

Statutes of the
PRAGUE LINGUISTIC CIRCLE
(Cercle linguistique de Prague)

as adopted on 19 October 2015, and amended on 21 March 2016

PREAMBLE

The Prague Linguistic Circle is an independent learned society with a long tradition, a rich and complex history, and a potential for the future. Since its founding, it has been striving towards the development of linguistics in a broad philological sense, and as a generously conceived semiology with a conscious methodology. It has always approached its work in an international context.

The society was de facto founded on October 6th, 1926; however, it has only been officially registered since October 23th, 1930, and formally active with the Statutes below, which have since then only undergone small amendments, since December 1st, 1930. By that time, it had already accomplished important international appearances and produced notable international publications. The activities of the society did not cease even during the war years of 1939–1945. Nevertheless, after 1948, the conditions for free research have deteriorated to such an extent that the society, while not formally dissolved, had to pause its activity. Even during the times of political oppression, many of its members were able to continue their research while raising a new generation of students. As soon as the political obstacles had fallen, the last living members held a meeting to renew the society's work and admit new members from the pool of their students and their students' students. The society resumed its activity on February 15th, 1990, taking its original Statutes and, with small amendments, adopting them on April 28th, 1990. It was then registered on June 1st, 1990. The current Statutes, adopted on October 19th, 2015, stay true to those from 1930; they have only been adjusted to conform to the Civil Code of the Czech Republic, effective since January 1st, 2014 (including the additional amendment adopted on March 21st, 2014).

Since its foundation, the society has been using its Czech name *Pražský lingvistický kroužek* for domestic affairs, and, for international affairs, mainly its French name *Cercle linguistique de Prague*.

§1

The goal of the Prague Linguistic Circle is to contribute, through its work, to the betterment of understanding of language and comparable sign systems, based on functional structuralism.

§2

The means to meet this goal are:

- (1) regular member meetings with talks and debates,
- (2) organisational member meetings,
- (3) public meetings with the aim of spreading interest in questions regarding language and literature,
- (4) collective research,
- (5) publishing of scientific papers,
- (6) the establishment and maintenance of an archive and a library.

§3

The financial means necessary to meet this goal are procured by the society through:

- (1) annual fees collected from both regular members and corresponding members,
- (2) proceeds from the sales of the society's publications,
- (3) support of corporations and foundations,
- (4) gifts and bequests.

§4

The Prague Linguistic Circle consists of:

- (1) regular members,
- (2) corresponding members; also,
- (3) notable researchers in the field can be appointed honorary members.

§5

The initial regular members are the founders of the Prague Linguistic Circle (PLC). Subsequent membership is acquired by every scholar and researcher who, as a guest invited by the committee, has held a talk in the PLC and at the proposal of the committee has been accepted as regular member by at least two thirds of the members present at an organisational member meeting whose agenda explicitly included such a proposal.

An elected corresponding member — appointed at the proposal of the committee, by at least two-thirds of the members present at an organisational meeting convened for this reason — can be any scholar and researcher whose work is in accordance with the society's goal and who, for substantive reasons, cannot attend the society's meetings.

Honorary members are appointed by the PLC committee.

§6

The rights of regular members are:

- (1) to take part in the lectures, debates and organisational meetings and in all other scientific activities of the Circle,
- (2) to elect officers of the Circle or to be elected one,
- (3) to bring guests to the Circle's lecture meetings and to propose to the committee scholars and researchers to be appointed as regular, corresponding or honorary members.

§7

The obligations of regular members are:

- (1) to take part in the lectures, debates and organisational meetings and the society's scientific activity in general,
- (2) to pay the member fee, set at an organisational member meeting annually.

§8

The rights and obligations of corresponding and honorary members are the same as the rights and obligations of regular members, excluding the obligation to attend member meetings and the right to elect officers or to be elected one; honorary members are, furthermore, absolved of the obligation to pay the member fee.

§9

One ceases to be a member of the society when:

- (1) one notifies the committee, in writing, of their resignation as member of the society,
- (2) one doesn't fulfil any one of their obligations without a befitting apology for one year,
- (3) one is expelled from the society.

Every member of the society has the right to propose to the committee the expulsion of a member whose actions go against the goal of the society. This proposal of expulsion is voted on at an organisational member meeting under the same circumstances as with voting on accepting new regular members.

§10

The seat of the society is Španielova 1326/35, 16300 Praha-Řepy.

§11

The bodies of the society are the *Committee*, *Auditors* and the *Board of Conciliation*. The members of these bodies are elected from the members of the society at the general assembly, which all bodies and individual members thereof answer to in regard of their actions. The mandate of all officers lasts three years.

When required, the society establishes panels of experts. Its members are appointed by the committee. If the circumstances demand it, it is possible to appoint non-society members as well.

§12

The head of administration of the society is a six-member committee, which consists of one chairperson, one deputy chairperson, one manager, one financial officer and two further members. It holds a meeting once a month at a minimum and may act with four or more members

present. It decides by a simple majority of votes; in case of a tie, the proposal supported by the chairperson takes effect. To its meetings, the committee can invite members of panels of experts established by it and other members of the society. These invited participants act in a consultative capacity.

The board of conciliation serves to settle disputes which arise in the society. It has three members and decides in the presence of all its members by a simple majority of votes.

There are two auditors. They audit the society's budget and spending and present a joint report about it to the plenary assembly.

§13

The highest body of the society is the plenary assembly. It is held regularly as set by the law, and it can be convened exceptionally at any time at the decision of the committee or at the will of a two-thirds majority of the society's regular members. The convention of a plenary assembly is announced to its members at a minimum of 10 days in advance.

The plenary assembly can act with at least one-half of the society's regular members present, through a majority of votes (barring the limitations described in sections 16 and 17). Should the number of members present at a plenary assembly be insufficient to act, a new plenary assembly, which may act regardless of the number of members present, is convened one hour later.

§14

Organisational member meetings are convened twice a year at a minimum. They confer about the internal affairs of the society. They may act with any number of members present. They decide by a simple majority of those present (barring votes on accepting or expelling members as per sections 5 and 6); in the case of a tie, the chairperson's vote decides.

§15

The society is represented by the chairperson, the deputy chairperson, the manager and the financial officer; they are statutory bodies of the society. They act independently, as mandated by the committee.

All society documents are signed by the chairperson, or in their absence, by the deputy chairperson or manager; those concerning the financial aspect are cosigned by the financial officer.

The society conveys its statements to its members in writing.

§16

The society ceases to exist in the case that at the proposal of the committee, a two-thirds majority of members present decide so at an extraordinary plenary meeting convened for such reason.

§17

Amendments to the Statutes are decided by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a plenary meeting.