

STATUTE
The Association of Citizens
"Finance Think" - Economic Research and Policy Institute, Skopje

(Refined text, last change from January 1, 2023)

Content

| | |
|--|-----------|
| GENERAL PROVISIONS | 2 |
| GOALS AND TASKS OF THE ASSOCIATION..... | 3 |
| MEMBERSHIP..... | 4 |
| BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION | 5 |
| ASSEMBLY | 5 |
| CHIEF ECONOMIST (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)..... | 6 |
| ADVISORY BOARD | 8 |
| SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE | 8 |
| REGIONAL OFFICE | 9 |
| REPRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION | 10 |
| ACHIEVING PUBLICITY IN THE WORK | 10 |
| FUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION, METHOD OF ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL..... | 10 |
| TERMINATION OF ASSOCIATION | 11 |
| TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS | 11 |

General provisions

Article 1

In order to achieve the goals and tasks established by the Law, the decision to establish the association and this Statute, as well as to achieve the work program which is an integral part of this Statute, the Association of Citizens "Finance Think" was founded.

Article 2

The name of the Association is: Здружение на граѓани “Финанце Тхинк” – Институт за економски истражувања и политики, Скопје.

The name of the Association in English is: Civil association "Finance Think" – Economic Research and Policy Institute, Skopje.

The abbreviated name of the Association is: "Finance Think" written in Latin script.

The headquarters of the association is at st. Frederic Chopin 1/2, 1000 Skopje.

Article 3

Citizens come together for the purpose of carrying out activities for the improvement and promotion of the legal, economic, cultural and other areas relevant to the overall social development of the Republic of North Macedonia, improvement of multi-dimensional cooperation between the countries of the region and beyond, and creation of policies in the relevant areas.

Article 4

The association will achieve its goals, tasks and activities independently, in accordance with the relations determined by the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, with this Statute, as well as with the legal norms that regulate matter from this area.

Article 5

The association has the status of a legal entity with rights, duties and responsibilities established by this Statute and the Law on Citizens' Associations and Foundations.

The association has its own seal and stamp.

The seal is round and contains the name of the Finance Think Association, and in the middle is the Association's logo.

The stamp of the Association is rectangular, on which the name of the Association is written on the upper part, and the number, date, year - Skopje on the lower part.

Article 6

In the work of the Association, the name entered in the competent register is used.

Goals and tasks of the Association

Article 7

The general goal of the Association is to improve the impact of economic, social and development trends and policies on citizens in North Macedonia and the Western Balkans region, through research, evidence-based and data-driven advocacy, and fostering critical debate about democratic and economic processes.

The special goals of the Association are:

- To contribute to the improvement of economic, social and development policies and reforms by producing evidence, research-based and data-driven.
- To increase the effect of the Association's products on target groups (skills), policy making (policies and reforms) and society (awareness).
- To develop the institutional capacity of the Association, in terms of research, advocacy, financing and communication, in order to have a stronger influence on the economic, social and development reforms and on the effects that the corresponding policies have on the citizens.

Article 7a

To achieve the statutory goals, the work of the Association is concentrated in the following thematic areas:

- Growth and development policies;
- Poverty, employment and skills;
- Fiscal transparency and accountability;
- Competitiveness and EU accession;
- Gender and income inequalities;
- Municipal finance and policies;
- Green economy.

