



Pro Silva (Europe) membership rules

A. Two types of membership

Full members:

Full members (national branches) fulfil the following criteria:

- Has been established and acts as an independent non-governmental organisation in their country with a valid constitution (or equivalent official document).
- Represent a national network that includes natural or legal persons from practical forest management of private and/or public forests, forestry science, forest administration and other relevant forest related activities and initiatives.
- The main aim and activity of the member organisation is promotion of for close-to-nature forestry/continuous cover forestry and exchange or experience in its application. The constitution includes the Pro Silva principles for close-to-nature forestry/continuous cover forestry or has a direct reference to those principles.
- Organizes excursions, seminars or workshops for sharing best practices on close-to-nature forestry/continuous cover forestry according to with Pro Silva principles.
- Develops exemplary forests to practically showcase the application of close-to-nature forestry/continuous cover forestry on operational level. Involvement of practical foresters as members is therefore necessary.
- Represents Pro Silva in their country, and acts as a coherent and unique national contact point towards Pro Silva (Europe) – usually one organisation per country

Pro Silva (Europe) needs to communicate with one national Pro Silva organisation, which represents all its members equally. Pro Silva work is based on cooperative spirit and inclusiveness. Therefore, the proper communication with all interested in the country should be done before joining Pro Silva.

- The governance and operation of the member organisation shall be based on democratic principles (i.e. all the members have a chance to collectively steer the organisation and elect the governing bodies on some regular basis – e.g. every four years or so). If there are any subgroups (e.g. on regional basis), they should be all able to shape the direction of the organisation through the governing body.

Full member's rights:

- Full member is allowed to bear and use the name "Pro Silva" and the Pro Silva logo (with the name PRO SILVA + name of the country) or international logo PRO SILVA SINCE 1989.
- Has the right to attend the general assembly meetings and submit proposals for the development of organisation and their activities.
- Has one vote at the annual general-assembly meeting in order to collectively steer the activities and development of organisation, and to elect the governing body.
- Full members are included in internal communication channel of Pro Silva, which means they are informed about all internal major steps, activities and developments and, on the other hand, they have the duty to communicate actively



with Pro Silva and send news contribution of activities or achievements on the national level.

Fee: full members pay annually the full member's fee.

Associated members:

Individual organisations or associations that have a strong interest and commitment in the work of Pro Silva (Europe). These organisations are not restricted to Europe as the main area of activities, but may be active in different parts of the globe and help to build a global "Pro Silva Network"

Associated member:

- Agrees to set of Pro Silva principles, shares aims and values with Pro Silva as well as avoids activities or communications which are incompatible with them
- May participate at the Pro Silva annual meeting and other activities organized by Pro Silva
- Has no vote at the annual general-assembly meeting, but can participate as guest
- Is not allowed to bear and use the name "Pro Silva" and the Pro Silva logo.

Fee: no fee for the moment

B. How to become a member?

Full membership:

- 1. Contact** the Pro Silva President or Administrator to inform them about their will to become member
- 2. The administrator organises at least one (usually more) online meeting or further communication during which :**
 - Pro Silva (Europe) presents the criteria to become a full member
 - The association asking to become member presents its organisation and the role they have within the country + the relationship they have with other foresters association in the country

Candidates for full members should represent the national network or a core for future network development
- 3. Board member's visit:** at least one person from the Pro Silva Executive Bboard travels at least once to the country of the candidate for field visits and technical exchanges to assess readiness of the candidate to become a full member, particularly:
 - Organisation of excursions and practical workshops
 - Development of exemplary forests
4. During the process described in points 2 and 3, the candidate shall prove a sufficient personal capacity to meet the criteria for full membership, ensure sustainability of the activities and show readiness to act as a coherent national point for Pro Silva (Europe) as well as represent Pro Silva in their country in line with Pro Silva Strategy 2030+, values, mission, aims and principles. The candidate



provides the Executive Board with English translation of their statutes (or equivalent official document).

5. **Final decision** on the full membership is made by the Board of Directors (usually takes place at the annual general assembly meeting) based on the proposal made by the Pro Silva Executive Board.

If the candidate does not meet the criteria for full membership, but has a potential and willingness to meet them later, it may be temporarily granted by the “**member under development**” status, until the criteria are met and the board of directors can make a decision on full membership. Members under development do not have rights of full members and they do not pay membership fee.

Associated membership:

1. **Contact** the Pro Silva President or Administrator to inform them about their will to become member
2. **The administrator organises an (online) meeting or further communication during which:**
 - Pro Silva Europe presents the conditions to become an associated member
 - The association asking to become associated member presents its organisation and the role they have within the country + the relationship they have with other foresters association in the country
3. If the candidate meets the conditions for associated membership, **the final decision** is made by the board of directors (usually takes place at the annual general assembly meeting) based on the proposal made by the Pro Silva board.

C. Termination of membership

The membership of a Pro Silva full member, or Pro Silva associated member can be terminated by that member or by Pro Silva. The full membership can also be suspended by Pro Silva.

The membership can be **terminated by the member** due to any reason. In such case, the member shall inform the Executive Board in writing at any time. If the announcement on the termination made by the member does not specify the date of termination, the membership is terminated with an immediate effect.

The membership can be **terminated or suspended based on a proposal from the Pro Silva Executive Board** mainly due to following reasons:

- The member no longer meets criteria for the membership or is inactive without a communicated plan for restarting its activities in nearer future.
- The member undertakes its activities in a way, which is not coherent with Pro Silva values, mission, aims and principles, or acts in a way that may harm reputation of Pro Silva or threaten its achievements.
- The member has not paid the membership fee or failed to meet other membership criteria.



The proposal to terminate or suspend membership made by Executive Board shall be endorsed by the Board of Directors – either at the annual general assembly meeting or by email communication during the year. The executive board shall inform the entity in writing on termination, suspension or change of their membership.

Entities with suspended membership do not have member's rights and are not charged to pay membership fees.

With the termination or suspension of membership the entity also loses the right to bear and use the name "Pro Silva" and the use of the logo.

If the membership is terminated/suspended during a year, the remaining part of paid annual membership fee belongs to Pro Silva.