



Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge

Association of Doctoral Organizations in Norway

STATUTES

Approved 28. May 2015

§ 1 Name

The name of the organization is “Stipendiatorganisasjonene i Norge”, abbreviated SiN. The English translation of the name is “Association of Doctoral Organizations in Norway”. The organization was founded in Oslo the 26th of January 2003.

§ 2 Purpose

Stipendiatorganisasjonene i Norge, SiN, is the umbrella organization for all doctoral organizations in Norway. The organization functions as a network promoting contact and sharing of experiences and best practices between its member organizations. In addition the organization expresses the joint opinion of its member organizations on political issues concerning education, research and other issues of relevance for the member organizations.

SiN is an independent organization and is not affiliated with any political party or trade union.

§ 3 Membership

§ 3.1 Members

Any local interest organization for doctoral candidates and post-doctors at Norwegian higher educational institutions with a doctoral program are eligible to apply for membership in SiN.

§ 3.1.1 Rights

The members of SiN have the following rights:

- Send delegates to the general meeting according to § 4.1 and § 4.4.
- Nominate candidates to the SiN board.
- Propose changes to the statutes, annual report and annual financial report prior to the general meeting.
- Call for an extraordinary general meeting according to § 4.5.

§ 3.1.2 Duties

The members of SiN have the following duties:

- Pay the annual membership fee, unless exempted from it by the general meeting according to §3.4.
- Follow the rules stated in the SiN statutes.
- Inform the SiN board of their delegates' names at least 1 (one) week prior to the general meeting.

§ 3.2 New members

The SiN General Meeting decides by simple majority whether or not new members are accepted into the organization. If an organization is accepted as a member, the new member organization immediately gains all rights and duties as a full member of SiN, see § 3.1.1 and §3.1.2.

§ 3.2.1 Applying for membership

The following criteria have to be met to be eligible to apply for a membership in SiN. The applicant organization must

- be connected to a higher educational institution in Norway offering a doctoral program
- have an elected board
- have official statutes that are adopted by its members

In order to be considered for membership a written application has to be sent before the general meeting.

§ 3.3 Withdrawal of membership

A member organization can at any point withdraw from SiN. This has to be done by written notice to the board. If an organization withdraws the membership fee still has to be paid for the current year.

The general meeting can under the following conditions exclude member organizations:

- Failure to pay the membership fee
- Inactivity in the local organization for 3 (three) consecutive years
- Violations of the SiN statutes

§ 3.4 Membership fee

All member organizations have to pay the annual membership fee.

A member organization can apply for the fee to be waived in special circumstances. An application for waiving the membership fee has to be sent before the general meeting. The general meeting decides if the fee should be waived.

The level of the membership fee is decided by the general meeting according to § 4.3.

§ 4 The General Meeting

The General Meeting (GM) is the highest decision-making body in SiN. The GM is held annually and should as a general rule take place in the first quarter of every calendar year.

The board issues the call for the GM to all member organizations at least 4 (four) weeks in advance.

§ 4.1 Delegates

Each member organization can send 2 (two) delegates to the GM. However, there is no limit to the number of observers that each member organization can send.

Changes in the number of delegates that can attend the GM has to be approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

§ 4.2 Rights

The GM has the following rights:

- Nominate delegates to board positions.
- Nominate members to the advisory board.
- To make a vote of no-confidence in the sitting board and elect a new one with a 2/3 majority vote.
- To approve changes to the statutes with a 2/3 majority vote according to § 6.
- To disband the organization with a 2/3 majority vote according to § 7.
- To get insight into the workings of the board.

§ 4.3 Duties

The GM has the following duties:

- Stipulate the number of board members and elect the board and minimum one deputy board member.
- Approve members to the advisory board.
- Approve the annual report.
- Approve the annual financial report.
- Accept new members according to § 3.2.
- Express its views on principal issues concerning the member organizations and SiN in general.
- Decide the level of the annual membership fee.
- Dismiss the old board once a new one is elected. This comes into force when the GM is ended.

