

STATUTES

Science for Democracy – We for You e.V.

Heidelberg, May 23, 2025 – Version 1.1 dated July 18, 2025

I. NAME, PURPOSE, NON-PROFIT STATUS

§ 1 Name, registered office, fiscal year

- 1) The association bears the name "Science for Democracy – We for You." It has its registered office in Ladenburg.
- 2) The association is to be entered in the register of associations. After registration, it shall bear the suffix "e.V."
- 3) The fiscal year is the calendar year.

§ 2 Purpose of the association

- 1) The association "Science for Democracy – We for You" pursues exclusively and directly charitable purposes within the meaning of the section "tax-privileged purposes" of the German Tax Code (Sections 51 ff. AO).
- 2) The purpose of the association is to promote political education, public education, and democratic culture in the spirit of an open, pluralistic society.
 - a) The association highlights the central importance of scientific knowledge and ways of thinking for everyday life, social cohesion, and informed and responsible democratic decision-making processes in the face of the complex challenges of our time.
 - b) The association strengthens trust in scientific institutions and methods, promotes public debate, and advocates fact-based, enlightenment-oriented science communication.
 - c) Within the framework of the constitutional order and applicable laws, the association actively counters trends that run counter to fundamental democratic values, scientific rationality, or free discourse. These include, in particular, anti-democratic, anti-scientific, and disinformation-driven movements.
 - d) The association promotes political education, fact-based information, and rational decision-making processes across all age groups.
 - e) The association sees itself as a civil society movement and platform that is committed to strengthening an open, democratic, and knowledge-based society.
- 3) The association is politically independent and works in a non-partisan and non-denominational manner.

- 4) The purpose of the association is achieved in particular through:
 - a) Developing and implementing political education projects, especially in schools, educational institutions, and digital spaces
 - b) Carrying out high-profile campaigns that highlight the mission and importance of science and democracy for our society
 - c) Developing and disseminating digital education and information formats, especially via social media,
 - d) Making scientists and their social relevance visible
 - e) Establishing a civil society support structure for researchers who are the target of attacks or disinformation
 - f) Organizing events, workshops, and digital exchange formats on science, democracy, media literacy, and debate culture
 - g) Developing and publishing recommendations for action, position papers, results of accompanying research, and educational content in cooperation with relevant partners from science, politics, education, and civil society.

§ 3 Non-profit status, economic activity, cooperation with external partners

- 1) The association is a non-profit organization; it does not primarily pursue its own economic interests.
- 2) The association's funds may only be used for purposes in accordance with its statutes. Members do not receive any payments from the association's funds.
- 3) No person may be favored by expenditures that are not related to the purpose of the association or by disproportionate remuneration.
- 4) In order to achieve its objectives, the association may establish economically active subsidiaries or participate in non-profit corporations; it may also commission external service providers to perform its tasks. The economic activities must support the non-profit purpose of the association and must not jeopardize it.
- 5) Surpluses generated from economic activities may only be used for the purposes of the association.
- 6) The association may enter into strategic partnerships with external natural or legal persons to fulfill its statutory purposes. Strategic partners may, in particular, be commissioned with the strategic, conceptual, communicative, or organizational development of the association. Persons who are involved in or work for a strategic partner may not participate in the relevant decision-making process, either in an advisory or voting capacity.

II. Membership

§ 4 Members

- 1) Natural persons and legal entities who are committed to the purpose of the association and are willing to support the goals and interests of the association may become members.
- 2) Legal entities exercise their membership rights through a natural person who is authorized to represent them and who is named in writing. This person must be named to the association in writing upon admission or change. The transfer of representation to another person is possible at any time and must be communicated to the association in writing.
- 3) There are regular members, supporting members, and honorary members.
- 4) Supporting members provide financial support to the association. Full members are also actively involved in the work of the association.
- 5) The association also seeks long-term sponsors. Long-term sponsors are not members within the meaning of association law. The association's executive committee may admit long-term sponsors to events and grant them special offers or information.

§ 5 Acquisition of membership

- 1) Membership must be applied for in writing.
- 2) The board decides on admission.
- 3) The association is subject to authorization and expressly reserves the right to take measures to prevent misuse of memberships, for example through automated registrations (bots), false identities, or other abusive behavior. For this purpose, the association may use technical procedures to verify the identity and authenticity of membership applications, for example AI-based procedures, identity checks, and verification through two-factor authentication. Further details are regulated by membership rules to be decided by the board, which will be made available to association members in a transparent manner.
- 4) There is no entitlement to membership in the association.
- 5) Any natural or legal person who is willing to make regular contributions to the association can obtain the status of permanent supporter. This status begins with a declaration (stating name, address, and email address) to the association and confirmation by the executive board, in each case at least in text form (e.g., by email).

§ 6 Termination of membership

- 1) Membership ends through resignation, exclusion, or death.
- 2) Resignation must be declared in writing and takes effect at the end of a fiscal year.
- 3) The board may expel members for good cause. Important reasons justifying expulsion include, in particular,
 - a) if a member is more than six months in arrears with their membership fees in whole or in part despite a written reminder pointing out the consequences,
 - b) if a member of the association significantly damages the reputation of the association in public through intentional behavior or hinders the activities of the association, or
 - c) if, for other reasons, the member's continued membership in the association appears unreasonable to the other members of the association, taking into account all interests worthy of protection.
 - d) if there is reasonable suspicion that membership of the association was obtained for purposes detrimental to the association.
- 4) The status of permanent sponsor can be terminated at any time at the end of the month by written declaration (e.g., by email). The status expires automatically if sponsors are more than six months in arrears with regular contributions in whole or in part.

