

CONSTITUTIONS of the ASSOCIATION OPEN THE DOORS; OPEN THE HEARTS (ODOS)

PREAMBLE

Civil Association ODOS associates people with a mental disorder, their relatives, professionals and other people in order to overcome stigma and discrimination because of the mental diseases. Its aim is to improve the quality of life for people with mental disorder and to achieve a complete practice of the principle of social equity and humanity stated in the Declaration of Basic Rights and Charters, comprehended in the Constitution of Slovak Republic.

SECTION 1: Name, residence, coverage

1. Name: OTVORME DVERE, OTVORME SRDCIA, o. z. (abbreviation ODOS)
2. Residence: Ševčenkova 21, 851 01 Bratislava
3. Coverage: Association ODOS covers the whole country, Slovak Republic and has open character

SECTION 2: Purpose and Aims

1. Purpose of the Association is to support and perform initiatives and projects, which direct to a destigmatisation of people with a mental disorder, first of all those suffering of the schizophrenia, whereby our activities will be based on their needs. We are expected to take a part on these activities their relatives, professionals and public. Dialog of these four participants, so called tetralogue represents the basic tool of the activities of the Association.

2. Association has the following aims:

- Overcoming of the prejudice and stigma due to the mental disorders.
- Social integration of the people with the mental disorder to a society, by creating and developing appropriate living conditions in all areas of the life.
- Providing of the human rights. Overcome the discrimination of people with the mental disorder, so these could live with dignity and equivalently in the society.

- Improving the quality and equalizing of the psychiatric care with the care of somatic patients.
- The general improvement of the mental health of the society, so this would become the one of the priorities in accordance with a statement "there is not a good health without mental health".

Section 3: Membership

1. Membership in the Association is open and optional. It can be a collective or an individual membership. Member might be ordinary, honorary member, fellow traveler, supporting and extraordinary.

2. Individual membership in the Association is optional. Anyone can become a member without difference of the political opinion or political party affiliation, of the religion, of the gender, of the age. Also a foreign citizen might become a member, if he/she has a permanent residence in the Slovak Republic and agrees with the Constitution of the Association. A Board of the ODOS decides about acceptance of the new applicant after receiving a written registration form. In the case of refusing to accept the applicant, the Board is obliged to specify a reason of refusing.

3. The collective membership is signing down a written agreement containing rights, obligations, an amount and a way of a mutual cooperation. An organization or institution with a residence outside of the Slovak Republic might become a member of the Association.

4. Any legal entity, or a person, might become an honorary member of the Association, which by the extraordinary credits participated in performing tasks and aims of the Association. To a single person, to teams, to organizations, or institutions for their credits in developing of the help to the people with mental disorders might the Board of the ODOS award membership.

5. Each legal entity, or a person, might become a fellow traveler member of the Association, which is interested to show it's inclination to the activities and to the Association.

6. Every legal entity, or a person, with a permanent residency in the Slovak Republic might become a supporting member.

7. A foreign citizenship person, a legal entity from abroad, Slovak or foreign self - help or other groups, which do not have to have a legal personality status in the Slovak republic but otherwise they satisfy condition for their activity in the Slovak Republic might become an extraordinary member of the Association too.

8. By sending a registry form and an application form, where the applicant for this type of membership authentically proves it is motives for this step, expresses unconditional agreement with the content of the constitution and joins to the active participation on fulfilling its program starts the extraordinary membership of the Association. Coordination Board approves the start of the extraordinary membership by releasing of the form of extraordinary membership.

