

Pursuant to Articles 45 and 46 of the Institutions Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 12/91, 8/96, 36/00 – ZPDZC and 127/06 – ZJZP), the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 186/21), Article 11 of the Decision Establishing the Public Research Institute Science and Research Centre Koper (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 114/22), and the Decision Amending and Supplementing the Decision Establishing the Public Research Institute Science and Research Centre Koper (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 105/25), the Management Board of the Science and Research Centre Koper adopted the following at its 4th regular meeting held on 26 January 2026:

STATUTE OF THE SCIENCE AND RESEARCH CENTRE KOPER

I. INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Statute regulates the organisation of the Science and Research Centre Koper (hereinafter: ZRS Koper), its bodies, their powers and decision-making procedures, as well as other matters relevant to the performance of its activities and operations.

Article 2

By the Decision Establishing the Public Research Institute Science and Research Centre Koper (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 114/22; hereinafter: the Decision) and the Decision Amending and Supplementing the Decision Establishing the Public Research Institute Science and Research Centre Koper (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 105/25; hereinafter: the Amending Decision), the operation of the public research institute Science and Research Centre Koper was harmonised with the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 186/21, 40/23, 102/24 and 40/25; hereinafter: ZZrID) and other regulations.

In accordance with Article 27 of the Decision and Article 14 of the Amending Decision, ZRS Koper must harmonise its Statute and other general acts with the Decision and the ZZrID no later than four months after the Decision enters into force.

As a multidisciplinary public research institute associated with higher education institutions, ZRS Koper, within the framework of the institute's work programme, carries out research programmes as a public service. These programmes constitute a coherent field of research that is expected to remain relevant worldwide over the next decade and is at the same time of such importance to Slovenia that there is a national interest in conducting long-term research in this field. ZRS Koper conducts basic and applied research and is responsible for the development and operation of infrastructure within the framework of the Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia.

Article 3

The founder of ZRS Koper is the Republic of Slovenia, while the rights and obligations of the founder are exercised by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Science and Research Centre Koper became a public research institute pursuant to the Decision Establishing the Public Research Institute Science and Research Centre Koper (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 74/16) and continues its activities in accordance with that Decision.

II. STATUS-RELATED MATTERS

Article 4

ZRS Koper is a legal entity that independently participates in legal transactions, with all rights and obligations without limitation.

Article 5

The name of the institute is: Science and Research Centre Koper

Name in English: Science and Research Centre Koper

Name in Italian: Centro di Ricerche Scientifiche Capodistria

The abbreviated name is: ZRS Koper. The abbreviated name of the institute is used in the same form in all languages.

The registered office of the institute is: Koper

Business address of the institute: Garibaldijeva ulica 1, Koper

Individual organisational units also operate at other locations.

Article 6

In its operations, ZRS Koper uses a circular seal. The ZRS Koper logo is displayed in the centre. The upper part of the circumference bears the inscription "Znanstveno-raziskovalno središče Koper" in Slovenian, while the lower part of the circumference bears the name "Science and Research Centre Koper" in English and "Centro di Ricerche Scientifiche Capodistria" in Italian.

Authorised persons of ZRS Koper conclude contracts, sign documents and, in legal transactions, assume rights, obligations and responsibilities on behalf of ZRS Koper by affixing the seal and their signature.

The number of seals and the manner of their use, safekeeping and destruction shall be determined by the Director by means of a special act.

Article 7

ZRS Koper is represented and bound by the signature of the Director within the scope of its activities without limitation.

The Director may authorise another person to represent the institute in specific matters; such authorisation may not be transferred to a third party. The scope and duration of the authorisation must be specified in the authorisation.

In the absence of the Director, the institute shall be represented and documents shall be signed on its behalf by a person authorised by the Director.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

Article 8

The activities of the institute in accordance with the Standard Classification of Activities Regulation (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 27/24 and 45/25) are:

A 01.110	Growing of cereals (except rice), leguminous crops and oilseeds
A 01.130	Growing of vegetables and melons, roots and tubers
A 01.190	Growing of flowers and other annual plants
A 01.210	Viticulture
A 01.220	Growing of tropical and subtropical fruit
A 01.230	Growing of citrus fruits
A 01.240	Growing of pome and stone fruits
A 01.250	Growing of other fruit trees and bushes
A 01.260	Growing of oleaginous fruits
A 01.270	Growing of plants for beverages
A 01.280	Growing of spices, aromatic and medicinal plants
A 01.290	Growing of other perennial crops
A 01.300	Plant propagation
A 01.500	Mixed farming
A 01.610	Support activities for crop production
A 01.630	Post-harvest crop activities and seed processing
A 02.100	Silviculture and other forestry activities
A 02.300	Gathering of non-wood forest products
A 03.110	Marine fishing
A 03.120	Freshwater fishing
A 03.210	Marine aquaculture
A 03.300	Support activities for fishing and aquaculture
C 10.410	Manufacture of oils and fats

