

# **CROATIAN NURSING COUNCIL**

Founding Assembly of the Croatian Nurses Council, in exercise of its powers under Article 28 of the Nursing Act ("Narodne novine"<sup>1</sup> 121/03) on its session held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. hereby makes, with the approval of Minister of Health, this

## **STATUTES OF THE CROATIAN NURSING COUNCIL** (CLEAN COPY)

### **I GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 1**

Croatian Nursing Council (hereafter referred to as: Council) is an independent professional organization of nurses in the capacity of a legal person with public authority.

#### **Article 2**

The Council was initially founded by the Ministry of Health Republic of Croatia and Croatian Nurses Association under the Decision on the founding the Croatian Nursing Council which was adopted on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Class.: 500-05/03-05, Number: 534-03-01-01-01/04-03-01.

#### **Article 3**

The title of the organisation shall be:

CROATIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Its premises are in Zagreb, Lašćinska cesta 14a.

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<sup>1</sup> Official gazette

#### **Article 4**

In legal transactions with third persons the Council comes forward independently and without limits in its own name and for its own account.

In legal transactions with third persons the Council, for its responsibilities, responds with all its means.

#### **Article 5**

The Council has a round-shaped seal with the following text:

CROATIAN NURSING COUNCIL on the brim, and in the middle: ZAGREB, Lašćinska cesta 14a.

The Council has its sign and emblem.

The Council Board shall make the Decision on the shape and appearance of the sign and emblem.

#### **Article 6**

Membership in Council shall be obligatory for all nurses practising nursing care in Republic of Croatia.

Nurses with passed state exam who don't practise nursing profession may be members of the Council.

Midwives with passed state exam may be voluntary members of the Council.

#### **Article 7**

The Council shall protect the rights, represent the interests, maintain and improve professional knowledge and competences of registrants.

The Council shall promote, represent and coordinate registrants' interests before the state authorities and other bodies in the Republic of Croatia and abroad.

## II ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

### Article 8

The Council shall perform the following public authorities:

- maintain a register of its members,
- issue, renew and subtract the Licence for professional nursing practice
- conduct professional supervision of nursing practise.

Except the public authorities, the Council shall perform following activities:

1. introduce the Code of Ethics, follows its fulfilment and takes measures in case of its impairment,
2. cooperate with the Ministry of Health in all areas of interest for registrants, and give professional opinion at the preparation of regulations which influence the nursing profession,
3. establish contents of protocol for plan and pursuit of health care in accordance with principles of International Classification of Nursing Practice,
4. propose the standards and normative for nursing practice, to the Minister of Health,
5. determine the need, content and length of duration for additional education and organize continuous education,
6. adopt general act to determine content, terms and procedure of continuous professional education and verification of nurses competence,
7. propose the content of nursing documentation to the Minister of Health,
8. regulate method and conditions for professional supervision over nursing practice,
9. determine the lowest cost of nursing care for nursing procedures which take place outside the main Health care institutions network,
10. determine cost of nursing care procedures for scale of private health insurance,
11. perform the professional supervision over nursing practice,
12. determine the impairments of working duties among registrants,
13. determine discipline measures for minor and serious professional conduct impairments,
14. conduct disciplinary proceeding and declare disciplinary measures for professional conduct impairments,
15. cooperate with the health inspection of the Ministry of Health,
16. represent registrants' interests by all means,
17. ensure legal aid for registrants,
18. take care of other interests of registrants,

19. coordinate relationships among registrants and actively participate in solving disputes if any occur,

21. cooperate with the Croatian Nurses Association, i.e. with all professional, expert associations and trade unions whose object is to promote nursing as a profession,

22. cooperate with all educational institutions that educate nurses,

23. cooperate with the World Health Organisation, and other international nursing organisations,

24. make opinion on the validity of foundation of a nursing care institution within the Basic network of health care system institutions,

25. define opinion on the validity of foundation a nursing care institution outside the Basic network of health care system institutions,

26. make opinion on the validity of foundation of a private home care nursing practice within the Basic network of health care system institution, and also define opinion on the validity of foundation of a private home care nursing practice outside the Basic network of health care system institutions,

27. perform other activities described in this Statutes and other acts of the Council.

