

Statutes for Upstream Stories Association

§1 NAME AND HOME

- The association is a non governmental, non-profit organisation.
- The name of the association is 'UPSTREAM STORIES'.
- The association is based in Aarhus municipality, Denmark, with the postal address:
Høegh-Guldbergs Gade 95, 1., 8000 Aarhus C.

§2 MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

- The main purpose of UPSTREAM STORIES is to use participatory media to offer voice to underprivileged groups and individuals and by doing so to promote understanding and intercultural dialogue.

§3 OBJECTIVES

- Empowering people at risk of exclusion through giving them opportunities to express themselves using means and methods of participatory media;
- Providing events and workshops aiming at enhancing participants' creativity, self-reflection, critical thinking and making their personal stories heard, as well as upgrading their IT and communication skills;
- Promoting social inclusion and dialogue, especially across social and cultural differences;
- Creating educational content and providing training for trainers aiming at promoting participatory media as a way for empowerment.

§4 VALUES

- Inclusion through own achievement;
- Freedom of expression and acknowledging that everyone has a story to tell;
- Peaceful dialogue based on respect for differences stemming from one's cultural, religious, national and social background;
- Equal, democratic access to media and digital inclusion.

§5 ACTIVITIES

- Local and international workshops based on participatory media (mainly digital storytelling and

participatory photography) addressed to people at risk of exclusion (migrants, refugees, homeless, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities and others);

- Facilitators' workshops aiming at equipping civil society activists with the aforementioned methods;
- Development of educational curricula and publications promoting participatory media;
- Board meeting once a month;
- All the activities implemented by UPSTREAM STORIES are based on money from the donors and do not require entry fee from participants in order to provide inclusion for people with limited financial resources.

§6 MEMBERS

- The organisation consists of people who support the mission statement and who express the will to become members.

§7 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- The general assembly is the highest authority of the association and it consists of members of the association. The ordinary general assembly takes place once every year before April and is convened by the board.
- The general assembly can be attended by online presence.
- The general assembly must be convened in writing, possibly online, with at least 3 weeks notice including a statement of the agenda.
- The agenda of the general assembly must as a minimum have the following points:
 - 1) Election of the chairperson
 - 2) Election of the referent
 - 3) The report from the board is presented for debate and approval. The report is describing the activities of the association in the past year. The report should as a minimum consist of information about how the association has lived up to its purpose and aims, especially the initiatives the association has taken to meet the purpose and aims
 - 4) The accounting is presented for debate and approval
 - 5) The received proposals are being processed
 - 6) The agenda shall indicate whether there is an election for board members
 - 7) Other.
- Proposals for processing at the general assembly have to be received by the chairperson at the latest 14 days before the general assembly. Final agenda with the necessary attachments must be received by the board at the latest 7 days before the general assembly takes place and must be made available for all members online.

- The vote on proposals takes place by show of hands.
- Election to the board takes place by show of hands.
- All decisions are made by simple majority voting among the attendants.
- Extraordinary general assembly can always be convened by the board, and must be convened in case of 1/4 of the organisation's members' written demand.

§8 BOARD

- The board is responsible for the management of the association between the general assemblies, and is chosen by and from the members that are present at the general assembly.
- The board consists of up to 6 members.
- All board members are chosen for a period of 2 years. The chairperson, the vice chairperson and the treasurer are chosen by the general assembly.
- The chairperson is the legal representative, or in the absence of the chairperson, the vice chairperson.

§9 ACCOUNTING

- The financial year is from 1st of January to 31st of December. The board shall report on the following general assembly after the close of the financial year.
- The association can have income from surplus in funded activities. There is no member fee.
- The board is responsible that funds are used in correspondence with the given guidelines. The guidelines of common Danish law of compensation apply to the board. The board is not liable personally by the financial obligations of the organisation.
- No profit can be distributed to the board or the members, but must be used in accordance with the mission statement of the association.

§10 STATUTES AND DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

- The statutes can only be changed on an ordinary general assembly and only if 3/4 of the present members at the general assembly votes in favour of this.
- The dissolution of the association must likewise have 3/4 in favour among the present members at the general assembly.
- If the association ceases to exist, the board decides on the use of the values the association may possess - although it can only be disposed of in the areas covered by §3 or for other non-profit purposes (almennyttige formål). The decision of the board must be approved by the General Assembly.

§11 EXCLUSION

- A member can be excluded from the association by the board, if the member is damaging the association's interests or reputation. The excluded member can have the exclusion tried on the first coming general assembly.