G 47.610	Retail sale of books
I 56.112	Snack bars and similar establishments
I 56.120	Mobile food service activities
J 58.110	Book publishing
J 58.120	Publishing of newspapers
J 58.130	Publishing of journals and periodicals
J 58.190	Other publishing activities, except software publishing
J 58.290	Other software publishing
J 59.110	Motion picture, video and television programme production
J 59.120	Motion picture, video and television programme post-production activities
J 59.130	Motion picture, video and television programme distribution activities
J 59.200	Sound recording and music publishing activities
J 60.200	Television programming and video distribution activities
J 60.390	Other content distribution activities
K 62.100	Computer programming
K 62.200	Computer consultancy and computer facilities management activities
K 62.900	Other information technology and computer service activities
K 63.100	Activities related to computer infrastructure, data processing, hosting and related activities
K 63.910	Web search engine activities
K 63.920	Other information service activities
L 66.190	Other activities auxiliary to financial services, except insurance and pension funding
M 68.200	Renting and operating of own or leased real estate
N 70.200	Other business and management consultancy activities
N 71.111	Architectural design
N 71.112	Landscape architectural, urban planning and other design activities
N 71.121	Geophysical measurements and geodetic activities
N 71.129	Other engineering activities and technical consultancy
N 71.200	Technical testing and analysis
N 72	Scientific research and development activities
N 72.100	Research and experimental development on natural sciences and technology
N 72.200	Research and experimental development on social sciences and humanities
N 73.110	Advertising agency activities
N 73.200	Market research and public opinion polling
N 73.300	Public relations and communication activities
N 74.200	Photographic activities
N 74.300	Translation and interpretation activities
N 74.910	Patent brokerage and marketing services
N 74.990	All other professional, scientific and technical activities n.e.c.
O 77.210	Renting and leasing of recreational and sports goods
O 77.330	Renting and leasing of office machinery and equipment, including computers

O 77.390	Renting and leasing of other machinery, equipment and tangible goods n.e.c.
O 77.400	Leasing of intellectual property and similar products, except copyrighted works
O 81.300	Landscape service and maintenance activities
O 82.100	Office administrative activities
O 82.300	Organisation of conventions and trade shows
O 82.990	Other business support service activities n.e.c.
Q 85.510	Education, further education and training in the field of sport and recreation
Q 85.520	Education, further education and training in the field of culture and arts
Q 85.590	Other education, training and further training n.e.c.
Q 85.690	Educational support activities n.e.c.
R 86.950	Physiotherapy
R 86.960	Activities of traditional, complementary or alternative medicine
R 86.990	Other activities for human health n.e.c.
S 90.111	Literary creation
S 90.112	Musical composition
S 90.200	Performing arts
S 90.310	Operation of facilities for cultural events
S 90.390	Other support activities for artistic creation and performing arts
S 91.110	Library activities
S 91.120	Archive activities
S 91.220	Activities related to historical sites and monuments
S 91.300	Conservation, restoration and other support activities for the preservation of cultural heritage
T 94.120	Activities of professional membership organisations
T 94.999	Activities of other membership organisations n.e.c.

ZRS Koper performs the following public service tasks in the field of olive growing within the agricultural sector:

- selection of olive varieties;
- introduction of olive varieties;
- olive production technologies;
- provision of basic propagation material for olives;
- determination of the value of olives for processing;
- professional and technical coordination in olive growing.

Within its agricultural activities, ZRS Koper also performs professional and other tasks under public authorisations, namely:

- professional tasks and monitoring in the field of olive oil control;
- tasks related to sensory evaluation, sensory evaluation of olive oil, and training of sensory assessors (evaluators) and panel leaders;
- tasks of an official laboratory for fats and oils of plant origin; and
- tasks of a reference laboratory for the chemical and sensory evaluation of olive oil.

Within its activities, ZRS Koper performs tasks in the field of metrology relating to the quantity of substances at a level consistent with the requirements of the regulation governing the conditions and procedure for the recognition of legal entities as holders of national measurement standards.

To ensure equal opportunities for women and men, ZRS Koper shall adopt and implement a programme of measures and shall review its effects at least once a year and report on them as part of its regular annual reports.