Article 8

The association achieves its goals and tasks through the following program activities:

- Carrying out individual scientific research and action projects
- Implementation of joint scientific research and action projects in cooperation with organizations from the country, the region and beyond
- Organizing discussions, round tables, scientific consultations and forums
- Cooperation with experts from the respective fields
- Cooperation with competent state institutions
- Cooperation with local, regional and international, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and institutions dealing with issues closely related to the development of the respective social spheres

- Establishment of permanent or ad hoc clubs and committees
- Entering into partnership with and establishing networks of civil society organizations, media representatives, experts and other stakeholders
- Creation of an interactive website on which all the activities of the Association will be displayed
- Creating an interactive portal on social networks to communicate with a wider audience
- Performing other tasks in accordance with this Statute, the Laws and the Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia

Membership

Article 9

Any citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as any foreign citizen could be a member of the Association, who:

- Accepts the basic goals and values on which the functioning of the Association is based
- Is of legal age on the day of submitting the application
- Has an educational profile and essential knowledge of the areas of activity of the Association
- Pays the annual membership fee no later than October 15 for the current year. The amount of the membership fee is determined at a session of the Assembly of the Association at the proposal of the President.
- Works on projects of the Association for a period of at least a year.

The members of the Association have the following rights and obligations:

- The right and obligation to publicly represent and advocate the basic principles and goals of the Association and to promote the realization of those principles and goals
- The right to attend the sessions of the Assembly
- The right to submit proposals for decisions taken by the Assembly
- The obligation to take specific participation in the implementation of the Program of the Association's activities
- Other rights and obligations determined by this Statute

Non-voting members of Finance Think can also be non-governmental organizations, legal entities, international organizations or embassies if they accept the basic goals and values on which the functioning of the Association is based and pay an annual membership fee.

Article 10

The founders of the Association have the status of a member of the Association if they meet the requirements of Article 9 of the Statute, except for the obligation to pay membership fees.

Article 11

Membership in the Association is done with an application to the Chief Economist (Executive Director) of the Association. After the submitted application, if the conditions of Article 9 are met, the Assembly decides on membership with a majority of votes from the total number of members. The Chief Economist (Executive Director) maintains a membership register which he/she updates annually.

Article 12

Membership shall terminate if the terms of Article 9, for any reason, cease to be valid, as well as by:

- Submission of written withdrawal from membership to the Chief Economist (Executive Director)
- Loss of business capacity
- Shutdown

The Assembly can decide with a majority of votes from the total number of members to suspend or exclude a member in case of serious violation of the established goals and tasks of the Association. After leaving the Association, the member cannot claim any rights and claims against the Association's property.

Bodies of the association

Article 13

The Association has the following bodies: Assembly, Chief Economist (Executive Director) and Supervisory Committee. The association may also have an Advisory Board.

The association may have Regional Offices (Subsidiaries).

Assembly

Article 14

The assembly of the Association consists of the members of the Association. The Assembly meets as needed, at least once a year. During the work of the Assembly of the Association, each member of the Association has the right to only one vote. This right cannot be transferred to other persons.

The Assembly elects a President from among its ranks who chairs the sessions of the Assembly and performs other tasks determined by this Statute. The Assembly can regulate its work in more detail by adopting the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

Article 15

Sessions of the Assembly are convened by the President of the Assembly of the Association.

A session of the Assembly could be convened upon the proposal of 1/3 of the total number of members of the Assembly.

If the President of the Assembly of the Association does not convene a session within 15 days from the day of submission of the proposal, the session is convened by the Chief Economist (Executive Director) or the initiators-members of the Assembly.

In the event that for any reason the President is not present at the session of the Assembly, the

session is to be chaired by a member elected from the members present at the same session.

Article 16

The Assembly of the Association appoints the Chief Economist (Executive Director), who is an executive organ of the Association.

Article 17

The Assembly makes valid decisions if more than half of the total number of members are present.

The Assembly makes its decisions with a majority vote of the members present.

The Assembly is responsible for the following:

1. Adopts a Statute, program and other acts,
2. Adopts an annual work report and financial report and publishes it on its website,
3. Submits a financial report to the competent authority of the state administration, i.e. to the authority of the municipalities, the municipalities in the city of Skopje and the city of Skopje in cases where it uses funds from the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia, i.e. the budgets of the local self-government units,
4. Decides to change the purpose of the Association,
5. Decides on the internal organization and organizational forms of the bodies of the Association,
6. Elects and dismisses members of the bodies,
7. Decides on the formation of a Supervisory Committee and appoints and dismisses its members,
8. Decides on the status changes of the Association,
9. Decides on the termination of the Association with a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Association
10. Adopts an annual work program
11. Proposes amendments and additions to the Statute
12. Adopts rules, procedures, policies and related regulation
13. Performs other tasks in accordance with the statute and acts of the Association.

