

STATUTES
at
NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION
"ASSOCIATION OF BULGARIAN ART THERAPISTS"
(ABAT)

I. GENERAL

Status and terms

- Art. 1. (1) These Statutes shall regulate the structure of the Non-Profit Association of the BULGARIAN ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION as an independent non-profit legal entity for the implementation of **private benefit activities** in accordance with Art. 1 of the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act (NPOA), which unites voluntarily participating Bulgarian natural and legal persons.
- (2) The Association, as a non-profit legal entity for private benefit, shall carry out its activities in accordance with the legislation in force in the Republic of Bulgaria, these Articles of Association and the decisions of the governing bodies of the Association, in accordance with their competence.
- (3) The Association is a legal entity separate from its members. The association shall be liable for its obligations with its property. The members shall not be liable for the obligations of the association. The members shall be responsible for the payment of the contributions due.
- (4) The Association is not limited by term or other termination condition.

Name

- Article 2. (1) The Association shall carry out its activities under the name Association with non-profit purpose ASSOCIATION OF THE BULGARIAN ART THERAPISTS, which may be abbreviated as NPO "ABAT", as well as be written in Latin in the following way: "Association of the Bulgarian Art Therapists (ABAT)", written in Latin abbreviated and only as "ABAT".
- (1) The name of the Association, together with an indication of its registered office, address, and UIC, shall appear in the Association's correspondence documents. Where necessary, the names of the President of the Association as the person materially responsible and/or his legal representative shall also be indicated.
- (2) The name of the branches of the Association shall be formed by adding to the name the indicated "branch" and the locality where the branch has its seat. The name of the branch may be supplemented by an indication of its object.

Registered office

- Art. 3. The headquarters of the NGO ASSOCIATION OF BULGARIAN ART THERAPISTS shall be in the town of Plovdiv and the address of the management is started as Plovdiv 4000, Central district, 6 "Panayot Volov".

Definition of the activity

- Art. 4. (1) The Association of Bulgarian Art Therapists - Plovdiv is an organization for private benefit, uniting Bulgarian professionals in the field of art therapy, practicing on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and abroad, with the general aim to assist and promote the development and recognition of the profession, to stimulate, support and mediate the exchange of knowledge, methods and practical experience in the field of art therapy. By using the term "Art Therapy" (AT), the Association means creative therapy using visual and plastic arts, in accordance with the postulated definition and meeting the standards of the European Federation of Art Therapy (EFAT).
- (2) **The object of the activity is:** organizing, supporting - including and not only financially, normatively, logistically, organizationally and in any other appropriate way, the activities of art therapists, increasing knowledge in the field of art therapy by organizing and conducting courses, trainings, seminars, exchange of experience, stimulating and financing scientific projects, research; innovating art methods, promoting and strengthening the profession of art therapists and the recognition of the same by raising public awareness and undertaking campaigns.

Objectives of the Association and the means to achieve them

Art. 5. The main objectives of the Association are:

1. to promote the professional identity of Art Therapy (AT) in Bulgaria, according to the archetype, cultural heritage and identity of the country, as well as the social and economic development in the region;
2. actively promote the development of professional practice, training and research that contribute to the development and recognition of the profession;
3. to ensure and promote the quality of art therapy practice and education according to the standards and ethics set out in the Statutes and Code of Ethics of the European Federation of Art Therapy (EFAT) for the benefit of clients, professionals and institutions;
4. to provide information and awareness-raising on qualified art therapy activities that meet European standards for art therapy;
5. to nurture mutual respect and diversity of training programs, to encourage collaboration among art therapy professionals, and to foster collaboration with professionals from different fields;
6. to cooperate and exchange with European and international art therapy associations and institutes;
7. to facilitate research in the field of art therapy that will assist in the recognition of the profession;
8. to organize trainings to improve the qualification of the members of the association in the field of art therapy and to promote quality assurance and ethical behavior in the application of art therapy in different fields.
9. to seek and implement cooperation with state and municipal authorities, individuals and legal entities and other non-profit organizations with similar objectives in Bulgaria and abroad, in order to provide optimal conditions for the development of art therapy in Bulgaria and to promote the activities of Bulgarian art therapists in the country and abroad.

Means of achieving the objectives of the Association

Art. 6. The Association shall achieve its main objectives as described above by the following means:

1. organizes and conducts periodic meetings with Association members, informs about upcoming events and projects;

2. develops, plans and implements programmes for organisational, methodological and scientific support of its activities and monitors their implementation;
3. organize and conduct lectures, seminars, workshops, webinars, supervision, intervision, scientific conferences and other appropriate events to enhance the qualifications of its members and to promote the exchange of professionals;
4. establish working groups and regional centres to coordinate and conduct the activities of its members;
5. participates in national and international congresses, symposiums, scientific conferences, seminars, schools, etc. in the field of art therapy;
6. maintain cooperation with organisations, institutions and individuals at home and abroad for the exchange of information and orientation towards European standards;
7. commission, fund and carry out research, scientific developments and publications related to its activities and objectives;
8. plan and carry out various creative projects for the benefit of professionals, clients and institutions;
9. publish material and information relating to the activities it carries out;
10. develop, propose and submit for consideration to the relevant institutions proposals concerning organizational, educational, scientific and ethical issues related to the application of art therapy in the Republic of Bulgaria;
11. provide support and protection to its members in the event of violations of their individual or collective rights, including by assisting them with the engagement of competent ongoing or ad hoc legal assistance, and by funding legal representation before administrative and judicial bodies and institutions;
12. for the realization of its objectives, the Association shall also use all other means not prohibited by law, and for those for which the approval, approval or license is provided - after obtaining them in due order.