Except the activities from the Paragraph 1 of this Article, the Council may also perform other activities which are entered into the court registry if they are performed on any different scale or regularly along the registered activity.

### **Article 9.**

The registrants' rights are:

- the right to elect the members of Council bodies, and, for obligatory members to be elected into these bodies,
- the right to Council services in accordance with the Article 8 of this Statutes.

The registrants' duties are:

- to respect all of the regulations drawn by Council bodies,
- to work in Council's professional, i.e. expert committees or work groups,
- regular delivery of the data according to the Council's regulations,
- regular Council's membership fee payment.

### **III ORGANISATION OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **Article 10**

Council bodies are:

1. Assembly,
2. Board,
3. Board of Experts,
4. President and vice-president,
5. Branch offices,
6. Supervisory Board,
7. Council Court.
8. Committees
  - Professional Ethics Committee,
  - Professional Issues and Continuous Education Committee,
  - Professional Supervision Committee,
  - Professional Licensing Committee,
  - Quality Control Committee.

Other bodies and Committees of the Council may be founded in accordance with general provisions of the Council.

#### **Article 11**

Council's Assembly delegates, president and vice-president as well as the Council body members' have four-year mandates.

The same registrants may be re-elected as delegates of the Assembly, Council president and vice-president, and a member of the same Council bodies.

In case that new elections for the Assembly delegates or other bodies of the Council are not held, former delegates of the Assembly, i.e. other Council body, registrants shall stay at their functions, until the election of the new delegates, but no longer than six months after the expiration of their mandates.

### **III/1. ASSEMBLY**

#### **Article 12**

The Assembly is the highest body of the Chamber.

The delegates of the Assembly shall be two representatives of each county branch office and branch office of City of Zagreb and one delegate for every 500 registrants from every county branch office and branch office of City of Zagreb.

Electoral units shall be every county branch office and branch office of the City of Zagreb.

### **Article 13**

The modality of election and withdrawal of Assembly's delegates shall be closely described in the Procedure for Election and Withdrawal of Assembly's Delegates Rules.

### **Article 14**

The Assembly shall perform the following activities:

1. adopt the Council Statutes with the approval of Minister of Health,
2. adopt the Procedure for Assembly Sessions Rules,
3. adopt the Code of Ethics,
4. adopt the Fitness to Practice Rules,
5. adopt the Council's financial plan and annual financial report,
6. appoint and depose members of Council Board,
7. appoint and depose members of the Supervisory Board,
8. appoint and depose Council president and members of the Council Court,
9. evaluate the reports of all Council bodies,
10. decide on associating and cooperation of the Council with other related organisations,
11. perform other activities defined in accordance with this Statutes and other acts of the Council.

In order to fulfil its tasks the Assembly may, if necessary, found expert committees.

### **Article 15**

The Assembly shall meet when necessary and at least once a year.

The Assembly shall be summoned by the president of the Council.

The Assembly may be held if the majority of delegates is present.

The Assembly shall decide with the majority of the present delegates of the Assembly unless this Statutes or some other act of the Council regulates a different qualified majority.

The request to convene the Assembly may be submitted to the president of the Council by the: Council Board, branch office or at least 20 delegates of the Assembly.

The president shall convene the Assembly within 30 days after receiving the request from the previous Paragraph. When he does not convene the Assembly within this period, the proposers may convene the Assembly themselves.

### **Article 16**

Functioning of the Assembly shall be defined by the Rules of Procedure and particularly: modality of convening Assembly's meetings, discussing at the Assembly meeting, voting on the decision proposals and reports of the Council bodies.

## **III/2. COUNCIL BOARD**

### **Article 17**

Council Board shall be composed of 21 member, one representative from each of the county branch offices and one from branch office of City of Zagreb.

Members of Council Board shall elect the president and vice president among themselves.

The president and general secretary of the Council shall participate in working of the Council Board, without the right to vote.

### **Article 18**

The president of the Council Board shall convene and conduct meetings of the Council Board.

Council Board decisions shall be taken by the majority of votes of the total number of members of the Council Board, except when other qualified majority is regulated by this Statute or other general act of the Council.