Article 18

The activities that fall within the scope of work of the Assembly in emergency cases are carried out by the Chief Economist (Executive Director) of the Association, whereby he/she has the obligation to submit a report on the undertaken activities at the first following session of the Assembly.

Chief Economist (Executive Director)

Article 19

The Association is managed by the Chief Economist (Executive Director).

The Assembly appoints the Chief Economist (Executive Director) with a mandate of 5 years and the right to re-election. The appointment is the basis for establishing an employment relationship.

The Chief Economist (Executive Director) of the Association advocates for and represents the Association in the country and abroad. The Chief Economist (Executive Director) of the Association is a prominent public figure.

Article 20

The Chief Economist (Executive Director) is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Implements the statutory and program activities of the Association, as well as the decisions and conclusions of the Assembly
2. Proposes to the Assembly amendments and additions to the Statute
3. Coordinates and delegates the implementation of the annual work program
4. Coordinates the process of preparing project applications for securing funding
5. Proposes additional ways of financing
6. Manages the human resources of the Association
7. Manages the financial resources of the Association
8. Manages the property of the Association
9. Consults with the members of the Advisory Board
10. Prepares applications for membership in other domestic and international organizations
11. Accepts agreements and concludes contracts
12. Directs the work of the permanent or temporary committees, if any
13. Controls the work of professional services, if any
14. Performs other tasks provided by this Statute and relevant legal norms and internal regulations.

Article 21

The Chief Economist (Executive Director) is responsible for making the following written decisions:

1. Decision to establish a Professional Service
2. Decision on appointing signatories to the accounts of the Association
3. Decision to establish other permanent and temporary committees
4. Decision to allocate funds between accounts, especially in conditions where spending precedes the associated inflow of funds
5. Decisions on professional development of the employees
6. Decisions on paid and unpaid absences of the employees
7. Decisions on employee claims arising from their contracts with the Association
8. Decision to merge with or separate from another association and to join alliances and international organizations

9. Decision on convening sessions of the Assembly, when the conditions established by the Statute are met
10. Other decisions that the Chief Economist (Executive Director) considers should be made in writing.

Article 22

The Chief Economist (Executive Director) is responsible for his/her work in front of the Assembly of the Association.

The Assembly of the Association may revoke the Chief Economist (Executive Director). Revocation is the basis for termination of employment in the Association.

A proposal to revoke the Chief Economist (Executive Director) can be submitted by at least 2/3 of the members of the Assembly.

The revocation proposal must be done in writing.

Advisory Board

Article 23

The Advisory Board has an advisory and representative function. The Advisory Board consists of prominent and reputable societal actors who, with their societal work in the country and abroad, have contributed in an unambiguous and recognized way to the advancement of the Association's areas of activity.

The minimum number of members of the Advisory Board is three, and the maximum is 10. The members of the Advisory Board are appointed by the Chief Economist (Executive Director), on the basis of membership in the Association or on the basis of an invitation without membership. In the event that membership in the Advisory Board is based on an invitation, the elected member of the Advisory Board does not have to and cannot request to be a member of the Association.

The mandate of the members of the Advisory Board is 5 (five) years, with the right to re-election.

Supervisory Committee

Article 24

The decision to establish a Supervisory Commission and to appoint and recall its members is made by the Assembly.

In the decision, the Assembly specifies the conditions to be met by the members of the Supervisory Commission.

The supervisory committee has a minimum of two members, who are elected for a term of 2 (two) years, with the right to re-election.