Article 9

ZRS Koper participates in domestic and international scientific research activities and, for this purpose, establishes links with related organisations in Slovenia and abroad.

The detailed definition and anticipated scope of the tasks referred to in the second and third paragraphs of the preceding Article shall be determined on the basis of the priorities of the ministry responsible for agriculture in the annual programme of professional tasks of ZRS Koper, which shall be coordinated with the ministry responsible for agriculture and shall form an integral part of the annual work programme and financial plan of ZRS Koper.

The detailed definition and anticipated scope of the tasks referred to in the fourth paragraph of the preceding Article relating to metrology shall be determined on the basis of the priorities of the ministry responsible for metrology in the annual programme of professional tasks of ZRS Koper, which shall be coordinated with the ministry responsible for metrology and shall form an integral part of the annual work programme and financial plan of ZRS Koper.

Article 10

For the performance of the public service, programme groups shall be established at ZRS Koper. ZRS Koper may establish special organisational units for the performance of the public service.

Article 11

Subject to meeting the requirements laid down by the regulations governing higher education, ZRS Koper may, within the scope of its scientific research activities, cooperate with universities and independent higher education institutions in the development and implementation of higher education programmes.

With the prior consent of the founder, ZRS Koper may become an associate member of a university.

Detailed provisions governing the procedure for establishing such links and cooperation between the institute and universities and independent higher education institutions shall be laid down in a cooperation agreement.

Article 12

Within the scope of its activities, ZRS Koper may establish another institute with the consent of the founder.

In accordance with the ZZrID, ZRS Koper may, for the purpose of transferring knowledge to society or the economy, establish a company that serves the broader interests of ZRS Koper. The procedure for establishing such a company shall be defined in more detail in a rulebook.

III. INTERNAL ORGANISATION OF ZRS KOPER

Article 13

For the performance of its activities and tasks, ZRS Koper is organisationally divided into the following organisational units:

- research groups – institutes;
- infrastructure units – centres and laboratories;
- library;
- publishing house;
- administration.

The internal organisation of ZRS Koper shall be regulated in greater detail by the act on the organisation and job classification, adopted by the Management Board of ZRS Koper upon the proposal of the Director.

Organisational units (hereinafter: OUs) perform their activities at the registered office of ZRS Koper and may also operate at other locations, depending on the activities and fields of operation of individual OUs. The locations at which dislocated OUs perform their activities shall be determined by the rulebook on internal organisation and job classification.

Article 14

In view of the financial and material implications arising from the establishment and operation of OUs, they shall be established by the Management Board, as follows:

- scientific research and infrastructure OUs – upon the proposal of the Scientific Council or the Director, who must obtain the prior opinion of the Scientific Council;
- administrative OUs, the publishing house and the library – upon the proposal of the Director.

The following conditions must be met for the establishment of a scientific research or infrastructure OU:

- a scientific research work programme;
- the resources required to implement the programme;

- professionally qualified staff to implement the programme.

The same procedure as for their establishment shall apply to the merger, division or dissolution of organisational units.

Article 15

The senior research and professional staff are:

- heads of research groups – institutes;
- heads of infrastructure organisational units – centres and laboratories;
- Deputy Director;
- Deputy Directors;
- Head of Administration;
- heads of other organisational units.

For the organisational and professional management of an institute, the Director shall appoint a Head of Institute. A researcher employed at ZRS Koper who has been elected to the scientific title of Research Associate, Senior Research Associate or Research Counsellor may be appointed Head of Institute.

For the organisational and professional management of infrastructure organisational units, the Director shall appoint the Head of the Infrastructure Organisational Unit.

Heads of institutes and Heads of infrastructure organisational units shall be appointed for a period of no more than four years. Their term of office shall be linked to the term of office of the Director. Upon expiry of their term of office, Heads of institutes and Heads of infrastructure organisational units may be reappointed. The procedure for appointing Heads of institutes shall be regulated in greater detail by a rulebook.

The position of Head of an institute and Head of an infrastructure organisational unit is a term-based function performed under authorisation and does not constitute a job position or define the type of employment relationship.

Article 16

The Heads of research groups – institutes and Heads of infrastructure organisational units – centres operating within institutes shall be appointed by the Director by means of a decision. The organisational unit shall propose to the Director no more than two candidates from among the applicants, from whom the Director shall appoint the Head. Before appointing the Head, the Director must obtain the consent of the Scientific Council.