### **Article 19**

The Council Board shall perform following activities:

1. adopt all general acts of the Council, except for the ones listed in the Article 14 of this Statutes,
2. decide on the change of the Council's venue,
3. choose, appoint and depose the president of the Council,
4. appoint and depose the vice-president of the Council at the proposal of the Council's president,
5. appoint and depose the president and members of the committees,
6. appoints and depose the general secretary of the Council,
7. appoint and depose the editor-in-chief and executive editor of the Council's gazette,
8. manage the finances of the Council,
9. decide on the fees of the registration and membership fees rate,
10. decide on the prices of the Council's services,
11. decide on the withdrawing the registrant from the Register,
12. decide on withdrawing the licence based on Professional Licensing Committee proposal,
13. propose the candidates for the members of Supervisory Committee to the Assembly,
14. propose the candidates for the Chair and members of the Council Court,
15. determine whether the propositions of implemental regulations are in accordance with the law,
16. decide on second degree level on the complaints on Council Committees decisions, except for the Council Court's decisions,
17. create and receive suggestions which are significant for the successful work of the Council,
18. settle disputes among branch offices,
19. decide on calling the elections for the Assembly's delegates,
20. decide on concluding businesses the value of which is higher than 100.000,00 kunas,
21. perform other activities regulated by this Statutes and other acts of the Council.

### **Article 20**

Functioning of the Council Board shall be defined in more details by the Rules of Procedure and particularly: modality of conveying Board meetings, discussions and voting.

### **III/3. BOARD OF EXPERTS**

#### **Article 21**

Board of Experts shall be advisory body of Council's president.

Members of the Board of Experts shall be appointed by the president of the Council.

President of the Council shall, usually, for the members of the Board of Experts appoint presidents of Classes of Expert and eminent experts for particular area of nursing.

President of the Council may appoint particular member of the Class of Expert in the Board of Experts.

President of the Council and members of the Council Board can not be president or members of the Board of Experts.

President of the Council shall attend meetings of the Board of Experts without the right to vote.

#### **Article 22**

Board of Experts shall perform the following activities:

- discuss and decide about the issues from nursing practice area,
- propose expert solutions for nursing practice and for Council,
- propose expert basis for working programme and development of nursing practice,
- propose measures for nursing practice quality improvement,
- provide opinions and proposals on working organisation and conditions for development of nursing practice to the president of Council and Council Board,
- propose modalities and forms of continuous education and professional education in particular specific area of nursing,
- propose forms of professional supervision,
- perform other activities regulated by general acts of the Council, on Council President's request.

### **Article 23**

Board of Experts shall decide with the majority of the votes of the total number of the Board of Experts members, except when other qualified majority is regulated by this Statutes or other general act of the Council.

### **Article 24**

The work of Board of Experts shall be defined in more detail by the Rules of procedure of Board of Experts.

## **III/4 PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL**

### **Article 25**

Council president shall represent and stand the Council.

Business for the amount higher than 100.000,00 kunas the Council president may conclude only on the basis of the Council Board decision.

The president shall be an employee of the Council. A work contract for indeterminate period shall be concluded with the president, taking into consideration that he shall perform presidential duties for the term of office he was elected.

If the president, at the end of his term, is not re-elected for president, he will be offered a new work contract for indeterminate period for a position in the Council office according to his qualifications and capacities.

Council vice-president shall replace Council president in case of absence, and also perform other activates president entrusts him with.

Should the president for any reason be unable to perform his function to the end of term, the vice-president shall perform the president's duties until the election and appointment of Council president, but no longer than 90 days.

### **Article 26**

Council president shall be appointed on the basis of a administrative competition. Administrative competition shall be announced in the Council gazette and in the daily press.

Council Board shall appoint and depose Council president.

Person may be appointed for Council president if fulfils the following conditions:

- completed professional nursing study,
- passed state exam,
- hold the professional licence to practice nursing,
- have at least 5 years of working experience,
- Croatian citizenship,
- knowledge of one global language.

With the application, candidate shall enclose a plan and programme for the mandatory term for which he is competing.

### **Article 27**

The decision on the announcement of the administrative competition for the president of the Council shall be adopted by the Council Board at the latest three months before the end of the current term of the Council president.

In the administrative competition shall be announced the following data:

1. conditions determined in by the Article 26 of this Statutes,
2. period for which the Council president is appointed,
3. deadline for submitting the applications which should last 15 days from the day of administrative competition publishing,
4. deadline for informing applicant on the choice and appointment which should last 45 days from the day of the expiration of the deadline to submit the applications.