Members of the Supervisory Committee may not be persons who are members of the Assembly of the Association, employees of the Association, members of other bodies of the Association or related to the Association in a significant way.

A member of the Supervisory Committee cannot be a person who performs a public function, who is employed in the public administration, as well as a person who is connected to a political party in a significant way.

Article 25

The Supervisory Committee performs the following tasks:

1. Oversees the correct implementation and application of the provisions of the Statute and other acts of the Association;
2. Oversees the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly, the Chief Economist (Executive Director) and other bodies of the Association;
3. Oversees the execution of the budget;
4. Proposes measures to prevent and remove irregularities in the work;
5. Approves contracts and deals of the Association with persons who are not employed by it, and who are related in a substantive way;
6. Performs other tasks in accordance with the law and the acts of the Association;
7. Once a year, submits a report on the checks made to the Assembly of the Association.

In the cases referred to in point 5 of the previous paragraph, the Supervisory Committee approves the contract by initialing it by the two members, under the signature of the Chief Economist (Executive Director), with the following indication: "Approved by: 1. Member of the Supervisory Committee, Name and Surname, signature; 2. Member of the Supervisory Committee, Name and Surname, signature".

In the cases referred to in point 5 of the previous paragraph, persons who are substantially related to the Association are considered to be: the founders of the Association, the members of the Advisory Board, as well as persons who are the first kin of the Chief Economist (Executive director) of the Association.

Article 26

The Supervisory Committee meets as needed and at least once a year prepares a report on the operations of the Association, based on the supervision performed in accordance with the mandate of tasks defined in the Statute of the Association.

Regional Office

Article 27

The decision to establish a Regional Office is taken by the Assembly.

The Regional Office of the Association aims to strengthen the regional and local presence of the Association in the planning regions and municipalities.

The Regional Office of the Association is an integral part of the Association and acts exclusively in accordance with the statutory objectives of the Association and in the manner specified in this Statute.

The Chief Economist (Executive Director) is responsible for and makes decisions related to the functioning of the Regional Office, and determines operational coordination with it.

The Regional Office does not have a separate logo, account, stamp and related attributes, with the exception of dedicated accounts.

Representation of the Association

Article 28

The Association is represented by the Chief Economist (Executive Director) of the Association.

Achieving publicity in the work

Article 29

The work of the Association is public.

Publicity in operations is achieved by:

- Regular notification of the members, other associations of citizens and the general public through printed and electronic media about the work and specific activities of the association
- Ensuring unhindered attendance of the members at the sessions of the bodies of the Association
- Setting up and maintaining own website.

Funds of the Association, method of acquisition and disposal

Article 30

The Association finances its goals and tasks at the beginning of its operation from the founding contribution of the founders.

The Association can acquire objects, money and property rights.

The Association can acquire funds from membership fees, contributions, donations, gifts, wills, legacies certified before a notary and others. The Association can earn income from the profit of the trading companies that it founded with its own funds for the purpose of achieving its goals and tasks determined by this Statute.

The Association can also receive funds from the budget, in accordance with the law, based on its own work program and this Statute.

Article 31

Use and disposition of the funds of the Association obtained on the basis of the previous article is carried out in a manner determined by this Statute and the corresponding legal norms.

Article 32

The use and disposal of funds are decided by the bodies of the Association, in accordance with the competences determined by this Statute, other internal acts of the Association. They take measures for the economically expedient use of funds and for the prevention and removal of illegalities.

Termination of Association

Article 33

The Association ceases to operate if the reasons set forth in Article 52 of the Law on Citizens' Associations and Foundations arise.

Transitional and final provisions

Article 34

Amendments and additions to this Statute are carried out in the same procedure as for its adoption.

Article 35

The Chief Economist (Executive Director) has the right to interpret this statute.

Article 36

This statute enters into force on the day of its enactment.

President

Dr. Marjan Petreski, sr.

Skopje, December 30, 2022

Finance Think