

Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

(received: February 2009)

Characterization of the Institution:

A brief history of the institution. A short narrative, including dates of foundation or establishment, and the evolution of the role of the Academy within society, specially considering its impact on, and relationships to, decision making bodies, and outreach to society at large.

The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (by short SASA) has the oldest roots of all scientific institutions in Slovenia. Its origins can be tracked back to the seventeenth century and to the Academia Operosorum, founded in 1693. A predecessor of our Academy, the ranks of this society comprised of the most eminent Carniolan churchmen and lay intellectuals, noblemen and bourgeoisie. Its activities ended approximately in 1725. More than half a century later, in 1779, it was renewed, yet it was active only a short time. From the end of the eighteenth century onwards we were without an Academy. In the second half of the nineteenth century serious efforts were made to establish the Academy, but it materialized only in 1938 as a national institution with the nomination of the first eighteen ordinary members. During World War II. The Academy continued with its activities, and after the war it was definitely renamed Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. From the original four Sections it expanded to five and later to six Sections, and new institutes and institutions were also established. Through the years 1995 – 1958, all technical institutes became independent. The Academy retained institutes covering the humanities, social sciences and partly natural sciences, which in 1981 became independent and merged into the Scientific Research Centre (SRC) of SASA. The institutes within the framework of the Centre, are implementing, jointly with the Academy, primarily the research program Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Slovenian Nation, the research of our identity of the past and the present time. The 1994 Law ensures SASA autonomy and the freedom of democratic conduct. Today, the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts is the supreme national institution of sciences and arts and associates scientists and artists, who have been elected as its members for their outstanding achievements in the field of sciences and arts. SASA cultivates, encourages and promotes sciences and arts and, through its activities, contributes to the development of scientific thought and creativity in the arts.

List of basic documents that establish the Academy. Statutes and bylaws. Dates of those documents. Attach English version of those documents.

- The Law, Ljubljana, 20 July 1994
- the Statute, Ljubljana, February 2003 (not available in English).

Membership

The members of SASA are elected by the Assembly of SASA. The election procedure for SASA members is stipulated by the Statutes. The discontinuation of membership is defined in detail by the Statutes of SASA. The election of SASA members takes place every second year. Full and corresponding members are elected by full members only; honorary and associate members, however, are elected by full and associate members. Elections are conducted by secret ballot. Voting by secret ballot may, excep-

tionally, also include absentee votes for those members who cannot participate in the elections due to ill-health or other excusable reasons.

SASA provides the framework for the activities of scientists and artists who have been elected as its members for their outstanding achievements in the field of sciences and arts. To be elected a member of SASA is a mark of national and social recognition. SASA has honorary, full, associate and corresponding members. Full members have the right to the title of Academician.

Honorary membership of SASA may be extended to any person who has exceptionally enriched Slovenian culture through his scientific or artistic work, or who has rendered especially meritorious service to the Slovene nation and to the development of its sciences or arts.

Full membership of SASA may be extended to a scientist or artist who is a national of the Republic of Slovenia and has performed especially important work, representing peak achievements in the fields of sciences or arts.

Associate membership of SASA may be extended to a scientist or artist who is a national of the Republic of Slovenia and has created works of such importance that, through them, he has substantially enriched sciences or arts.

Full and/or associate membership of SASA may be extended to a scientist or artist of Slovene descent, who is not a national of the Republic of Slovenia, if he is actively connected with his homeland and has created especially important works in the fields of sciences or arts.

Corresponding membership of SASA may be extended to a scientist or artist who is not a national of the Republic of Slovenia, if he fulfils the other conditions for full membership and has rendered significant services to sciences or arts in the Republic of Slovenia.

SASA has a maximum of 60 full and 30 associate members. The limitation relates to members under 75 years of age. At present it has one honorary member, 76 full and 27 associate members. SASA has also a maximum of 90 corresponding members from scientific institutions abroad. At present it has 83 corresponding members.

Is there a way to involve young scientists (below 40 years old) in academic life? If so explain that program in detail. Are there proactive measures to increase the number of female members? What is the proportion of women members to total membership, and how does it compare with the amount of women involved in research activities in your country, or region?

So far we don't have such a programme.

The current proportion of women members to total membership is 4,8%.

Structure of the Academy

The management bodies of SASA are the Assembly, the Presidency and the President. The Assembly is the management body of SASA, composed of all full and associate members. The Assembly of SASA is convened at least once a year. The honorary and corresponding members of SASA may also participate in the work of the Assembly.

The Presidency of SASA is composed of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-General, the Secretaries of Sections and three SASA members elected by the Assembly in accordance with the Law. The current affairs of the Presidency are dealt with by the Executive Board, composed of the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General. The President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-General and the Secretaries of Sections are elected for the period of three years with the possibility of one further re-election.

