next Annual Forum/Conference;

5.4 The Vice-President is the Head of the Organizing Committee of the next Balkan Sociological Annual Forum/Conference;

5.5 The same person can not be the President or Vice-President of BSF for more than one year (from one to the next annual meeting of Representative Council);

5.6 Normally the Vice-President of one year would be the President of the next one.

Article six: Elections and Nominations

6.1 The members of Representative Council shall be elected (or nominated) by the Collective members of BSF;

6.2 Each National Association, regular member of BSF, shall elect from its members, the representative(s) for the Representative Council of BSF;

6.2 The BSF Secretary or a member of BSF Secretariat cannot be at the same time member of the Representative Council. The Secretary of BSF can participate in the meetings, but can not vote for its decisions;

6.4 The Representative Council elects each year the President and the Vice- President of BSF.

Article seven: the Annual Balkan Forums/Conferences

7.1 BSF organizes its Annual Balkan Sociological Forum (or the BSF Annual Conference), normally by turn in each country;

7.2 The location of each Annual Balkan Forum/Conference shall be chosen by the Representative Council at least one year before it is due to be held, based on proposals of BSF collective members;

7.3 The choice of the Country for organizing the annual Balkan Sociological Forum shall give due attention to the need for diversity of locations over time, as well as to local organizational resources and physical capacity;

7.4 An 'ad hoc committee' headed by the Vice-President of BSF would be formed by the Representative Council for organizing the annual forum/Conference, at least one year before its held.

Article eight: BSF Secretary (or Secretariat)

9.1 The Representative Council may nominate a Secretary of BSF, or its Secretariat. For the first year (up to the 2nd Balkan Sociological Forum of 2012), the initiative group of BSF (founding member representatives) will function as its secretariat;

9.2 The Secretary of the BSF shall normally be appointed for a four-year term; the term is renewable without limit. S/he shall be in charge of the administrative and financial affairs of BSF;

9.3 The Secretary (or Secretariat) in consultation with the Vice-President, shall present to the Representative Council the annual financial report (from one to next annual Forum/Conference);

9.4 The location of the Secretariat's office shall be determined by the Representative Council. For the first year (up to the 2nd BSF Meeting of 2012) the location of the BSF secretariat will be the offices of Albanian Institute of Sociology, Tirana-Albania.

Article nine: Financial Sources and Responsibilities

8.1 The Financial Sources of BSF are based on the volunteer Contributions of its Collective members, and every other legitimate financial supports;

8.1 The BSF Secretary (or Secretariat) shall be in charge of the financial affairs managing of the BSF.

Article 10: Amendments to the Statutes

10.1 The Representative Council has the right of amendments to the Statutes of BSF;

10.2 The amendments to the Statutes of BSF may be only in Representative Council regular meeting;

10.3 Proposals for amendments to the Statutes may be made by each member of BSF and must reach the BSF Secretary (or Secretariat) at least three months before the Annual Meeting;

10.4 The BSF Secretary (or Secretariat) informs the Representative Council of the proposals received, and shall subsequently circulate them by appropriate means among all the members of the Representative Council;

BSF Founding Members
22nd of November 2011