Additional business activity

- Art. 7. (1) The Association may carry out additional business activities in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Law on Non-profit Organizations, consisting in the following areas: providing art therapy services, carrying out training, seminar and conference activities, organizing plein air workshops, etc. sub. events, publishing and sale of thematically or generally developed teaching aids for conducting training courses, including on paper, magnetic media or online, books, research papers, manuals and textbooks, etc. sub.
- (2) The Association may carry out the additional business activity referred to in the preceding paragraph only if it is related to the subject of its main activity and using the income therefrom only to achieve the objectives set out in Article 5 of the Statutes.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Types of membership

- (1) Members of the organization shall be divided into four main types - regular members, who may be individual or organizational members; associate members and honorary members.
- (2) Depending on the type of membership, the conditions for membership, the rights and obligations of those participating in the association differ, and despite the differences, each member has the right to indicate his affiliation to the association in his correspondence, as well as when carrying out his activities, and must also indicate the type of his membership. It shall not be permissible,

and shall be considered a particularly serious breach of these Statutes which may serve to expel the member concerned, for him to indicate his affiliation to the organisation by stating a type of membership other than his actual one.

- (3) The Association shall create its own symbols and attributes for the legitimation of its members, such as membership card, special sign, etc., according to the decision of the Board of Directors.

General and specific requirements for ABAT membership according to the type of membership

Art. 9. General requirements for membership in the Association:

1. Membership shall be open to persons who meet the relevant criteria set out below for the different types of membership, one of the main requirements, insofar as the organization aims to support and promote by uniting the efforts of Bulgarian art therapists, is that the person concerned - in the case of a natural person - has Bulgarian citizenship, and for legal entities - is registered on the territory of the country or has a branch registered on the territory of the country, and in the event that the legal entity to which the branch belongs is a foreign country, the person concerned shall be a Bulgarian citizen.
2. Members may exercise their activities in Bulgaria or outside the country. Dual citizenship is not an obstacle to the membership of an individual in the Association.
3. Members should be persons of good standing in the community whose professional activity is primarily related to the practice of art therapy and/or the pursuit of teaching or scholarship in this field.
4. The members shall share the objectives of the Association and the means to achieve them, as well as accept its Statutes and undertake to abide by them and to implement the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors of the Association.
5. The members of the Association shall be obliged to pay the regularly fixed membership fee according to the type of their membership.

Art. 10. Regular members - definition, status and requirements

- (1) The regular individual members are Bulgarian citizens who have completed art therapy education or training, are engaged in clinical or pre-clinical therapeutic activity, or are engaged in teaching, research or other professional activity in the field of art therapy, and the educational requirements are as follows (indication is alternative):
 1. Possession of a graduate degree from an accredited institution, with a Bachelor of Science (BA)/(BSc) degree in AT or a Master of Arts (MA)/(MSc) degree in AT, or equivalent from an accredited institution, according to the structural model adopted for Bulgaria, in accordance with the norms for higher education of the Bologna Declaration, namely - for a Bachelor's degree - a programme lasting 4 /four/ academic years, based on 240 /two hundred and forty/ credits, resp. Master's degree - for a programme lasting one academic year or one and a half academic years, after completion of the Bachelor's degree, on the basis of 60 /sixty/ or 90 /ninety/ credits respectively.
 2. When the education is acquired in another European country, it is recognised in accordance with the regulations of the country of acquisition, according to the Bologna Declaration, as well as the European Federation of Art Therapy (EFAT) regulation for the admission of individual members.
 3. Availability of certificates from private educational institutions and institutes whose complete cycle of studies reaches at least Bachelor's level, including prior professional training in a related field.
 4. In case of incomplete compliance with the above educational requirements and in order to reach them, it is admissible to declare other prior education in a similar field, or proof of acquired additional qualifications and training in the field of art therapy.

- (2) Regular organizational members are legal entities - organizations, clinical and social centers that work in the field of art therapy, including schools, training and research institutes, offering AT training that meets in content and degree the applicable training standards set forth in these Bylaws. At the time of application, these individuals must meet the following requirements:
1. To be registered as a legal entity according to the legal requirements provided for the type of entity with a subject of activity mainly related to practice or training, research, etc. in the field of art therapy, at least 1 /one/ calendar year before the date of application for membership;
 2. Demonstrate active involvement in the field of art therapy within the last one year prior to application for membership;
 3. Have a publicly available constitution or other instrument of incorporation;
 4. To inform transparently about the methodology and structure of training through a published curriculum.

Art. 11. Associate members - definition, status and requirements

1. Associate members are able-bodied individuals who accept the Association's bylaws and contribute to the achievement of its goals or individuals in the process of art therapy training that has not been completed.
2. Students and trainees shall submit annually a document certifying this quality. Student Associate membership shall end at the end of the calendar year in which the final training is completed.
3. Associate members may not automatically become full members, but must apply and meet the conditions set out in paragraph 5 of this Article.

Art. 12. Honorary members - definition, status and requirements

1. The honorary members of the association are capable Bulgarian citizens who have made a significant contribution to the development of art therapy and art therapy methods on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria or abroad.
2. Honorary members shall acquire this status on the basis of a nomination by the Board or members of the Association, together with which the person nominating the person for Honorary membership shall provide evidence of the fulfilment of the above conditions and the nominee's services to AT, as well as consent from the person to his/her nomination as an Honorary member.

Acquisition and loss of ABAT membership

Art. 13. Acquisition of membership

- (1) Membership application and required documents:
1. Membership is voluntary, and therefore must include an application for membership in the Association, including acceptance of the terms of these Bylaws as set forth in the online form.
 2. Any person wishing to become a regular or associate member of the Association shall submit the application, together with evidence of meeting the conditions for the relevant type of membership, which shall be attached in scanned form when sending the application. Organisational members shall separately submit evidence that the competent body, in accordance with its statutes, has decided on the membership of the legal entity concerned in the Association, by adopting the statutes of the Association, its objectives and the means of achieving them.
 3. Honorary members shall be nominated by or through the Board. They shall be subject to the consent of the person including acceptance of the terms of these Bylaws.
- (2) Procedure for admission of members:

1. Applicants for Regular and Associate Membership shall submit their applications using the approved form, which may be downloaded from the Association's website and submitted on paper or completed and submitted directly using the appropriate online form. The application must be accompanied by the documents certifying that the applicant meets the requirements for the type of membership.
 2. Applications must be completed and submitted in Bulgarian. Documents issued by foreign institutions shall be submitted in the form of a copy accompanied by a translation into Bulgarian. The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the translation.
 3. Applications which do not make it clear that they accept the terms of the Association's Constitution, its objectives and the means of achieving them, as well as those which lack evidence of meeting the conditions for admission to membership shall be left without movement, and the applicant shall be sent an email or a letter - depending on how the application was sent - indicating the deficiencies, which shall be rectified within 3 / three / working days from the day of receipt of the notice.
 4. Irregular applications whose irregularities are not corrected in time, as well as those where the applicants do not meet the pre-set conditions, shall be refused admission of the persons concerned as members of the Association.
 5. Candidates approved by a decision of the Board of Directors shall receive a notice from the Secretary of the Association for payment of the membership fee and, in cases where the General Assembly of the Association has adopted an initiation fee separate from the membership fee, a notice of the initiation fee.
 6. Membership shall become effective for candidates approved by resolution of the Board upon payment of the initiation fee and/or membership dues as directed by the Secretary of the Association.
- (3) The competent body for the admission of new members shall be the Governing Board. Its decisions shall be taken by a simple majority, for which minutes shall be drawn up.
- (4) In certain cases it is also admissible to admit members directly by the General Assembly of the Association:
- 1) when honorary members are admitted. The nomination for Honorary Membership, together with evidence of his/her services to AT, his/her consent to Honorary Membership of the Association shall be reported by the Board. The decision to accept honorary members shall be made by a simple majority vote of the members present at the General Meeting.
 - 2) when candidates are admitted as members who have lodged an appeal against the refusal of the Governing Board to admit them as members. Appeals shall be lodged through the Board of Directors, which shall report them to the first following Ordinary General Meeting, which, after debate, shall finally decide the matter by a simple majority vote of those present.

Art. 14. Withdrawal and termination of membership:

- (1) Withdrawal and termination of membership shall constitute a temporary suspension of the membership relationship at the will of the member concerned, and for the period of the withdrawal no membership fee shall be payable, no membership rights and obligations shall be exercised, including the right to participate and vote in the General Assembly, participation in the bodies of the Association and the possibility for the member concerned in correspondence, professional activities, advertisements, etc. sub. to be designated as a member of the Association, the suspension of membership shall always be for at least 1 /one/ calendar month or a number in multiples of 1 month, commencing on the first day of the month following the month in which the reason for suspension occurs and ending on the last day of the month in which the resumption of membership occurs.

- (2) Any member wishing to withdraw from participation in the organization may do so by informing the Board in writing. Unless a time limit is specified in the application, membership shall be reinstated on the basis of, and upon application to the Board by, the member concerned.
- (3) Termination of membership shall be allowed in the event of violations of the Code of Ethics adopted by the General Assembly, violations of these Statutes, failure to fulfill the obligations set in the implementation of the tasks of the Association, undertaken by the member, behavior detrimental to the prestige or abusive to the good name of the Association, failure to comply with the decisions of the General Assembly and/or the Board of Directors, when the violations have not resulted in damage and/or are not serious enough to expel the member. The termination of the membership shall be disclosed to the other members and the public by publishing a notice on the website of the Association, without stating the reasons therefor, and the decision of the Ethics Committee with the reasons for the termination of the membership shall be sent to the member himself. The decision of the Ethics Committee may be appealed within 14 days of its receipt to the Board of Governors and its decision within one month to the General Assembly, which shall have the final decision on the matter. An appeal will not withdraw the termination unless the body to which the appeal is lodged decides otherwise.
- (4) Violations under the preceding paragraph may not be sanctioned if more than 3 months have elapsed since the Ethics Committee and/or the President or the members of the Board of the Association became aware of the violation and no more than 1 year has elapsed since the violations were committed. The time limits do not apply if the act is a criminal offence or an administrative offence while the proceedings for their sanction are pending.

Art. 15. Membership shall be terminated:

1. with one month's written notice, addressed by the respective member of the Association to the Chairman of the Board;
 2. with the death or placement under full disability of the respective member of the Association, as well as in the event of deprivation of the right to exercise the profession of art therapist due to a crime committed in the cases provided for in the Criminal Code by a final verdict of a criminal court;
 3. by a decision of the Board of Directors to expel a member;
 4. with the dissolution of the Association;
 5. in case of cancellation due to non-payment of the established membership fee within three months after the deadline for its payment. Upon payment of such dues and payment of the next year's dues, membership shall be reinstated.
 6. in case of systematic /at least three times consecutively/ non-participation in the activities of the Association - after an explicit invitation to do so and failure to correct the behavior;
 7. in particularly serious cases, as well as in cases in which the conduct of the respective member of the Association has caused damage to ABAT in the hypotheses of Art. 3 of the Statutes;
 8. in the cases provided by law.
- (2) Upon termination of membership, the property relations between the former member or his successors and the Association shall be settled after the adoption of the annual financial statement by the General Assembly. In the event of any outstanding debts of the former member to the Association, set-off shall be made against his claims from the Association.
 - (3) The decision for expulsion of a member shall be taken by the Board of Directors in case of non-payment of due property contributions, in case of proven abuse of membership for selfish purposes, in case of non-fulfilment of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors and non-compliance with the Statutes. The decision to expel shall be taken by the Governing Board when the conditions referred to in paragraph 5 of the preceding subparagraph are present, and the determination of their existence shall be made on the basis of documents.

- (4) The decision for expulsion shall be taken by a majority of 2/3 of the members of the Board present and may be appealed by the expelled person to the General Assembly within 7 days from the knowledge of the decision.
- (5) In case of expulsion or dropping of a member from the Association, he/she shall be obliged to return his/her membership card and/or special sign and all funds entrusted to him/her as a member of the same.
- (6) When a member of the Association voluntarily withdraws on the basis of a notice given, the termination of membership shall occur automatically upon the expiry of the notice period, without the need for a decision of the Board.
- (7) A decision to expel a member may also be taken by the General Assembly of the Association for failure to fulfil membership obligations and/or decisions of the General Assembly, the decision being taken by a simple majority, the expelled member not participating in the vote either in person or by proxy.