### **Article 28**

Council president shall perform the following activities:

1. convene and chair the Assembly,
2. execute conclusions and decisions of the Assembly,
3. sign contracts which the Council concludes,
5. issue resolutions based on decisions of Council bodies, except the resolutions and decisions of the Council Court,
6. manage the Council office,
7. make decisions on working relations for the Council employees,
8. perform other activities regulated by this Statutes or other acts of the Council.

### **Article 29**

Council president may be deposed of his duty before the end of the term for which he was appointed.

The Council Board may depose the Council president of his duty before the end of the term for which he was appointed when:

- the Council president personally requests it,
- a reason emerges which, by the special regulations or regulations which define working relations, leads to the termination of work contract,
- in his work occurs impairments of regulations and general acts of the Council or unjustifiably fails to execute Assembly's or Board's decisions or acts contrary to them,
- by his unconscious or irregular work he causes extensive damage to the Council,
- neglects or negligently performs his duty so that it leads to or could easily lead to deteriorated situation in Council's performance.

Council Board shall inform the Council president on the reasons for the dismissal before the decision making and give him the opportunity to explain himself.

## **III/5. BRANCH OFFICES**

### **Article 30**

Branch offices shall be founded as county branch offices and branch office of the City of Zagreb.

County branch offices shall have seats at the county centres, and the Branch office of the City of Zagreb in Zagreb.

Members of a branch office are all registrants working in the giving county, i.e. in the city of Zagreb and registrants from the county, i.e. city of Zagreb – Council members which do not temporary practice nursing.

### **Article 31**

Branch office bodies are:

Branch office Assembly,  
President and vice-president of the Branch office,  
Executive committee of the branch office.

### **Article 32**

Branch office Assembly consists of all Council members from the county, i.e. city of Zagreb.

Branch office Assembly shall decide with the majority of voices of the members present at the Assembly's meeting.

Branch office Assembly shall:

1. elect and appoint the Branch office president and vice-president,
2. elect the delegates for the Council Assembly,
3. propose candidates for the president and members of the branch office court,
4. elect members for the branch office Executive Committee,
5. review problems from the nursing practice area and other problems from Council activities at the proposal of Council Assembly, Council president or other Council bodies,
6. perform other activities regulated by this Statutes or other acts of the Council.

### **Article 33**

Branch office Executive Committee consists of: branch office president, branch office vice-president and at least three members.

Branch office president shall convene and chair the meetings of the branch office Executive Committee.

Should the branch office president fail to convene a meeting, and there is a need for it, the meeting may exceptionally convene the Council president.

The branch office president shall receive the notifications and instructions from the Council Assembly and Council President, follow up their execution and report on it to the Council president.

Branch office Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year.

Branch office Executive Committee shall decide with the majority of votes of the total number of the committee members.

#### **Article 34**

Branch office Executive Committee shall perform the following activities:

1. implement the resolutions and decisions of the Council bodies,
2. represent the interests of Branch office members,
3. conduct conciliation proceeding in case of dispute of branch office members,
4. co-organise its members' continuous education,
5. review its members' remarks and proposals and as necessary forwards them to the authorised Council bodies,
6. propose the plan of the needs for nurses in the County, i.e. the City of Zagreb,
7. regularly inform its members on the work of the Council,
8. run the secondary branch members register,
9. perform other activities regulated by this Statutes or other acts of the Council.

#### **Article 35**

The work of the Branch office shall be regulated in more detail by the Rules of procedure of the work of branch office.

### **III/6. SUPERVISORY BOARD**

#### **Article 36**

Supervisory Board shall be elected and appointed at the Assembly session among the candidates proposed by the Council Board.

Supervisory Board consists of a president and two members, and alternate president and two alternate members.

Supervisory Board shall review, at least twice a year, financial management and the balance sheet of the Council.

Supervisory Board shall review the legality of the decisions made by the Council bodies.

Supervisory Board shall report on its work every year at the Assembly and propose adoption of balance sheet.

### **III/7 COUNCIL COURT**

#### **Article 37**

Council Court is autonomous and independent Council body which shall discuss and decide on the violations of duty and reputation of the nursing profession in the first and second degree level.