The Heads of infrastructure organisational units established to provide support to organisational units shall be appointed by the Director by means of a decision, from among employees of the organisational unit concerned or other persons working at ZRS Koper who possess knowledge in the field of work of the supporting infrastructure organisational unit.

The heads of organisational units that form part of individual institutes shall be appointed by the Director upon the proposal of the Head of the institute of which the organisational unit forms part.

Heads of institutes, Heads of infrastructure organisational units and Heads of other organisational units may have a deputy who shall replace them during their absence. The deputy of a Head of an institute or other organisational unit shall be appointed by the Director by means of a decision upon the proposal of the respective Head.

The term of office of a deputy of a Head of an institute, a Head of an infrastructure organisational unit or a Head of another organisational unit may last no longer than the term of office of the respective Head.

Young researchers and assistants may not be appointed as deputies of Heads of institutes.

Article 17

The powers and responsibilities of senior staff shall be determined in the act on the organisation and job classification and in the Director's act of appointment, taking into account the provisions of this Statute.

Senior staff shall be accountable for their work to the Director of ZRS Koper.

IV. BODIES

Article 18

The bodies of ZRS Koper are:

- Management Board;
- Director;
- Scientific Council.

Article 19

1. Management Board

ZRS Koper is governed by the Management Board.

The Management Board has five members, of whom:

- two members are appointed by the founder in such a manner that balanced gender representation among the founder's representatives is ensured, in accordance with the law governing equal opportunities for women and men, one upon the proposal of the ministry responsible for science and one upon the proposal of the ministry responsible for agriculture;
- two members are appointed by the Scientific Council of ZRS Koper from among users of ZRS Koper's activities who have a long-term interest in linking the research activities of ZRS

- Koper, or from among interested members of the public. The two members appointed from among users may not come from the same institution;
- one member is elected by the employees of ZRS Koper from among themselves.

The two members of the Management Board representing the founder, who are appointed by the Government, shall be selected on the basis of a joint public call issued by the ministry responsible for science and the ministry responsible for agriculture. If an insufficient number of candidates who meet the requirements specified in the public call apply, and it is necessary to ensure the uninterrupted operation of the institute's Management Board, or in the event of the resignation or dismissal of the founder's representative within one year before the expiry of the term of office of the institute's Management Board, the ministries referred to in the first indent of the first paragraph of this Article may propose a candidate who meets the requirements specified in the public call without issuing a new public call. A member of the Management Board representing users of the institute or interested members of the public shall be appointed by the Scientific Council on the basis of a public call.

The member of the Management Board elected by the employees of ZRS Koper from among themselves shall be elected by direct secret ballot by a majority of votes.

The manner of operation shall be regulated in greater detail by rules of procedure adopted by the Management Board by a majority of votes of its members.

At its first meeting, the members of the Management Board shall elect from among themselves the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Management Board. If the Chair is elected from among the employees of ZRS Koper, the Deputy Chair shall be elected from among the representatives of the founder, and vice versa.

The term of office of the members of the Management Board of ZRS Koper shall be four years. Members may be reappointed or re-elected. The Management Board is constituted when more than half of its members have been appointed or elected.

Members of the institute's Management Board shall perform their duties with the diligence of a prudent businessperson. They shall be liable for damages for breach of the duty of care and for breach of the obligation to protect business secrets in accordance with the general principles of the law of obligations. The institute shall also take out appropriate liability insurance for members of the Management Board.

Article 20

The member of the Management Board representing users of the institute or interested members of the public shall be appointed by the Scientific Council on the basis of a public call published by the Director three months before the expiry of the term of office of the members of the Management Board representing users of the institute or interested members of the public on the ZRS Koper website. The public call shall specify in greater detail the requirements for candidates and other criteria, whereby candidates shall be required to have knowledge of the research fields of ZRS Koper and experience in research-related activities.

Article 21

The Management Board has the following powers:

- adopts general acts and the act on the internal organisation and job classification of ZRS Koper;
- adopts the development strategy of ZRS Koper and monitors its implementation;
- adopts the annual work programme and financial plan of ZRS Koper;
- adopts the annual report of ZRS Koper;
- upon the proposal of the Director and following the prior opinion of the Scientific Council, adopts the allocation of S-ZRD-O funds;
- upon the proposal of the Director and following the prior opinion of the Scientific Council, adopts the act of the recipient of stable funding referred to in Article 29 of the ZZrID;
- adopts the evaluation report referred to in Article 31 of the ZZrID;
- decides on economic and material matters;
- decides on the Director's proposal regarding the use of the surplus of revenues over expenditure;
- upon the proposal of the Director, proposes to the founder how to cover the surplus of expenditure over revenues;
- submits proposals and opinions to the founder and the Director on individual matters;
- supervises the management of operations and the financial and property situation of ZRS Koper;
- adopts the Statute, for which, notwithstanding the provisions of the law governing institutes, the consent of the founder is not required;
- appoints external auditors to review the institute's financial operations;
- approves the internal audit programme and internal control programme;
- gives consent to transactions defined in the Statute as transactions requiring the consent of the Management Board;
- may request information from the Director regarding any report or matter relating to the operation of the institute;
- appoints and dismisses the Director of the institute, for which, notwithstanding the provisions of the law governing institutes, the consent of the founder is not required;
- appoints committees and other working bodies to perform tasks within its remit;
- determines price lists for the sale of goods and provision of services on the market and adopts an act regulating the sale of goods and provision of services on the market;
- considers the opinions and proposals of the Scientific Council;
- adopts the rules of procedure of the Management Board;
- performs other tasks in accordance with the Decision Establishing ZRS Koper and this Statute.

The Management Board shall:

- notify of the appointment or dismissal of the Director within seven days of the appointment or dismissal;
- inform of the text of the Statute and amendments thereto within seven days of their adoption;
- inform of the decisions adopted by the Management Board on the basis of its guidelines or at its request;
- report on its activities each year in the annual report of ZRS Koper.

The Management Board shall adopt the Statute, the ZRS Koper Work Programme, the allocation of S-ZRD-O funds, the act of the recipient of stable funding referred to in Article 29 of the ZZrID, and the

evaluation report referred to in Article 31 of the ZZrID by a majority of the votes of all its members. The same majority shall apply to proposals for the establishment of institutes and companies in which ZRS Koper is the founder or co-founder, as well as to the appointment and dismissal of the Director. In all other cases, the Management Board shall decide by a majority of the members present at the meeting.

The Director shall participate in the work of the Management Board without voting rights. The Head of Quality of the accredited laboratory shall also be invited to meetings of the Management Board.

Article 22

The following transactions require the consent of the Management Board:

- legal transactions relating to the acquisition, disposal or encumbrance of real estate;
- the award of a public contract whose estimated value exceeds EUR 100,000.00;
- upon the proposal of the Director of the institute, transactions relating to the strategic operation of the institute.

Article 23

The Chair of the Management Board shall convene and chair meetings and announce the resolutions adopted.

Invitations to meetings must be sent at least eight days before the date of the meeting, together with all supporting materials and any proposed resolutions, except in exceptional circumstances.

Article 24

A meeting of the Management Board has a quorum if a majority of its members are present.

The Management Board conducts its business at meetings that are open to the public, except where the Management Board decides that a meeting shall be closed to the public when considering matters requiring confidentiality.

Article 25

2. Director

The Director is the management body of the institute.

The Director manages, represents and acts on behalf of the institute and is responsible for the legality of its operations. The Director performs the following tasks:

- ensures and is responsible for the legality of the institute's activities and for the fulfilment of its obligations laid down by law, other regulations, this Decision and the institute's general acts;
- proposes general acts of the institute to the Management Board for adoption;
- proposes the Statute and acts on internal organisation and job classification to the Management Board for adoption;

- proposes the institute's annual work programme and financial plan to the Management Board for adoption;
- proposes the institute's annual report on its activities to the Management Board for adoption;
- proposes the institute's development strategy to the Management Board for adoption;
- proposes the allocation of S-ZRD-O funds to the Management Board for adoption;
- proposes the act of the recipient of stable funding referred to in Article 29 of the ZZrID to the Management Board for adoption;
- adopts acts in individual matters falling within the institute's remit, unless otherwise provided by regulations;
- prepares a proposal for a decision on the use of the surplus of revenues over expenditure and on covering the surplus of expenditure over revenues for the Management Board;
- considers the opinions and proposals of the Scientific Council;
- appoints expert committees and other working bodies to perform tasks within the Director's remit;
- performs other tasks in accordance with the law, the Decision Establishing ZRS Koper and this Statute.

The Director is responsible for ensuring that the institute operates in accordance with the law, other regulations, the Decision Establishing ZRS Koper and the institute's general acts.

The Director is accountable for their work to the Management Board and the founder.

In performing their duties, the Director must act impartially and with the diligence of a prudent professional and must protect the institute's business secrets. The Director shall be liable to the institute for any damage caused by negligent or unlawful conduct.

The Director is appointed and dismissed by the Management Board.