Rights of the members of the Association

Art. 16. Each member of the Association shall have the right:

1. to personally participate in the activities of the Association - by taking a direct part in working groups, creative projects, initiatives and any other activities relevant to the subject of the activity, in accordance with the objectives of the Association and the means to achieve them;
2. to participate in the work of the General Assembly - as part of a working group or through speeches and proposals, reports on issues raised by the Board or identified by the member;
3. to vote in decision-making, participating in the General Assembly, to elect and to be elected by the bodies of the Association, with the exception of persons who are honorary or associate members for whom these rights are not part of their membership;
4. to exercise control over the work of the Association and its governing bodies, unless the person concerned is an honorary or associate member of the Association for whom this right is not part of his or her membership;
5. be regularly informed about the activities of the Association;
6. to submit proposals and projects for the development of the Association and its activities to the Board and/or the General Assembly through the Board;
7. to benefit from the property of the Association and the results of its activities, which right is granted only to regular individual and organizational members of the Association;
8. to be published with contact details and a description of his/her activities as a member of the Association on the ABAT website in order to promote him/her as an art therapy practitioner;
9. to indicate their membership of ABAT in their correspondence, in the conduct of their business and in their publicity materials, and must indicate the nature of their membership, and no misuse of the name of the Association shall be permitted, and persons with such misconduct shall be excluded as members or refused admission as members if there is evidence of misuse of the name of the Association at the date of application for membership;
10. use the name and logo of the organisation on professional materials such as letterheads, business cards, signage, leaflets, banners, websites, etc., and must indicate their actual membership category and, where applicable, include a link (hyperlink) to the ABAT website, and if this right is abused the member concerned may be excluded.
11. have priority over other organizations and non-members in ABAT's information and training programs, as well as discounted rates for paid events and conferences, and participation in supervision or intervision;
12. to receive assistance in the organization of thematic events in line with the objectives of the Association to achieve its goals;
13. receive free advice on their career orientation;

14. to receive remuneration for personal work or services rendered to the Association when this is expressly agreed in a contract;
15. to receive assistance in defending their individual or collective rights as art therapists before administrative bodies, third parties and judicial institutions, including assistance with legal aid, by hiring lawyers for legal representation, subject to a budget voted by the General Assembly to cover such costs, where the lawyer is selected with the approval of the Board of Directors, and the funding of legal aid is up to 30% of the actual cost of fees, state fees and court and legal costs.

Obligations of the members of the Association

Art. 17. Each member of the Association shall:

1. pay an initiation fee, if there is a decision to do so at the General Assembly, and to pay regularly the prescribed membership fee within the first three months of the fiscal year, with the exception of newly admitted members who shall pay the membership fee for the first year in proportion to the remainder of the same, upon approval of membership in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 2 of these Statutes. Honorary members shall not be liable for initiation fees or membership dues.
2. comply with the Statutes of the Association and work for the achievement of its objectives, as well as to implement the decisions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors;
3. carry out in good faith and in due time the duties assigned to him and undertaken by him to solve specific tasks of the Association in the process of the realization of its objectives;
4. strictly observe the laws of the country and the Code of Ethics, together with the professional-ethical norms adopted by the General Assembly and published on the website of the Association;
5. work to increase the assets of the Association and raise its profile in the community;
6. participate in the activities of the Association and the realization of its objectives.

Specific obligations towards the representatives of the regular organizational members:

Art. 18. (1) Organizational members shall be represented by their legal representative, when the latter is a trained art therapist, or by another employee duly authorized by the legal representative with a notarized power of attorney, explicitly defining the representative authority specifically for this legal entity and explicitly in his capacity as an organizational member of ABAT. This authorization is also valid for the exercise of the right to vote, contrary to the rule of Art. 11 para. 3 of these Statutes.

(2) The organizational member representative shall maintain continuous contact between ABAT and the organizational member, which shall include at a minimum the following:

1. Ensure transparency in the exchange of information relevant to the organizational member and its interaction with ABAT.
2. Forwarding official and art therapy or art therapy related information from ABAT to the organizational member itself.
3. Distribution of ABAT documents and questionnaires to organizational member members and their representatives.
4. Active participation in the exchange of information, knowledge, research and findings in the field of art therapy between ABAT members and their representatives.
5. Actively promote the development and dissemination of the profession of art therapist, in accordance with these Statutes and the European standards regulated by the European Federation of Art Therapy (EFAT).

Exercise, transfer and succession of membership rights

- Art.19. (1) The membership relationship shall have regard to the personality of the member concerned and shall therefore in principle be inseparable and non-transferable. In view of this rule, the rights and obligations of membership, with the exception of those relating to property, shall be non-transferable and shall not pass to other persons in the event of death, private succession or termination of membership.
- (2) In case of universal succession due to a merger, amalgamation or transformation of a legal entity, the membership shall be transferred to the new entity only if the latter meets the conditions for a regular organizational member.
- (3) The exercise of membership rights may not be exercised by a power of attorney, except expressly with notarial certification, concerning the payment of membership fees, the transmission or receipt of documents, applications, declarations, etc., etc.
- (4) The right to vote in the General Assembly, as well as in the management bodies of the Association, may not be exercised by proxy.

III. PROPERTY. PROPERTY PENALTIES. FUNDING. REPORTING. COVERING LOSSES.

Property of the Association and financial penalties for damage caused to the Association

- Art. 20. (1) The Association shall be an independent legal entity with its own property, which shall consist of the right of ownership and other property rights over movable and immovable property, rights over objects of intellectual and industrial property, claims and other legal rights, as well as obligations to the State, municipalities and third parties.
- (2) The association shall not be liable for the debts of its members and shall manage its property independently and separately from theirs.
- (3) The members of the Association shall not be liable for the obligations of the same, irrespective of their origin, basis and mode of repayment.
- (4) Property sanctions are compensatory and aim to make good the damage caused. They may not be used as a means of reprisal against members, forcing them to leave the Association and/or as a way of unjustly enriching the Association at the expense of its members.
- (5) The property liability governed below shall be implemented separately and regardless of whether the respective guilty member(s) will also be subject to exclusion under the preceding articles of these bylaws.
- (6) When damages have occurred to the property of the Association as a result of the actions or omissions of a member of the Association, the Board of Directors is obliged to take a decision no later than 3/three/months after becoming aware of the damages, but no later than the expiration of the statutory limitation period for this. By its decision, the Board shall decide whether and for what amount it will hold the guilty member liable, and for this purpose it shall have the right to engage experts to assess the damages, the cost of the assessment being at the expense of the guilty member and included in the amount of damages to be held liable by the decision of the Board.
- (7) The Board's decision under the preceding Article shall be communicated to the guilty member of the Association, who shall be entitled to accept it and to compensate for the damage, including through gratuitous work in the field of art therapy, as agreed with the Board, and the compensation shall be paid or an agreement for gratuitous work for a given period shall be concluded within up to 1 calendar month after the guilty member of the Association has received