9. End of the membership:

- a) by seceding - by the day of receiving of a written announcement about seceding from the Association to the board of ODOS ends the membership
- b) by preclusion - by the day of deciding about preclusion of the Coordination Board of the Association ends the membership. The reason of preclusion can be doing activities, which are in conflict with the regulations and at the same time harm a reputation of the Association
- c) by dissolution of the legal entity or the person, which was the member of the Association
- d) by dissolution of the Association

Section 4: Rights and Obligations of the members

1. Members have the following rights:

- a) to participate in the activities of the Association
- b) to have the voting right on the General Assembly
- c) to vote and to be voted to the bodies of the Association
- d) to come with suggestions and comments to the bodies of the Association and to ask for their attitude
- e) to be informed about the decisions of bodies of the Association, to present suggestions for changes inner regulations of the Association
- f) to use facilities of the inner regulations of the Association
- g) in a case member does not associates with the decision of the Coordination Board about its preclusion, he/she has the right to turn to an Audit Commission with a complaint and to be present on its meeting, as well as on the next meeting of the Coordination Board, where his membership will be discussed on

Items b) and c) do not refer to honorary members, fellow travelers and supporting members
Items b) and c) do refer to the members older than 18 years of age

2. Obligations of the members:

- a) to keep the regulations of the Association and to fulfill acts of its bodies
- b) to participate actively on the activities of the Association and to support its interests
- c) to pay the membership fee, if the General Assembly decides about this need; the fee might be dropped of
- d) to support the cooperation of all subjects involved

Item c) does not refer to honorary members, fellow travelers and supporting members

Section 5: Bodies of the Association

Bodies of the Association ODOS:

- (1) General Assembly
- (2) Coordination Board (coordinating and managing body)
- (3) Executive Board
- (4) Statutory Body
- (5) Audit Commission

Section 6: General Assembly

1. General Assembly is the supreme authority of the Association and is compounded of the representatives of all members of ODOS

2. General Assembly

- a) approves the regulations of the Association and their changes and amendments
- b) votes and votes off members of the Executive Board
- c) votes and votes off members of the Audit Commission
- d) approves the plan of activities and the annual report
- e) approves the budget and the economic report
- f) determines level of membership fees and the term of payment
- g) decided about temporary membership of the Association
- h) delegates the members of the Association for the General Assemblies of the associations of the legal entities, where the Association is an ordinary member
- i) decides about a dissolution of the Association

3. Meeting of the General Assembly calls the Coordination Board according to a need, at least once a year. Extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly can be called by the Coordination Board, if the absolute majority asks for it. The General Assembly can also be called by the Coordination Board, if either Executive Board or the Audit Commission asks it for. The plan of the meeting handles that body which meeting of the General Assembly asked for. Quorum meeting of the General Assembly is, if there is 1/4 of all members present there.

Section 7: Coordination Board

1. Coordination Board is coordination and Executive Body of the Association and it accounts to the General Assembly.

2. Manages the work of the Association in between meetings of the General Assembly.

3. Coordination Board meets at least once a year.

4. Members of the Coordination Board are delegated representatives of the members of the Association.

5. Coordination Boards members vote of them self the one chief coordinator and his/her deputy. The election is held at the same time as the election of Executive Board members. Term of office of the Coordination Board members is three years.

6. The Coordination Board quorum meeting is, if the absolute majority of its members are present there. The Coordination Board is able to make decision if the absolute majority of the Board is present on its meeting.

7. The Coordination Board:

a) designs a plan of activities and the report of activities

b) designs a draught of the budget

c) keeps cooperation with other related organizations in the Slovak Republic and abroad

d) decides about accepting of an applicant or preclusion of a member of the Association

e) can decide about dissolution of the Association, if the General Assembly does not meet three times in a row. The Coordination Board assumes the competencies of the General Assembly then

8. The Coordination Board can establish Boards of Advisors in order to help to achieve the goals of the Association. Workers, professionals of the different institutions become members of the Board of Advisors. The Coordination Board nominates members of the Board of Advisors. These nominees might be members of the Association.

9. A college of honorary members, a specialist teams and sections as additional bodies of the Association might be established by the Coordination Board in order to make better mutual communication and cooperation within and outside of the Association.