§ 4.4 Elections and votes

Each delegate, as regulated by § 4.1 has one vote. The member organizations choose their own delegates. If a member organization only sends one delegate this delegate obtains all the votes of the organization.

All positions in the board are on election every year. The board positions are: President, Vice President, Treasurer and minimum 2 (two) general board members. In addition one deputy board member should be elected. Other than this the GM can stipulate the number of board members according to § 4.3.

The GM elects two people to act as vote-counters for the duration of the GM. All voting is written and anonymous. Simple majority is required to win an election.

§ 4.5 Extraordinary general meeting

An extraordinary GM can be held if:

- More than 50 (fifty) per cent of the member organizations request this. The members should then make a written appeal to the board for an extraordinary GM.
- Requested by the board according to § 5.2 and § 5.4.

The extraordinary GM has the same rights as the general meeting, see §4.2.

The board shall issue a call for an extraordinary GM to all member organizations at least 4 (four) weeks in advance.

§ 5 Board

The board is elected by the GM to represent the members of SiN and sits for one year following the GM. The board should, as far as possible, consist of 1 (one) representative from each member organization and must, at the very least, include representatives from 3 (three) member organizations. Any individual that is member of a local member organization is eligible to run for a position in the board.

The board consists of a president, a vice president, a treasurer and at least 2 (two) general board members. Any board member who completes or terminates his or her doctoral contract retains his or her position until the next GM.

The board is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the organization.

§ 5.1 Decisions

For the board to make a decision and vote on issues brought to their attention in a board meeting at least 50 (fifty) per cent of the board members have to be present. As a general rule each board member has one vote. In case of equality of votes the president has two votes.

§ 5.2 Rights

The board has the following rights:

- The board can organize its work freely unless otherwise specified in this document.
- The board can call an extraordinary general meeting if needed. The call should be made according to § 4.5.

§ 5.3 Duties

The board has the following duties:

- Hold at least 6 (six) board meetings per year.
- Prepare the annual report and the annual financial report for the GM. The report should be made available at least 2 (two) weeks before the GM.
- Issue the call for the GM. All member organizations are informed at least 4 (four) weeks before the GM.
- To keep member organizations informed about the activities of the board and of SiN.
- Issue the call for an extraordinary GM if requested, see § 4.5 and § 5.2. The announcement should be made according to § 4.5.
- Nominate members to the advisory board.

§ 5.4 Withdrawal from the board

If a board member resigns from his or her position before the next general meeting the deputy will assume the board member's position. The board can, if necessary, appoint a new deputy in the period between general meetings.

If multiple board members withdraw from the board with the result that there are less than 5 (five) members in the board or less than 3 (three) member organizations are represented, the board has to issue a call for an extraordinary GM according to § 4.5.

§ 6 Advisory Board

The advisory board is an advisory body to the board. The advisory board has the right to be informed about SiN activities, and the duty to provide advice and input on SiN activities when this is required by the board. The advisory board consists of 3 – 6 former board members that are elected according to § 4.3. Members of the advisory board are elected for one year at a time.

In general the advisory board does not have voting rights in board decisions or at the GM, unless the advisory board member has voting rights according to § 4.1 and § 4.2.

§ 7 Statutes

Proposed changes to the statutes have to be made available at least 2 (two) weeks before the GM. The changes are approved by a 2/3 majority vote by the GM according to § 4.2.

§ 8 Dissolution

The organization can be dissolved in 2 (two) ways:

- (1) If half of the member organizations makes a written motion to the board at least 2 (two) weeks before an ordinary GM.
- (2) If half of the member organizations makes a written motion to the board of holding an extraordinary GM with the specific purpose of voting on dissolving the organization according to § 4.2. The extraordinary GM is called according to § 4.5.

For the dissolution of SiN to be valid at least half the member organizations have to be represented at the GM and it needs a 2/3 majority vote.

In case of dissolution the assets of SiN will be divided equally among the member organizations.