Council Court shall be structured as First and Second Degree Council Court.

Council Court members shall be appointed for a term of 4 years.

Council Court in first and second degree shall act in accordance with provisions of Fitness to Practice Rules.

#### **Article 38.**

First Degree Council Court and Second Degree Council Court shall have 5 member each – chair and 4 members who shall be appointed and deposed by Assembly on Council Board proposal. Chairs of Council Court may be lawyers.

Second Degree Council Court shall decide about complaints on First Degree Council Court decisions.

Second Degree Council Court decision shall be final and against it is allowed to initiate administrative proceeding.

### **III/8 - 1. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE**

#### **Article 39.**

Professional Ethics Committee shall have the president, vice-president and three members.

Professional Ethics Committee work shall be regulated by Committees Work Rules.

Committee shall decide with the majority of votes of the total number of Committee members, except when other qualified majority is regulated by this Statutes or other general act of the Council.

**Article 40.**

Professional Ethics Committee shall perform the following activities:

1. prepare the proposal of the Code of Ethics,
2. follow and supervise the enforcement of the rules of ethics in the nursing profession and undertake necessary measures in case of the impairment,
3. review the proposals and problems on the branch offices' requests,
4. perform other activities regulated by this Statutes or other acts of the Council.

The Committee may appoint a professional expert group for the work for which it is authorised.

**III/8. - 2. PROFESSIONAL ISSUES AND CONTINUOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Article 41.**

Professional Issues and Continuous Education Committee shall have the president, vice president and three members.

Professional Issues and Continuous Education Committee work shall be regulated by Committees Work Rules.

Committee shall decide with the majority of votes of the total number of Committee members, except when other qualified majority is regulated by this Statutes or other general act of the Council.

**Article 42.**

Professional Issues and Continuous Education Committee shall perform the following activities:

1. offer professional opinions at the preparation of regulations influencing the nursing profession,
2. offer proposal of content of protocol for plan and pursuit of the health care in accordance with principles of International classification of nursing practice,
3. determine the need and propose the content and duration of additional nursing education, and organise continuous nursing education,
4. offer a proposal of the Content, Terms and Procedure of Continuous Education and Supervising Nurses' Competence Rules

5. draw up a draft of standards and normative for nursing profession,
6. draw up a draft of the nursing documentation content,
7. review the proposals and problems on the branch offices' request,
8. perform other activities regulated by this Statutes or other acts of the Council.

The Committee may appoint a professional expert group for the work for which it is authorised.

### **III/8. - 3. PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION COMMITTEE**

#### **Article 43**

Professional Supervision Committee shall have the president, vice-president and three members.

Professional Supervision Committee work shall be regulated by Committees Work Rules.

The Committee shall decide with the majority of votes of the total number of Committee members, except when other qualified majority is regulated by this Statutes or other general act of the Council.

#### **Article 44**

Professional Supervision Committee shall perform the following activities:

1. draw up a proposal of list of nurses who will perform professional supervision,
2. define expert criteria for professional supervision performance,
3. draw up annual professional supervision plan,
4. keep records on the realized professional supervision and suggested measures,
5. report annually on professional supervision,
6. coordinate the professional supervision performance with the health inspection of Ministry of health,
7. perform other activities regulated by this Statutes or other acts of the Council.

### **III/8. - 4. PROFESSIONAL LICENCING COMMITTEE**

#### **Article 45.**

Professional Licensing Committee shall have a president, vice-president and three members.

Professional Licensing Committee work shall be regulated by Committees Work Rules.

The Committee shall decide with the majority of votes of the total number of Committee members, except when other qualified majority is regulated by this Statutes or other general act of the Council.

#### **Article 46.**

Professional Licensing Committee shall perform the following activities:

1. run the Council members Register,
2. issue and renew licences,
3. propose requisition of licence to the Council Board,
4. perform the supervision of the nurses' competence,
5. define the lowest nursing care prices for nurses practising outside the basic health institutions network,
6. define the prices of nursing care for private health care insurance,
7. represent nurses' interests,
8. coordinate the relationships among members and actively participates in solving possible disputes,
9. offer opinion on the justification of founding a nursing care institution in the basic health care institutions network,
10. offer opinion on the justification of founding an expert nursing care institution outside the basic health care institution network,
11. offer opinion on the validity of foundation of a private home care practice within and outside the basic network of health institutions,
12. review proposals and problems at the branch offices' request,
13. perform other activities regulated by this Statutes or other acts of the Council.

