

Vereinigung für Angewandte Linguistik in der Schweiz
Association Suisse de Linguistique Appliquée
Associazione Svizzera di Linguistica Applicata
Associaziun Svizra da Linguistica Applitgada Swiss
Association for Applied Linguistics

Statutes

1 Status and Legal Domicile

The Swiss Association for Applied Linguistics (Vereinigung für Angewandte Linguistik in der Schweiz, Association Suisse de Linguistique Appliquée, VALS-ASLA) is an association (“Verein”) as defined by articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code.

VALS-ASLA is a subordinate society of the “Schweizerische Sprachwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft / Société Suisse de Linguistique” (henceforth “SSG/SSL”). The details of the relationship with the SSG/SSL are governed by a separate contract.

The association’s legal domicile is at the domicile of its President. The association's archive is deposited in the archive of the canton of Neuchâtel.

2 Objectives

VALS-ASLA promotes the development of the field of applied linguistics in Switzerland, addresses topics that are of importance for the language situation and language policy in Switzerland and cooperates with other interested groups and organisations at a regional, national and international level.

For this purpose, VALS-ASLA
publishes a bulletin,
organises a Swiss congress of applied linguistics every two to three years,
promotes the cooperation between various individuals and institutions active in the field of applied linguistics in Switzerland and represents their interests externally,
pursues, supports and encourages the offering of education and advanced training in the field of applied linguistics,
represents Switzerland in international organisations, in particular the International Association of Applied Linguistics (Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée, AILA).

3 Membership

3.1 The association is composed of individual members, collective members and honorary members.

3.2 All those who are scientifically active in the field of applied linguistics or interested in scientific results thereof as well as in questions concerning their implementation can be admitted as individual members.

Subject to the approval by the General Assembly, admission to VALS-ASLA is granted on the basis of a written application to the President by the Board.

3.3 Subject to the approval of the General Assembly, the Board may accept authorities, associations, universities or their institutes, schools and other organisations and institutions interested in applied linguistics as collective members.

- 3.4 VALS-ASLA's Board submits on its own initiative a membership application to the SSG/SSL for individual members and collective members. In order to become a member of the SSG/SSL, the proposed member must meet the admission requirements of the SSG/SSL. Another prerequisite is that the proposed member does not explicitly refuse a membership of the SSG/SSL. The membership of the SSG/SSL does not entail any additional costs.
- 3.5 On proposal from the Board, the General Assembly may grant honorary membership to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to applied linguistics or to the association.
- 3.6 The annual membership fee is defined by the General Assembly. Honorary members are not subject to membership fees.
- The membership fee includes the subscription to VALS-ASLA's bulletin and to the information brochure published by the SSG/SSL.
- Members who do not pay their annual dues despite reminders will be removed from the bulletin's list of subscribers and may be expelled from the association by the General Assembly.
- 3.7 Withdrawal from the association is possible at any time as of the end of the current year by written declaration to the President.

4 Bodies of the Association

- 4.1 The bodies of VALS-ASLA are:
the General Assembly,
the Board,
commissions and working groups,
two auditors and one substitute auditor.
- 4.2 The General Assembly
- 4.2.1 The General Assembly is the supreme body of the association. The General Assembly shall meet each year for an ordinary session. Extraordinary sessions shall be convened by the Board on its own initiative or at the request of 20% of the members.
- Invitations to these sessions must include the session's agenda and shall be sent to the members at least four weeks in advance.
- All members are entitled to vote; collective members have one vote.
- 4.2.2 The General Assembly shall regulate all matters which do not fall within the special remit of the other organs. In particular, the General Assembly elects:
the President,
the members of the Board,
two auditors and one substitute auditor,
the members of commissions and working groups, if required.
- Resolutions and elections are passed by a simple majority of the members present. The matters referred to in Art. 5 of these statutes are an exception. For matters that have not been put on the agenda prior to a session, the approval of the absolute majority of all members is required.
- 4.3 The Board
- 4.3.1 The Board of the association consists of the President, the vice president, the accounting officer, the actuary, the Bulletin's editor-in-chief and approximately eight assessors.
- Members of the Board are elected for a four-year period and can be re-elected in the same position a maximum of two times. The Board may seek advice from members for special tasks.
- A representative of the SSG/SSL is also invited to the board meetings.

4.3.2 The President and the Board shall conduct the affairs of the association in-between the General Assembly's sessions. Furthermore, the President and the Board shall appoint representatives of VALS-ASLA to represent the association in external commissions, working groups and organisations.

4.4 Auditors

The term of office of the auditors and the substitute auditor is two years and a re-election is possible.

4.5 Commissions and Working Groups

Upon request of the Board, the General Assembly shall appoint commissions and working groups to perform specific tasks on a permanent or temporary basis. The commissions and working groups shall report directly to the General Assembly.

4.6 Interest Groups

Members may form interest groups on specific sub-areas of applied linguistics on their own initiative. These groups constitute themselves.

5 **Amendments to the Statutes and Dissolution of the Association**

A motion to amend the statutes may be proposed by the Board or ten members. Amendments to the statutes are not valid unless supported by a two-thirds majority of the members present at the General Assembly.

The dissolution of the association requires the approval of two-thirds of the members. Should the General Assembly not consist of two thirds of the members, a ballot by letter will be held (according to article 66 of the Swiss Civil Code).

In case of dissolution, the association's assets are to be transferred to the SSG/SSL.

6 **Other**

The financial year shall correspond to the calendar year. One year of office is understood to be the period of time between one ordinary General Assembly and the close of the next ordinary General Assembly.

These statutes were formally adopted by the founding assembly in Solothurn on 13/11/1993 and come into force immediately.

They have been amended by the General Assembly in Basel on 13/5/2013.