The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts is active in different classes of research, as reflected in the corresponding following six sections of the Academy: Section of Historical and Social Sciences,

Section of Philological and Literary Sciences, Section of Mathematical, Physical, Chemical and Technical Sciences, Section of Natural Sciences, Section of Arts and Section of Medical Sciences.

Publications

- Slovenski bibliografski leksikon (Lexique bibliographique Slovene)
- Letopis SAZU (SASA's Yearbook), 1948
- Naravna in kulturna dediscina slovenskega naroda (Investigations into the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Slovenia)
- Vprasanja znanosti (Questions of Science)
- Razprave (Dissertationes), 1940
- Acta Carsologica, 2002
- Monumenta Artis Musicae Sloveniae

Budget

Annual budget for 2008: 2,2 mio. EUR.

Sources of funding: 95 % the state, 5% the Academy's own sources.

Institutions

SASA has been the founder of important research institutes, such as Jozef Stefan Institute, National Institute of Chemistry, Turboinstitute and Milan Vidmar Electric Power Research Institute. It is still the founder of the latter one. It should be pointed out that the Academy is the founder of the Scientific Research center of SASA which is an autonomous research organization yet closely connected with the Academy. Namely, together with SASA, the Center has been implementing the long-term program Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Slovenian Nation in the following institutes: Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language, Institute of Archaeology, Milko Kos Institute of History, France Stele Institute of Art History, Institute of Musicology, Institute of Slovenian Literature and Literary Sciences, Institute of Slovenian Ethnology, Institute of Ethnomusicology, Institute for Slovene Emigration Studies, Institute of Philosophy, Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Karst Research Institute, Ivan Rakovec Institute of Paleontology, Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Sociomedical Institut, Istitute for Cultural History and Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies.

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Programs and activities

SASA cultivates, encourages and promote sciences and arts, through its activities, contributes to the development of scientific thought and creativity in the arts, particularly by:

- addressing basic issues of sciences and arts;
- participating in establishing the policies of research activities and creativity in arts;
- giving appraisals, proposals and opinions on the position, development and promotion of sciences and arts, and on the organization of research activities and creativity in the arts;
- organizing research work, also in cooperation with universities and other research institutions, particularly in the fields which are important for the awareness of and gaining insight into the natural and cultural heritage of the Slovenian nation and for the development of its language and culture, and
- developing international cooperation in the field of sciences and arts.

International activities

In the course of the past few years the Academy did succeed in asserting its position through the organization of symposia. In just a few years it organized more resounding national and international scientific meetings, colloquia and round tables than in past decades, covering practically all areas of sciences, from humanities and social sciences to natural sciences, technical sciences and biomedicine.

SASA cooperates with other academies of sciences and arts and with other scientific and arts organizations abroad, and makes arrangements for joint projects and their implementation. SASA collaborates with 36 foreign academies on the basis of bilateral agreements:

1. Academy of Sciences of Albania,
2. Austrian Academy of Sciences,
3. National Academy of Sciences of Belarus,
4. Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and Arts,
5. Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities,
6. Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
7. British Academy,
8. Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
9. Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
10. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
11. Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic,
12. Estonian Academy of Sciences,
13. European Academy of Sciences and Arts,
14. Finnish Academy of Science and Letters,
15. French Academy of Sciences,
16. Indian National Science Academy,
17. Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities,
18. Korean Academy of Science and Technology,
19. Kosova Academy of Sciences and Arts,

20. Latvian Academy of Sciences,
21. Lithuanian Academy of Sciences,
22. Hungarian Academy of Sciences,
23. Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
24. Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts,
25. Polish Academy of Sciences,
26. Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences,
27. Royal Irish Academy,
28. Royal Society of Edinburgh,
29. Royal Society,
30. Russian Academy of Sciences,
31. International Academy of Engineering (Moscow),
32. Slovak Academy of Sciences,
33. Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities (Sweden),
34. Swiss Academy of Sciences,
35. Romanian Academy.
36. Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

SASA is also a member of important international scientific bodies:

- European Science Foundation (ESF)
- All European Academies (ALLEA)
- International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN)
- Inter Academy Panel on International Issues (IAP)
- Union Académique Internationale (UAI)
- Central and Eastern European Network Association (CEEN)
- European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)
- International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR)

The dynamic conference activity and international cooperation remain the areas that are being further developed by the Academy's leadership. In this sense the EU membership of our state confirms the correctness of the fundamental orientation of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Indeed, this orientation is strengthening both components of Slovene creativity – on the one hand, it is strengthening national identity in its different manifestations, and on the other hand, it is reinforcing the European character of the spirit pervading our research and scientific endeavours.