Section 8: Executive Board

1. The Executive Board of the Association accounts to the Coordination Board.

2. The Executive Board must have at least five members which elect a chairman from themselves. Members of it can be in a labour relation in accordance with the Labour Code. The Executive Director of the Association ODOS is appointed by the Executive Board. The Executive Director can be in a labour relation in accordance with the Labour Code. Term of office of the Executive Board members is three years. The Executive Board meets at least four times a year.

3. The chairman calls and manages the meetings of the Board. The Executive Board meeting is, if the absolute majority of its members are present there. The Executive Board is able to make decisions if the absolute majority of the board is present on its meeting, but at least three members must be present.

4. The Executive Board:

- a) ensures activities of the Association
- b) administers an estate of the Association and makes balancing
- c) keeps cooperation with other related organizations in the Slovak Republic and abroad
- d) manages all affairs of the Association, as far as it is not in the competence of the General Assembly, or the Coordination Board

5. For the effective work of the Association the Executive Board might:

- a) to establish a secretariat of the Association
- b) to appoint a secretary and an economist the Association can start a labour relation in accordance with the Labour Code
- c) to establish working teams - sections - to ensure intended objectives and activities of the Association. The members of these teams can be in a labour relation in accordance with the Labour Code

6. Boards of Advisors can be established by the Executive Board in order to help to achieve the goals of the Association.

Section 9: Statutory Body

1. A Chairman, a Chairman Deputy and an Executive Director are a Statutory Body of the Association.

2. The Statutory Body represents the Association externally and interprets these regulations. An Executive Director represents the Association externally and is able to make necessary decisions at the time in between meetings of the Executive Board, manages the activities of the Association ODOS. An elected statutory representative will act individually in accordance with the interests of the Association.

Section 10: Audit Commission

1. The Audit Commission is a body of revision of the Association. It accounts to the General Assembly for its activity.

2. The General Assembly elects the Audit Commission with the term of office three years. It is compounded of at least three members. They then elect a Chairman of themselves. The Audit Commission held meeting at least once a year. A Chairman calls and manages it is meetings. The Audit Commission quorum meeting is, if the absolute majority of its members are present there. The Audit Commission is able to make decisions if the absolute majority of the board is present on its meeting, but at least two members must be present.

3. The Audit Commission:

- a) inspects an economy of the Association, warns the Executive Board and the Coordination Board about failures and suggests solutions for removing them
 - b) inspects keeping the regulations and the internal order
 - c) makes the annual report and introduces it to the General Assembly
4. A membership in other bodies of the Association is not allowed for the member of the Audit Commission

Section 11: Economy of the Association

1. The association administers funds and properties.

2. Sources of the estate:

- a) voluntaries, gifts, subsidies, grants and other forms of materialistic and financial help from the legal entities
- b) voluntaries, inheritance and other forms of materialistic and financial help from persons
- c) earnings of the activities by fulfilling aims of the Association
- d) membership fees
- e) means of the various legal sources

3. The economy of the Association runs in accordance with an approved budgetary control. The Executive Board is responsible for the economy of the Association.

4. The legal entities and individual persons can contribute to fulfill the aims and to support activities of the Association no matter whether they are its members or not. By the financial support to the bank account number which will be published.

5. The Chairman and the Chairman Deputy of the Association have the right of disposal to use the financial means. If appropriate other member of the Association might have this right, when the Executive Board accredits him/her by a written authorization form.

Section 12: Dissolution of the Association

1. The Association dissolute by a spontaneous dissolution or by a merge with other association after paying off all obligations of the Association. The General Assembly makes decision about the dissolution of the Association.

2. If the General Assembly has not appointed an adjuster, then the Coordination Board does it, if the Association dissolves by the dissolution.

3. In the case of dissolution the estate of the Association can exclusively be used for community and charitable aims only.

Section 13: Closing article

1. Regulations come into effect on the day of an approval by the General Assembly.
2. The Association rises on the day of the registration at the Department of Home Affairs.

Michalovce town, April 13th 2001

Signatures of at least 7 founder members