The term of office of the Director is five years. Upon expiry of the Director's term of office, the same person may be reappointed as Director.

Article 26

In the absence of the Director, the Director shall be replaced by a person designated by the Director in a written authorisation. A person replacing the absent Director shall, during the Director's absence, have the rights and duties necessary for the management of day-to-day matters within the scope of the authorisation.

Article 27

For the performance of individual areas of work and operations of ZRS Koper, or to assist in their performance, the Director may, within the administration, appoint a Deputy Director and Deputy Directors. The Deputy Director and Deputy Directors shall plan, organise and manage the performance of tasks in the area defined by the Director. The Director may have no more than three Deputy Directors.

The term of office of the Deputy Director and Deputy Directors shall correspond to the term of office of the Director. Upon expiry of the term of office, the same person may be reappointed as Deputy Director.

The employment relationship of the Deputy Director shall be concluded for a fixed term.

If the Deputy Director is employed on a permanent basis at the time of appointment, they shall, upon expiry of their term of office or before its expiry where termination does not occur at their own request or through their fault, be assigned to the work they performed before assuming the term-based function.

Article 28

A researcher may be appointed Director of the institute if they hold a qualification obtained through a third-cycle study programme or a qualification corresponding to the level of education obtained through third-cycle study programmes and classified at Level 10 under the Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act, in the field of activity of the institute, and meet the following requirements:

- active command of the Slovenian and English languages;
- experience in managing scientific research activities;
- experience in performing more demanding managerial tasks;
- ability to organise and manage scientific research activities;
- meets the criteria for the leader of a basic research project;
- prepares a five-year vision for the development of the institute;
- meets other requirements laid down by applicable regulations.

Article 29

The Director shall be appointed on the basis of a public call for tenders. The procedure for appointing the Director must commence at least six months before the expiry of the term of office.

The public call for tenders shall be conducted on the basis of a decision of the Management Board specifying the requirements to be met by candidates for Director; the period for which the Director will be appointed; the deadline for submitting applications; and the deadline within which candidates will be notified of the selection.

The decision shall include a timetable for conducting the procedure. The decision shall also appoint a committee to review the candidates' applications.

Article 30

If no one applies to the public call for tenders or if none of the candidates who apply is selected, the public call for tenders shall be repeated.

Until the appointment of a Director following the repeated call for tenders, but for no longer than one year, the Management Board shall appoint an Acting Director.

Article 31

The Director may be dismissed before the expiry of the term for which they were appointed.

The Management Board shall dismiss the Director:

- if the Director requests dismissal;
- if any of the grounds arise under employment legislation on the basis of which the employment relationship terminates by operation of law;
- if the Director fails to act in accordance with the regulations and general acts of ZRS Koper in the performance of their duties, or unjustifiably fails to implement decisions of the bodies of ZRS Koper or acts contrary to them;
- if the Director, through negligent or improper performance of their duties, causes significant damage to ZRS Koper, or neglects or negligently performs their duties in such a manner that serious disruption to the activities of ZRS Koper occurs or could occur;
- in other cases specified by applicable regulations.

The procedure for the early dismissal of the Director shall be carried out in accordance with applicable legislation. Until the appointment of a Director, but for no longer than one year, the Management Board shall appoint an Acting Director.

In exceptional cases of an unforeseen absence of the Director (e.g. death), the Chair of the Management Board shall represent ZRS Koper until an Acting Director is appointed.

3. Scientific Council

Article 32

A Scientific Council shall be established to consider and decide on matters relating to the professional activities of ZRS Koper. The Scientific Council shall be the highest professional body and an advisory body. The Scientific Council shall have at least nine members. Members of the Scientific Council shall be elected by the researchers in direct elections. The following may be elected as members of the Scientific Council: scientific advisers, professional research advisers, senior scientific associates, senior professional research associates, development advisers, senior development associates, Heads of internal organisational units and programme leaders.

Members of the Scientific Council may not simultaneously be members of the Management Board of the institute.

The term of office of members of the Scientific Council shall be four years. Members may be re-elected.

The Director shall be a member of the Scientific Council by virtue of their office and may not be elected Chair.

The Scientific Council shall be composed in such a way that all fields of activity of the institute are represented and that balanced gender representation among its members is ensured.

The Scientific Council may also invite other public employees of ZRS Koper or external experts to participate in its work.

