

Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts

(received: January 2009)

History

Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts was founded by a special Law adopted by the Parliament of the Autonomous Socialist Region of Kosova in October 1975 under the name **The Association of Sciences and Arts of Kosova**. The **Association** was founded as the highest institution of science and arts in Kosova. At the beginning, it had 9 (full member), 2 correspondent, 8 external members and 1 honorary member. The Association organized itself and began carrying out scientific and arts activities. One of its aims was to develop cooperation with other institutions in Kosova, in Yugoslavia and internationally. It had to consider the impact of decision making bodies in Kosova on science and arts, as well as to publish regular, periodical and other editions in the field of sciences and arts.

The Association used to have 3 sections (Language, literature and arts; Sciences and Humanities). Initially it published monographs and periodicals, such as: *Acta biologiae et medicinae experimentalis* (1976), *Vjetari-Godišnjak* 1976 (Annuary), *Studime-Studije* (1980-1988), *Kërkime-Istraživanaja* (1980-1986), etc.

The Association was transformed to the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova by a special Law on the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova adopted by the Parliament of the Autonomous Socialist Region of Kosova in 1978. It continued the work in similar conditions and with the aim to stimulate, develop and promote scientific thinking and artistic creativity by direct participation in creating scientific and arts policies; by evaluating existing circumstances and proposing measures for improving them; by organizing scientific and research work through meetings, conferences, exhibitions, concerts, etc.; by publishing periodicals and scientific and arts works; by promoting internal and international cooperation; by improving the working conditions for its members and by carrying out activities of special interest for Kosova and its people, etc.

In the years 1988-89 the Government of Serbia started the process of changing political and legal status of the Autonomous Socialist Region of Kosova as one of the 8 co-founding members of the Yugoslav Federation. The imposed changes, i.e. the annexation to the Republic of Serbia, were illegal and rejected by the population of Kosova. The Academy has discussed the topic as well, and at the level of its Presidency in 1990 made a Declaration on Kosova's rights within the Federation for the status of an independent Republic. The Declaration has served as one of the grounds for Kosova's Parliament members on the occasion of the Declaration of Kosova as an independent Republic in 1990.

After 1990 the Academy had no more funding. In 1992 the Parliament of Serbia, having abolished the Autonomy of Kosova, and imposed total apartheid on the Albanian population, adopted a new Law on the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts that abolished the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova and Vojvodina, too. Considering it illegal, the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova, through a written declaration of its members, decided to reject the decision of the Serbian Parliament as illegal and in-acceptable, and continued its work. In 1994 the Serbian Government took over by force the premises of the Academy. The Academy and its members decided to continue and organized their work at a private house in Prishtina up to 1999.

After the 1999 War the Academy came back to its premises and continued its work.

During the decade of nineties of the last century, the Academy was active in maintaining the spirit and interest on science and arts by organizing different activities, issuing editions and starting a new international cooperation.

In 1994 it started new periodicals: *Studime-Studies* and *Kërkime-Research*, and new protocols of cooperation with the Academies of Slovenia, Croatia and Albania were established. During the next period this cooperation grew. In 1994 the Academy grew from 3 to 4 sections: the Section of Language and Literature, the Section of Humanities, the Section of Sciences and the Section of Arts.

Statutes

In 2004 the Kosova Parliament has adopted a new **Law on Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo** no. 19/2004. According to that Law the Academy has adopted the Statutes of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova date 29 June 2005. Its actual full name is:

Akademia e Shkencave dhe e Arteve e Kosovës – Accademia Scientiarum et Artium Kosoviensis. Its seat is in Prishtina.

Membership

According to the Law on the Academy, new members are elected on the ground of proposals from public scientific and arts institutions and academy bodies themselves, after a period of six months discussion, including a public discussion, at different levels. Final decision is made after a double ballot: at the level of the respective Section and at the level of General Assembly. Elections are held every fourth year. The categories for election are: Correspondent member, Full member (academician), External member and Honorary member. Correspondent and full members of the Academy are elected from those who are living and working in the country and they constitute the working body of the Academy. A correspondent member can be elected as a full member only after having spent at least 4 years as a correspondent member.

At this time, in its 4 sections, the Academy has 25 full members (academicians), 3 correspondent members, 21 external members from different countries and 1 honorary member.

Through the work of its Commissions and projects the Academy aims to assist the integration of the young scientists in academic life.

In the next 3-year period the Academy aims to closely cooperate with universities and other scientific institutions in order to attract new female members as well. For the moment there are no female members.

Structure of the Academy.

The highest body of the Academy is the Assembly of the Academy constituted by all its full and correspondent members. The Assembly elects the Presidency for a mandate of 3 years with only one possible consecutive re-election. The Presidency is composed of: the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary general and 4 Secretaries of Sections.

The Assembly meets at least 2 times a year; the Presidency meets at least monthly, while the Sections meet according to their working programs.

Every Section can have regular Commissions composed of members of the Academy and scientists/artists from other institutions in the country.

During the mandate of January, 2009 to December, 2011, the Presidency is composed of: The President - academician Besim Bokshi, the Vice-President - academician Hivzi Islami, the Secretary general - academician Engjëll Berisha, Secretary of the Section of Language and Literature - academician Mehmet Kraja, Secretary of the Section of Humanities - academician Pajazit Nushi, Secretary of the Section of Sciences - academician Latif Susuri, Secretary of the Section of Arts - academician Tahir Emra.

Publications

Acta biologiae et medicinae experimentalis 1976-1990;

Vjetari-Godišnjak (Annuary) 1976-1992;

Studime-Studije 1980-1988;

Kërkime-Istraživanaja 1980-1986;

Studime- Studies 1994 and still continuing;

Kërkime-Research 1994 and still continuing;

Vjetari (Annuary) 1994 and still continuing.

Budget

According to the Law on the Academy its budget is guaranteed by the Centralized budget of the Republic of Kosova. It includes financing for the Academy's administration (12 persons at this moment), other expences of the Academy, financing its programs and editions and expences for the honorariums for its members living and working in the country. The Academy can have other sources for its budget as well.

Prizes and medals

For the moment there are no prizes. The Academy has recently founded a special fund for encouraging young scientists and in the near future there will be prizes in those fields too.

Institutions

According to the Law the Academy can found new entities of research/ art centres. At this time it has founded a new Centre for lexicography-encyclopaedia which is in the process of being made functional.

Contact

Addresses of the Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts:

Akademia e Shkencave dhe e Arteve e Kosovës – Accademia Scientiarum et Artium Kosoviensis
(Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts)

Rr. "Emin Duraku". no. 1

10000 Prishtina

REPUBLIKA E KOSOVËS (REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO)

Tel. +381 38 249 303

Fax. +381 38 244 636

E-mail: ashak_pr@hotmail.com; www.ashak.org

Programs and activities of the Academy

Programs of the activities of the Academy are delivered by its Sections and approved by the Assembly every year. There are short-term programs and long-term ones.

International activities

The Academy takes part regularly in international activities through its direct cooperation with other academies and scientific/arts institutions and through its regular work within the international organizations to which it is a member: ALLEA (Federation of European national Academies), The Union of National Academies of South-East European Countries, Inter-academic Network for Human Rights, IAP and other international bodies.

During the period of time 1975-1991 the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosova has fulfilled its international cooperation through the Union of the Academies of Sciences and Arts of Yugoslavia and at one time presided over it.

At this time the Academy has by-lateral cooperation Agreements/ Memoranda with the Academies of Sciences/and Arts of Albania, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Belgium (Flemish), British Academy, Turkey, Italy and has direct contacts with the Academies of Montenegro, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Goettingen Academy, etc.