§ 7 Membership fees

- 1) Membership fees are charged to the members of the association.
- 2) The amount and due date of the membership fees are determined by a membership fee regulation. The Executive Board decides on the membership fee regulation.

III. Organs of the association

The organs of the association are:

- I. The general meeting
- II. The executive board
- III. The extended board
- IV. The management (optional)
- V. Other committees, working groups, and advisory boards (optional)

§ 8 General Meeting

- 1) The General Meeting is the highest body of the association and
 - a) decides on fundamental issues
 - b) is responsible for electing and dismissing the members of the executive committee
 - c) accepts the annual report, discharges the Executive Board, and approves the financial plan
 - d) elects the cash auditors
- 2) The general meeting must be convened at least once a year.
- 3) Ordinary and extraordinary general meetings may be held in the conventional manner, i.e. with personal attendance, virtually or in a hybrid form, in particular via a Internet conference room. The form of the general meeting shall be determined by the executive committee. In the event of a virtual or hybrid general meeting, the dial-in procedure shall be explained in the notice of the meeting. When holding a virtual or hybrid general meeting, it must be ensured that the participating members can be identified and that the votes are traceable and cannot be falsified.
- 4) General meetings shall be convened by a member of the Executive Board in writing or in text form (e.g., by email), stating the date, place, and time as well as the agenda.
- 5) The notice period is at least two weeks.
- 6) Members may propose additional items for the agenda of the general meeting. These must be communicated to the association at least one week before the general meeting, at least in text form (e.g., by email).
- 7) All members are entitled to participate in the general meeting. Non-members of the association, in particular permanent sponsors, may be admitted to participate by resolution of the executive committee.
- 8) The general meeting shall be chaired and minuted by a member of the executive committee. The chairmanship and the taking of minutes may also be delegated to non-members of the association.
- 9) Every properly convened general meeting is quorate. It decides on motions by a simple majority, unless the bylaws say otherwise.
- 10) Resolutions to amend the Articles of Association or the purpose of the Association require a 3/4 majority of the valid votes cast; in addition, the subject matter of the resolution must already be included in the agenda when the meeting is convened.
- 11) Each member may authorize another member to participate in the general meeting and to vote. The power of attorney must be presented in writing (e.g., by email) before the start of a general meeting and made available to the association for safekeeping.
- 12) All resolutions must be recorded in the minutes. The minutes must be signed by at least one member of the executive committee. A copy of the minutes must be sent to all members in text form (e.g., by email).
- 13) Unless resolutions are void due to the particular severity of a legal violation, a member must raise any objections to the form and/or content of a resolution in writing to the association within one month of its announcement.

§ 9 Executive Board

- 1) The executive board consists of at least three persons: chair, deputy chair, treasurer.
- 2) The association is represented in and out of court by a member of the executive board.
- 3) The executive board is responsible for keeping minutes, conducting the association's business, and representing the association in all matters in and out of court. It is particularly responsible for
 - a) strategic management and implementation of the association's objectives,
 - b) convening and preparing the general meeting,
 - c) drawing up the budget, bookkeeping, and the annual report,
 - d) implementing the resolutions of the general meeting.
- 5) The executive board may appoint one or more persons, including non-members of the association, as secretaries or entrust them with tasks of day-to-day management, including within the framework of an employment relationship.
- 6) The Executive Board shall pass its resolutions at board meetings or informally. Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. Each member of the Executive Board shall have one vote. At least two members of the Executive Board must vote when resolutions are passed. Resolutions shall be recorded in the minutes.

§ 10 Extended Executive Board

- 1) The extended board consists of
 - a) the executive board (elected by the general meeting)
 - b) additional members who may be appointed by the executive board. These members take on clearly defined tasks. They are appointed for a term of two years. Reappointment is permitted, including multiple times.
 - c) Assessors without a specific area of responsibility, whose specific tasks are determined by the executive board as required.
- 2) The members of the extended board are appointed by the executive board for a term of two years upon recommendation by the chairperson. The appointment may be revoked at any time.
- 3) Assessors may also be elected without a specific area of responsibility in order to respond flexibly to the current needs of the association. Their specific responsibilities and tasks are determined by the executive board as required and may be adjusted during their term of office.
- 4) The members of the executive board work on a voluntary basis. They are entitled to reimbursement of their reasonable expenses.

§ 11 Committees, working groups, and advisory boards

- 1) In order to achieve its goals, the association may maintain committees, working groups, and advisory boards.

- 2) Committees, working groups, and advisory boards serve to provide scientific support and advice for the association's activities. They support the association through active participation in accordance with the association's purpose.
- 3) Committees, working groups, and advisory boards are bound by the requirements of non-profit status and are subject to the control of the board.

IV. Final provisions

§ 12 Dissolution of the association

- 1) The general meeting shall decide on the dissolution of the association with a majority of three quarters of the votes cast.
- 2) In the event of the dissolution of the association, the members of the executive committee shall be appointed as liquidators, unless the general meeting elects other persons.
- 3) In the event of dissolution of the association or discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes, the association's assets shall fall to a legal entity under public law or another tax-privileged corporation for use for the purposes specified in § 2.

§ 13 Miscellaneous

- 1) Amendments to the Articles of Association to implement formal requirements of the registry court or the tax authorities may be decided by the Executive Board, provided that they do not significantly alter the content.
- 2) Should individual provisions of these Articles of Association be invalid, unenforceable, or incomplete, the members shall replace them with valid, enforceable, and conclusive provisions in accordance with the original intention.
- 3) The place of jurisdiction and place of performance for all disputes and claims between the association and its members is Ladenburg.