The Scientific Council shall:

- decide on professional matters within the powers laid down by this Statute or other general acts of the institute;
- give an opinion on the institute's development strategy;
- consider the annual work programme and financial plan of ZRS Koper;
- give an opinion on the Director's proposal for the allocation of S-ZRD-O funds;
- give an opinion on the act of the recipient of stable funding referred to in Article 29 of the ZZrID, proposed by the Director;
- prepare professional bases for the development of research programmes;
- consider the evaluation report referred to in Article 31 of the ZZrID;
- give an opinion in the procedure for the appointment or dismissal of the Director of ZRS Koper;
- appoint committees and other working bodies to perform tasks within its competence;
- give opinions and initiatives concerning the organisation and conditions for the development of the activities of ZRS Koper;
- conduct elections of researchers to research titles;
- prepare professional bases for study programmes in the fields in which it conducts research;
- promote innovation activities, record and consider patent, innovation and utility model applications, and give opinions thereon;
- propose the appointment of representatives of ZRS Koper to committees of state authorities;
- perform other professional matters for which it is authorised by individual bodies of ZRS Koper or which are determined in the general acts of ZRS Koper;
- perform other tasks in accordance with this Decision or the Statute.

The procedure for the election of members and the manner of work of the Scientific Council shall be laid down in rules of procedure adopted by the Scientific Council.

4. Other Bodies of the Bodies

Article 33

The Director, the Scientific Council and the Management Board of ZRS Koper may appoint committees and other working or advisory bodies where this is prescribed by law or where such appointment is deemed expedient for the efficient conduct of work and decision-making.

The decision on appointment shall specify the tasks and powers of the committees and other working and advisory bodies, as well as the number of their members and the duration of their terms of office.

Article 34

The committees of the Scientific Council shall be:

- Committee for Elections to Research Titles;
- Quality Committee;
- Awards Committee;
- Ethics Committee;
- Equal Opportunities Committee.

The Scientific Council may establish other committees as necessary.

The manner of work of the committees shall be regulated in greater detail by the rules of procedure of each individual committee.

Article 35

The Director shall convene the Heads' Collegium and the Director's Collegium. Depending on the subject under consideration, the Director may convene the collegia in a broader composition than that specified in this Statute.

The Heads' Collegium shall be an advisory body to the Director that advises the Director in decision-making in the field of scientific research and professional work, monitors, plans and coordinates the development of research activities at ZRS Koper, monitors the quality of the activities of ZRS Koper and proposes appropriate measures to the Director to ensure such quality, and performs other tasks by agreement with the Director.

The Heads' Collegium shall consist of the Director and the Heads of the organisational units of ZRS Koper.

For the effective management and performance of tasks, the Director shall convene the Director's Collegium as an advisory body. The Director's Collegium shall be an operational advisory body to the Director that advises the Director in decision-making on current matters relating to the operation of ZRS Koper. The Collegium shall consider scientific, professional, operational, financial and other matters, contribute to the formulation of ZRS Koper's development programme, and monitor procedures relating to the field entrusted to an individual member of the Collegium.

The composition of the Director's Collegium shall be determined by the Director at their discretion.

IV. ASSEMBLY OF EMPLOYEES

Article 36

The Assembly of Employees shall consist of all employees who have an employment contract with ZRS Koper.

The Assembly of Employees shall be convened by the Director of ZRS Koper, as a rule, once a year.

At the Assembly of Employees, employees may submit initiatives concerning the operation of ZRS Koper and consider other matters where so prescribed by law, a collective agreement or a general act of ZRS Koper.

V. GENERAL ACTS OF ZRS KOPER

Article 37

ZRS Koper shall have the general acts prescribed by law or another regulation.

The general acts of ZRS Koper shall be adopted by the Management Board.

General acts shall be published on the website of ZRS Koper.

VI. ASSETS AND FINANCING OF THE INSTITUTE

Article 38

ZRS Koper shall be the owner of tangible assets acquired from public and other sources.

ZRS Koper shall manage the tangible assets it owns in accordance with the fourth paragraph of Article 2 of the State and Local Government Property Management Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 11/18 and 79/18), the ZZrID, this Decision and the Statute.

Before concluding a legal transaction by which it disposes of or encumbers tangible assets whose contractual value exceeds EUR 50,000, and before disposing of or encumbering tangible assets free of charge, ZRS Koper shall be required to obtain the written consent of the Government. Legal transactions concluded without prior written consent shall be null and void.

Funds acquired through the management of tangible assets shall be used for depreciation, investment, investment maintenance and equipment.