the Board's decision. If the conditions so specified are not fulfilled or the person objects in writing or does not respond at all within the specified period to the decision sent to him/her, the President of the Association shall, within 3 /three/ months after the decision has been taken, take action to hold the guilty member liable under the due procedure provided for by law. The guilty member shall be liable for statutory interest on the amount of compensation due, determined in accordance with the procedure described in the preceding paragraph, from the day on which the damage was caused.

- (8) When damages are caused by a collective management body in the Association - the Board of Directors or the Ethics Committee, the liability shall be committed by a decision of the General Assembly, observing the same terms as mentioned above, but for this purpose, instead of the President of the Association, to take action as soon as the decision is taken to determine the amount of liability of the members of the collective body, the General Assembly shall empower its member, not participating in the collective bodies, to take the appropriate action to commit liability. The liability of the members of the collective body towards the Association shall be joint and several, and the recourse between the members themselves for the compensation paid to the Association by any of them shall be separate, according to the subjective participation in causing the damage.

Sources of funding for the Association. Accountability of the Association.

- Art. 21. (1) The sources of financing of the Association shall be: membership fees and property contributions when the need for funds arises, which shall be voted by the General Assembly, donations and sponsorships, bequests, loans, income from the organization and participation in outreach activities, training in the field of AT, income from advertising, grants and subsidies from the state, municipalities and funds of the European Union, income from the management and disposal of property of the Association, as well as income from other business activities related to the subject of the Association's activities.
- (2) Property and membership contributions shall be determined by the General Assembly as to type, amount and method of payment. Initial contributions shall be determined in terms of amounts and terms of payment by the Constituent Assembly.
 - (3) Membership dues may be set at different levels for different types of members, with the highest dues generally set for regular organizational members, followed by regular individual members, and the lowest dues for associate members.
 - (4) Where a decision to that effect has been taken by the General or Constituent Assembly, new members may be required to pay an initiation fee equal to all members of the type concerned.
 - (5) Honorary members shall not pay initiation fees, and the initiation fees of associate members shall not exceed 50% of the value of the initiation fees for regular individual members. Regular organizational members shall pay higher dues, but not by more than 50% of the dues set for regular individual members.
 - (6) Donations may be made by Bulgarian and foreign natural or legal persons, and the subject matter may be cash, movable property and immovable property or rights to such, intellectual property rights, rights to shares and stocks, intellectual property and other tangible assets.
 - (7) Gifts or bequests shall be accepted by the Chair of the Board. In the case of specific requirements on the part of the donor, as well as in the case of bequests with weight, the opinion of the Board of Directors shall be sought, and if no decision can be reached, the matter shall be referred to the General Assembly.
 - (8) The property shall be expended to achieve the purposes set forth in these Articles of Association, and strict records shall be kept of its acquisition and expenditure, and in all primary and secondary accounting documents, the Association shall be duly noted by its full or abbreviated name in Bulgarian or Latin, as the case may be, UIC, registered office and address

of management, and the person materially responsible, which shall be the same as the President in office on the date of the document.

- (9) Every member of the Association who expends funds of the same shall be obliged to account for the expenditures by providing the expenditure documents, duly executed and in original. The documents shall be submitted at the latest by the 5th of the month following the month of expenditure.
- (10) For expenditures made with personal funds, but for the needs of the Association, each member of the same has the right - upon presentation of the original documents for the expenditure, in which ABAT is indicated as the recipient, to receive reimbursement of the amounts spent within a period not exceeding 1 / one / calendar month after the expenditure of the respective amount.
- (11) The Association shall have the right to appoint or employ an accountant to be responsible for the accounting and recording of income and expenditure and the preparation of the annual accounts. The general rules of the Accountancy Act and the Companies and Not-for-Profit Registers Act shall apply to the publication of the accounts and the time limits therefor, provided that for the purpose of the publication of the accounts, the President may authorise a solicitor or the preparer of the accounts in the person of the accountant engaged by the Association.

Loss cover

Art. 22. In case of losses according to the annual balance sheet, the General Assembly may decide to cover them by additional contributions from the members of the Association. The decision shall be taken by a simple majority of those present at the meeting.

IV. MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Bodies

- Art. 23. (1) The bodies of the Association shall be the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Ethics Committee, which shall be formed after the election of at least 7 /seven/ regular members of the Association, when the Code of Ethics of the same shall be adopted by the General Assembly.
- (2) The Board of Directors shall be elected by the General Assembly and shall consist of three (3) members with a term of office of five (5) years.
 - (3) The General Assembly shall also elect the Chairman of the Board, who shall represent the Association, and the Secretary of the Association, who shall be members of the Board by right.
 - (4) The General Assembly shall also elect the members of the Ethics Committee if the conditions of Art. 1 of these Statutes.
 - (5) Other subsidiary bodies may be formed by decision of the General Assembly.

General Assembly - Basic Provisions

- Art. 24. (1) The General Assembly shall be the supreme body of the Association, which shall establish all its main internal acts, except those which are expressly provided for to be determined by the Board of Directors according to these Statutes.
- (2) All members of the Association shall participate in the General Assembly, and only regular members shall have the right to vote on decisions, while associate and honorary members shall have the right to make speeches, opinions, reports and proposals. Participation shall be in person only, except in the case of regular organizational members, to whom the special rules set out in this Constitution shall apply.

- (3) All members of the Association are obliged to comply with the decisions of the General Assembly, and in case of serious violations or those that have led to damage, as well as in case of systematic - more than three consecutive in an uninterrupted period of time, non-compliance with the decisions of the General Assembly, the respective member may be expelled according to the procedure provided for in the Statutes.

