



## CALL FOR A GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 7 APRIL 2022 AT 13:30 CET

The ESA President convenes an Extraordinary General Assembly following the online consultation of members approving the resolutions envisaged by the ESA Executive Committee. The participation of members in good standing in this General Assembly, to finalise Statutes, By-laws changes and conference decisions, is vital.

Due to pandemic restrictions, the International Sociological Association (ISA) has decided to move the date of its World Congress to be held in Melbourne, Australia, from 2022 to 2023.

Two major conferences in a single year (ISA and ESA) may subject members to scheduling conflicts as well as undue financial strain. Additionally, the ISA World Congress of Sociology will continue to coincide with ESA conferences in the future, placing the ESA under increased financial pressure. Therefore, the ESA Executive Committee decided to conduct a survey to determine if members think postponing the 16<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference to 2024 to avoid clashing with the ISA World Congress of Sociology in 2023 could be the right solution.

The membership consultation conducted between 26 November and 10 December 2021, recommended that the 16<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference should be held in 2024: **1285 out of 3122 members (41,2%) voted in the consultation. 1029 respondents agree with the postponement (80,1%), 196 respondents do not agree (15,3%) with the postponement and 59 respondents abstained (4,6%).** Therefore, the President calls – as per Article 5 of the Statutes – a formal General Assembly to be held online to make a collective binding decision on postponing the conference to 2024, extending by one year the term of office of the Executive Committee, and extending the membership for ESA members in good standing for one additional year with no additional fees.

### Description of the General Assembly agenda:

Firstly, it is necessary to vote on two provisions modifying the Statutes of the association:

The **first** resolution is integrating into the Statutes the possibility for the association to organise remote general meetings following legal advice. Due to the pandemic and exceptional situations, other General Assemblies may need to be organised online. According to legal advice, this General Assembly is valid due to the present pandemic restrictions. However, we shall formally provide and include this possibility for the future to promote more involvement by the ESA members even after the pandemic and if future Executive Committees need to organise remote General Assemblies.

The **second** is to include the possibility of postponing the mandate of the President and the Executive Committee members for one year in exceptional circumstances only.

Secondly, it is needed to vote one provision modifying the ESA By-laws.

The third step is to vote on three interrelated resolutions:

- The postponement of the ESA conference from 2023 to 2024;
- The extension of the mandate of the President and the Executive Committee by one year;

The extension of members' membership in good standing for one year at no additional cost.

At the General Assembly, the proposed changes will be put to a vote by the members of the association.

## **STEP 1. Provisions amending the ESA Statutes**

### **1.1 Amendments to Article 5: The General Assembly**

Addition of an extra clause stating that the General Assembly can be held online.

#### **Current wording:**

*It meets during the European Sociological Association Conference and has to be organized at least every four years.*

#### **Suggested wording:**

The General Assembly shall meet during the Conference of the European Sociological Association and shall be held at least every four years.

In exceptional circumstances, the General Assembly may be held outside the time of the Conference.

The General Assembly may be held by video conference or other virtual format.

The General Assembly may be recorded by decision of the President.

The documents (the minutes; any amended statutes; etc.) may be signed electronically at the end of the meeting.

### **1.2 Amendments to Article 6: The President and the Executive Committee**

**Addition of a clause 6.3**, allowing, in exceptional circumstances only, the President and the Executive Committee to serve ESA for an extended period of up to one additional year; to read as follows:

**6.3. In exceptional circumstances, the term of office of the President and the Executive Committee may be extended by a maximum of one year.**

This extension must be approved by a majority of the General Assembly, i.e. 51% of the ESA members who took part in the vote.

Such amendments shall come into force immediately and shall be binding on members of the Association.

## **STEP 2. Provisions amending the ESA By-laws**

### **Amendments to Article 2: ESA Conferences**

The changes consist in the addition of an extra clause allowing, in exceptional circumstances only, the Conference to be postponed by no more than one year.

Addition of an extra clause to clause 2.1, allowing, in exceptional circumstances only, the Conference to be postponed by no more than one year; to read as follows:

**2.1. In exceptional circumstances, the Conference can be postponed by a maximum of one year.**

**STEP 3. Binding decision on the postponement of the ESA conference from 2023 to 2024; the extension of the mandate of the President and the Executive Committee by one year; the extension of the membership of members in good standing for one year at no additional cost**

Do you approve a postponement of the ESA Conference from 2023 to 2024, an extension of the term of office for the current President and the Executive Committee by one year and prolonging the membership of ESA members in good standing for one year with no additional fee?

You may select one of the following:

- Yes
- No
- Abstain