VII. SOURCES, METHODS AND CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING FUNDS FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF ZRS KOPER

Article 39

ZRS Koper shall obtain the funds necessary to carry out its activities:

- from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia;
- from the budget of the European Union and other European institutions;
- through payments for services;
- through the sale of services on the market;
- through donations and gifts;
- from other sources.

Article 40

The institute shall keep the revenues and expenditure of the public service and market activities separately, in accordance with the applicable financial regulations.

Article 41

ZRS Koper shall be liable for its obligations up to the amount of the financial resources at its disposal, irrespective of their source.

The Management Board shall decide, on the proposal of the Director and in accordance with the regulations, on the manner of disposing of the surplus of revenues over expenditure.

Article 42

The Management Board shall decide, on the proposal of the Director, on the manner of covering the surplus of expenditure over revenues.

The founder shall assume responsibility for the institute's obligations arising from the performance of activities constituting a public service, up to the value of the assets acquired from the state budget and at the institute's disposal.

The founder shall not be liable for the institute's obligations arising from the performance of market activities.

VIII. RESEARCH FUND OF THE INSTITUTE

Article 43

A research fund shall be established at ZRS Koper, financed from donations, the institute's surplus of revenues over expenditure, taking into account Article 23 of the Decision Establishing the Institute and in accordance with the law governing the fiscal rule, and from other sources. The Director of ZRS Koper shall be responsible for the lawful use of the funds of the research fund.

Article 44

The research fund shall be intended for:

- opening up new fields and supporting promising projects;
- providing special support for the professional advancement of promising researchers; and
- involving foreign researchers in the work of ZRS Koper.

Article 45

The Director shall manage the funds of the research fund for individual purposes.

The Director of ZRS Koper shall report annually to the Management Board on the use of the funds of the research fund.

IX. PUBLIC NATURE OF WORK

Article 46

The work of ZRS Koper that is financed or co-financed from the state budget or the budget of the European Union shall be public.

ZRS Koper shall inform the public about its work by publishing:

- the scientific research programme;
- the results of scientific research work;
- annual reports on the implementation of the public service work programme;
- annual reports on its work and the funds used.

Public access to the work of ZRS Koper may be restricted where the work is classified as a business secret or in other cases where this is prescribed or permitted by law or by the acts of ZRS Koper.

X. BUSINESS SECRET AND NON-COMPETITION

Article 47

Documents and data shall be considered business secrets where disclosure to an unauthorised person would harm the interests and business reputation of ZRS Koper and where it is evident that such disclosure would cause substantial damage, or where their protection is required by regulations or concluded contracts, as determined by the Director by means of an appropriate designation on the document itself.

Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the regulations governing the protection of personal data. The disclosure of employees' salaries shall be regulated in accordance with the regulations governing the public sector pay system.

Documents and data that are public under the regulations, or documents and data that demonstrate a violation of the law or good business practices, may not be designated as business secrets. All employees shall protect business secrets, including after their employment with ZRS Koper has ended. Employees and other persons performing work for ZRS Koper shall protect business secrets of which they become aware in the course of conducting business with other legal and natural persons. They shall be materially and morally liable for breaches of these provisions.

Article 48

During the term of employment, an employee may perform work or activities in the field of activities carried out by ZRS Koper for their own account or for the account of another person only with the written consent of the Director.

Article 49

The rights and obligations of employees and employers arising from inventions or copyrighted works created in an employment or contractual relationship shall be regulated by the Rulebook on Employee Inventions and Copyrighted Works.

XI. AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Article 50

ZRS Koper shall confer the following awards and distinctions:

- the *Glasnik znanosti* Award for:
 - individual outstanding scientific achievements of promising researchers;
 - individual outstanding scientific achievements of established researchers;
 - individual outstanding scientific achievements of research groups;
 - a scientist's lifetime achievement;
- the *Honorary Plaque* distinction awarded to an individual for outstanding scientific, research and/or professional achievements;
- the ZRS Koper distinction awarded to an individual from among professional staff for their contribution to the successful operation of ZRS Koper;
- the *Distinguished Scientist* distinction, awarded in recognition of exceptional scientific and research contributions upon an individual's retirement.

Distinctions and awards shall be conferred in accordance with the Rulebook on Distinctions and Awards of ZRS Koper.

XII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 51

On the date this Statute enters into force, the Statute of ZRS Koper No. 03-02/2023 of 22 December 2023 shall cease to apply.

Article 52

This Statute shall enter into force on the day following its adoption and shall also be published on the website of ZRS Koper.

Chair of the Management Board of ZRS Koper,
Tomaž Može

No.: ZRS 201-01/2026
Koper, 26 January 2026