Representation of the Association

Art. 25. The Association shall be represented by the Chairman of the Board. In his absence, the Association shall be represented by the Secretary, and in his absence by the third member of the Board - for this purpose, an express power of attorney with notarized signature of the President shall be drawn up, which shall also mention these conditions for representation by substitution.

Jurisdiction of the General Assembly

Art. 26. The General Assembly have the rights under Article 25 of the UJLNC:

1. amend and supplement the Statutes;
2. adopt the internal acts of the Association, including the Code of Ethics and Professional Standards;
3. take decisions on the transformation or dissolution of the Association;
4. accept and expel members;
5. elect and dismiss the members of the Governing Board and the Chairman of the Governing Board and the members of the Ethics Committee and determine their remuneration;
6. appoint and dismiss auditors;
7. adopt the budget of the Association;
8. decide on the opening and closing of branches;
9. decide on participation in other organisations;
10. decide on the amount of the membership fee or property contributions, as well as on introductory and additional contributions. Decisions on the setting of the amount of contributions, the introduction of a new type of contribution shall always have effect for the future;
11. repeal decisions of other bodies of the association that contradict the law, the statutes or other internal acts regulating the activities of the association;
12. adopt the main guidelines and programmes for the activities of the Association in order to achieve its objectives and outline the means of achieving them;
13. adopt the report on the activities of the Board of Directors;
14. shall take decisions on the expenditure of the Association's property free of charge.
15. take other decisions concerning the activities of the association.

Conduct of a General Meeting

Art. 27. The General Assembly shall be held regularly once a year and extraordinarily - in the cases provided by the law and these Statutes.

Convocation of the General Assembly

Art. 28. (1) The General Assembly shall be convened by the Chairman of the Board or at the request of one third of the members of the Association, at the registered office of the Association. If, in

the latter case, the Board of Management does not, within a period of two weeks, issue a written summons to convene the General Meeting, the General Meeting shall be convened by the court of the registered office of the Association at the written request of the members concerned or a person entrusted by them.

- (2) The invitation to a General Meeting must contain the agenda, the date, the time, and the place of the General Meeting, on whose initiative it is convened, the manner of its holding (in person or remotely), including the technical means by which the remote connection will be made and who convenes it.
- (3) The invitation to the General Meeting must be received not later than 1 month before the date of the General Meeting by any of the following means: in person against signature or by sending an email to the members of the Association, in the latter case the invitations shall be deemed to have been delivered by sending them to the email addresses of the members, without the need for confirmation of receipt. Within the same period, the invitation to the meeting must be affixed to the door of the Association's registered office and other publicly accessible places in the locality where the Association operates.
- (4) General Meetings shall be held in a room appropriate to the number of members, which is suitable for the holding of such events and is safe for the life and health of those present. The hiring of the hall and the provision of sound for the meeting shall be at the expense of the Association and the organisation and conduct of the meeting shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors under the direction of the President of the Association.
- (5) Remote General Meetings shall be held by telephone or online connection, including a communication link via a social network or a dedicated online conferencing video and/or audio platform. Regardless of the type of remote means of conducting the meeting, it should ensure that the identity of the participants in the General Meeting is unquestionable and that their vote is clear when decisions are taken.
- (6) In the event of a declared state of war or other emergency and/or a declared state of epidemic emergency on the territory where the headquarters of the Association is located or when other objective reasons require it, based on a decision of the Board of Directors of the Association, the meetings of the General Assembly may be held only remotely (online), with the simultaneous presence of members being ensured by conference, telephone or other connection that guarantees the identification and allows participation in the discussion and decision-making. In this case, the method of holding the General Meeting, namely remote (online), shall be specified in the invitation.

Right to information on the agenda of the General Meeting

Art. 29. The written materials related to the agenda of the General Meeting shall be made available to the members at the registered office of the Association or by their electronic mail, the latter method being mandatory in the case of remote holding of the General Meeting.

Quorum for the General Meeting

Art. 30. The General Assembly may meet if more than half of the regular individual and organizational members are present. In verifying the quorum, the presence of associate and/or honorary members shall not be taken into account. In the absence of a quorum, the Chairman of the Board of Directors shall schedule a new meeting within one hour later at the same place and with the same agenda, and the meeting shall be held regardless of the number of members present.

Voting on the decisions of the General Assembly

Art. 31. All regular members shall be entitled to one vote, which shall be of equal weight, including when it is a vote cast by a member of a body of the Association. Voting shall be open unless the General Assembly decides otherwise.

Art. 32. A member or his representative may not participate in the voting on the occasion of:

1. bringing claims against him or her;
2. taking action or refusing to take action to discharge his or her responsibility to the association.
3. in matters concerning his or her spouse or relatives in the direct line - without limitation, in the patrimonial line - up to the fourth degree, or in the matrimonial line - up to the second degree inclusive.

Majority for ordinary decision-making by the General Assembly

Art. (1) Decisions of the General ~~Assembly~~ shall be adopted by a ~~majority~~ of the voting members present, except for the decisions referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

- (2) Decisions to amend the statutes, dissolution of the association, merger of the association with another, division or separation of the same, as well as in other cases expressly provided for in the Law on the Law on the Public Benefit, including the transition of the association to one for the public benefit, require a majority of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the regular members present and being entitled to vote.
- (3) Decisions of the General Assembly shall be adopted by a majority of all regular members in all cases specified in the UJLNC Act where such qualified majority is required.

Decisions of the General Meeting and procedure for challenging them

Art. 34. (1) The General Meeting may not adopt resolutions concerning matters which were not published in the invitation.

- (2) Resolutions of the General Assembly shall take effect immediately unless their effect is suspended by the resolution itself or if, according to law, they take effect after their publication.
- (3) The decisions of the General Assembly shall be binding on the members and other bodies of the Association.
- (4) The decisions of the General Assembly shall be subject to judicial review as to their legality and compliance with the Statutes. The procedure and time limits for this are regulated in the Law on the Law on the Legal Entity of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Art. 35. Minutes shall be kept of the meeting of the General Assembly and shall be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Assembly. If the minutes are drawn up electronically, they may be signed with a qualified electronic signature by the persons indicated, who shall be responsible for the accurate, complete and correct recording of the deliberations, votes taken and the results thereof.

Management Board

Art. (1) The Association shall be governed by a Governing Board elected for a term of 5 years.

- (2) The Governing Board shall consist of 3 /three/ persons, members of the Association, two of whom shall be the President of the Association and the Secretary of the same.
- (3) Board members shall be eligible for re-election without restriction.

Rights and duties of the Board of Directors

- Art. (1) The members of the Board of Directors shall have rights and duties in accordance with the internal distribution of functions among the members and the extent of their representative power.
- (2) The Board:
1. organises the activities of the association;
 2. implements the decisions of the General Assembly;
 3. prepares and submits to the General Assembly a draft budget;
 4. prepares and submits to the General Assembly a report on the activities of the Association;
 5. admits and excludes members of the association;
 6. determines the order and organises the activities of the association, including being responsible for it;
 7. determines the address of the association;
 8. adopts rules for its work;
 9. takes decisions on the acquisition, alienation and encumbrance of immovable property and the establishment of rights in rem thereon, as well as on their lease or rental; makes decisions on taking and granting loans; on the conclusion of any other contracts, decisions on participation / application for any programmes; on participation in public procurement procedures;
 10. adopts the organizational and management structure, the staffing table, the procedure for the appointment and dismissal of staff, the rules for remuneration of labour and other internal rules of the Association related to the management of human resources employed under labour and non-labour relations;
 11. develops and adopts rules for the work of the Ethics Committee, in accordance with these Statutes, the laws of the country and the Code of Ethics of the Association;
 12. makes decisions on all matters which by law or by the statutes do not fall within the rights of another body.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

- Art. 38. (1) The Governing Board shall meet in regular sessions at least once every three months.
- (2) Meetings of the Board shall be convened and chaired by the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall convene a meeting of the Management Board at the written request of one third of its members. If the Chairman fails to convene a meeting of the Board within one week of the request, it may be convened by any interested member of the Board.
- (3) In cases of a declared state of war or other emergency and/or a declared state of epidemic emergency on the territory where the headquarters of the Association is located, as well as when other objective reasons require it (such as - prolonged absence from the country of a member of the Board or absence from the locality where the headquarters of the Association is located), the meetings of the Board may, at the discretion of the Chairman, be held remotely (online), and the simultaneous presence of members shall be ensured by conference, telephone, and other means.
- (4) Invitations to the members of the Board of Directors to hold a meeting must be received no later than 3 days before the date of the meeting, by any of the following methods: in person through signature or by sending an email to the members of the Board of Directors, and the invitations shall be deemed to have been delivered when they are sent to the email addresses of the members of the Board of Directors, with no confirmation of receipt required
- (5) Decisions may be taken if more than half of the Board members are present. Participation is in person only, no proxy representatives are allowed. A person with whom there is a two-way telephone or other contact ensuring his identity and allowing his participation in the discussion

and decision-making shall also be present. The vote of that member shall be certified in the minutes by the Chair.

- (6) Decisions shall be taken by a majority vote in accordance with the requirements of Article 32 (4) of the UJLNC.

Art. 39. The Board of Directors shall periodically prepare the accounting information on the Association's activities provided for in the Accounting Act in compliance with the principles of openness, reliability and timeliness.

Responsibility of the members of the Management Board

Art. 40. (1) The members of the Board of Directors shall be jointly and individually liable for their actions which damage the interests of the Association.

- (2) Any member of the Council may be exempted from liability if he is found not to be at fault for the damage.
- (3) In the event of resignation or dismissal of members of the Board of Directors and election of new members of this body, the General Assembly shall necessarily rule on the question of the discharge of former members of the Board of Directors. If they are not discharged, the Ethics Committee or, in the absence thereof, three elected members of the Association by decision of the General Assembly, shall carry out an examination of their activities, for which purpose they may also use experts, and in the event of any violations, shall report to the newly elected Board of Directors for action to be taken to hold them accountable.

Remuneration of the members of the Management Board

Art. 41. The members of the Management Board shall be entitled to remuneration in the amount determined by the General Assembly.

Resignation and dismissal of members of the Management Board

Art. 42. (1) Members of the Board of Directors shall be dismissed by the General Assembly when:

1. he or she resigns for personal reasons which need not be stated, in which case, and until their release by the General Assembly and the election of new members of the Board in their place, they shall strictly perform the functions assigned to them;
 2. their term of office has expired, and until the election of new members to replace them, they shall perform strictly the functions assigned to them;
 3. by a decision of the General Assembly to terminate their functions, which shall take effect immediately;
 4. on death or disqualification;
 5. upon dissolution of the legal entity - member of the board of directors;
 6. in the event of absence without cause, and by decision of the General Assembly in the event of absence or failure to perform duties for more than 3 months without good cause;
 7. upon a reasoned proposal of a member of the Association or the Ethics Committee.
- (2) In the cases referred to in items 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the preceding paragraph, an extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the President of the Association, and if the matter concerns the termination of his/her participation in the Board, the General Assembly shall be convened by the Chairman of the Ethics Committee.

Chairman

- Art.43. (1) The Chairperson shall direct the work of the Board, perform its functions between meetings and organize the implementation of the decisions of the Board.
- (2) The President represents the Association in relations with third parties in the country and abroad.
 - (3) The President shall decide on all matters concerning the management of the Association which are not within the exclusive competence of the Board and the General Assembly.

Secretary

- Art. 44. (1) The Secretary of the Association shall be a member of the Governing Board who shall be responsible for the organizational and reporting part of the activities of the Board, the correspondence of the Board with the other bodies of the Association, with its members and/or third parties.
- (2) The Secretary shall be responsible for the collection and accounting of the membership fee and the keeping of the books relating to the accounts of the Association, the minute book for the decisions of the Board and the General Assembly and the verification of their implementation.

Ethics Committee

Art. 45. (1) The Ethics Committee shall consist of 3 /three/ members, who shall elect among themselves a Chairman who shall report the activities of the Council to the General Assembly and act as a representative of this body before the other bodies and members of the Association. Such a member shall be elected after the conditions of Art. 23, par. 1 of these Statutes.

- (2) The members of the Ethics Committee should be persons of high moral, ethical and professional qualities, with at least 7 /7/ years of experience in the specialty, preferably with at least 10 /10/ years of experience.
- (3) The Ethics Committee shall be elected for a period of 5 /five/ years. Its members may be re-elected.
- (4) The Ethics Committee shall exercise general ongoing and special control over the activities of the Board of Directors, the President and the Secretary, as well as over all members for compliance with the Statutes, the laws of the country, ethical conduct and compliance with and maintenance of professional standards adopted by resolution of the General Assembly and those set forth in the Code of Ethics, including control over the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly, accountability, spending and fundraising of the Association.
- (5) The Ethics Committee acts as a consultant on issues of members of the Association and third parties who need ethical advice in areas related to the activities of art therapists and art therapeutic methods, the relationship between a therapist and a user of his services, the relationship between art therapists themselves and associations/organizations of such, as well as the relationship and interaction of art therapists with other persons - doctors, physiotherapists, etc., in the implementation of care for the persons undergoing therapy and their physical and mental health.
- (6) The Ethics Committee shall convene ad hoc meetings to discuss complaints, reports and suggestions made to the ABAT Board or directly to the Ethics Committee regarding ethical issues in the field of art therapy, as well as issues of professional standards for the practice of art therapy.
- (7) The Ethics Committee develops rules, standards, including draft regulations to be proposed to local and central government and authorities, as well as those with legislative initiative, with the aim of developing and strengthening the profession, institutionalization and standardization of the same, its promotion and enforcement on the territory of the country.
- (8) The main tasks of the Ethics Committee are regulated in detail in its rules approved by the Board of Directors and the Code of Ethics adopted by the General Assembly of the Association.

Principles of work of the Ethics Committee

Art. 46. In its activities, the Ethics Committee shall observe the principles:

1. Good faith and care - appropriate to the expected outcome, economical and prudent use of resources, assets, facilities and personnel, with an effort to limit possible harm and other negative consequences, in compliance with regulatory and technological requirements.
2. Loyalty and fairness - carrying out the activity with avoidance of conflicts of interest and isolation of such cases when they are identified, including recusal in the event of the possibility of such a conflict in relation to a specific case or a specific art therapist or art therapy organization, institution or other third party. For this purpose, all direct and indirect familial, personal and professional relationships, including in-laws, partnerships, professional hierarchical relationships ~~and~~ of interconnectedness, co-ownership or other forms of legal and personal relationships, including friendships, long-standing acquaintanceships, memberships in identical clubs and organisations, which may be perceived as questioning the impartiality and independence of the Ethics Committee member concerned in the specific case, shall be taken into account.
3. Legality and subordination - the activity to be organized and conducted in such a way as to guarantee the right of complaint of the persons whose conduct is investigated by the Ethics Committee, as well as the right to participate and defend in the procedure of investigation of signals and complaints of the complainant and the person against whom the complaint is filed; strict compliance with the rules set forth in the Code of Ethics, the decisions of the General Assembly, the laws of the country and the Rules of Procedure of the Ethics Committee, as well as the developed and established ethical norms and professional standards in the field of art.
4. A balance between the dispositive and the ex officio principle - the Ethics Committee works exclusively on signals and complaints against members of the Association and on its own findings of violations of rules, ethics and professional standards, made during inspections on a specific occasion or ongoing control. The Ethics Committee, in reviewing and resolving matters brought before it, shall not go beyond the scope of the matter raised and prescribe or require conduct and results from the appropriate persons or other bodies of the Association that would result in causing negative consequences to the person whose conduct is under review that are inconsistent with his or her misconduct or cause harm beyond the scope of the Committee's prescribed authority.
5. Equal Treatment, Objectivity and Impartiality - The Ethics Committee shall consider all cases brought before it concerning violations of ethical rules, failures of members to perform their duties or to comply with professional standards objectively, impartially and without regard to the personal and other characteristics of the particular case. It shall not discriminate in any way against the person who has made the report or against the person whose conduct is the subject of the report/complaint. Judgements in making decisions shall be made on the basis of the free internal conviction of each individual member of the Committee.

Decisions of the Ethics Committee

Art. 47. The Ethics Committee shall take its decisions by a simple majority. Members who disagree with the majority decision shall have the right to form a written dissenting opinion, which shall be annexed to the decision of the Commission.

Remuneration of the members of the Ethics Committee

Art. 48. The members of the Ethics Committee shall be entitled to remuneration in the amount determined by the General Assembly. The remuneration may be set as monthly, annually or per

meeting.

V. TERMINATION AND LIQUIDATION

Grounds for termination

Art. 49. The Association shall be dissolved:

1. by decision of the General Assembly;
2. by a decision of the District Court of the seat of the Association in the order and in the cases specified in Art. 13 of the JLLC.

Liquidation

Art. 50. (1) Upon dissolution of the Association, liquidation shall be carried out, except in the case of transformation of the Association.

- (2) The liquidation shall be carried out by the Management Board of the Association or a person appointed by it, who shall carry out the actions provided for by the Law on the Liquidation of the Association, cashing out of its property and satisfaction of the creditors of the Association.
- (3) When the property is cashed out, the same may not be transferred to the persons referred to in Article 43, paragraph 2 of the Law on Legal Entities.

PROPERTY AFTER LIQUIDATION

Art. 51. (1) The property remaining after the satisfaction of the creditors shall be granted to a non-profit legal entity with identical or at least close and similar activities, according to a decision of the General Assembly, taken by a majority of at least half of the regular members of the Association.

- (2) If there are no persons referred to in the preceding paragraph, if they are not determinable or if the distribution of the property in the manner specified in the preceding paragraph is impossible, the property shall pass to the municipality of the registered office of the Association. The municipality shall be obliged to use the property received for an activity as close as possible to the purpose of the dissolved Association.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 52. Amendments to these Statutes may be made in accordance with the procedure provided for herein and in the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act.

Art. 53. The provisions of Bulgarian law shall apply to the interpretation or application of the provisions of these Statutes.