The Committee may appoint a professional expert group for the work for which it is authorised.

### **III/8. - 5. QUALITY CONTROL COMMITTEE**

#### **Article 47.**

Quality Control Committee shall have a president, vice-president and three members.

Quality Control Committee work shall be regulated by Committees Work Rules.

The Committee shall decide with the majority of votes of the total number of Committee members, except when other qualified majority is regulated by this Statutes or other general act of the Council.

#### **Article 48.**

Quality Control Committee shall perform the following activities:

1. propose the program for the education of nurses for the pursuing of nursing care quality control,
2. take part in organising the education of nurses for nursing care quality control,
3. cooperate with the ministry of health for the correct quality control realisation,
4. take care that the nursing care quality control includes:
  - nursing care plan,
  - implementation of nursing care procedure protocols,
  - evaluation,
  - impact of nursing care on the health status of patients,
5. review proposals and problems at the branch offices' request,
6. perform other activities regulated by this Statutes or other acts of the Council.

The Committee may appoint a professional expert group for the work for which it is authorised.

### **IV FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

#### **Article 49.**

Council's financial resources are:

1. registration and membership fee,
2. Council's services fees,
3. government budget,
4. donations,
5. other resources.

### **V COUNCIL OFFICE AND SECRETARY**

#### **Article 50.**

Council office shall be organised for the administrative work purposes.

Council president shall organise and manage the work of the Council office.

Organisation and structure of the Council office shall be regulated by Chamber Office Rules.

#### **Article 51.**

Council secretary shall professionally perform work in Council's jurisdiction.

The secretary shall be appointed and deposed by the Council Board.

A person that fulfils the following conditions may be appointed for a Council secretary:

- completed professional law study,
- has at least 2 years of working experience,
- computer skills,
- knowledge of at least one global language.

The work of Council secretary shall be regulated by the Work of the Council Rules.

### **VI PUBLICITY OF THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES**

#### **Article 52.**

The Council shall inform the public on its work through the Chamber gazette, and, as necessary, by other means of informing.

### **VII PROTECTION OF THE MEMBER'S RIGHTS**

#### **Article 53.**

All decisions, i.e. resolutions on realisation of rights, duties and responsibilities of a member shall deliver in written to the member with instructions for remedy.

#### **Article 54.**

A member shall have the right to complain on the decisions or resolutions of the Council president, except on the Council Court decisions, to the Council Board within a fifteen days from the day of receiving the decision or resolution with which the member considers his right has been violated.

Submission of a complaint shall delay the implementation of the decision or resolution until the final decision of the Council Board.

Exceptionally, the complaint against the resolution on requisition of the individual license shall not delay the implementation

**Article 55.**

Council Board shall make a decision on a complaint within thirty days from the day of its submission.

A member shall have the right to attend the Council Board meeting at which his complaint is discussed and to declare himself on the facts which are significant for decision making.

The decision of the Council Board shall be final.

**VIII PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL CLASSES**

**Professional classes**

**Article 55a**

Professional classes shall be founded for particular specific professional areas of nursing profession or jointly for few related specific expert areas of nursing profession.

Decision on founding professional classes shall issue the Council Board.

**Article 55b**

Bodies of Professional Class shall be:

1. Professional Class Assembly,
2. Professional Class Board,
3. President and vice-president of Professional Class,
4. Professional Class Secretary.

Professional Class may have branches.

**Article 55c**

Member of the Professional Class may be obligatory Council member who works in particular specific professional area of nursing profession for which Professional Class was founded.

**Article 55d**

When there are more members who work in particular specific professional area of nursing profession for which Professional Class was founded in specific professional class, branch of professional class may be founded.

**Article 55e**

Professional Classes Rules shall regulate activities of professional class, members' rights and obligations, election for professional class bodies modality and their activities, conditions and modality of branches organizing and other issues relating to organisation and activities of professional class.

**Vocational Midwives Class**

**Article 55f**

Twenty and more voluntary Council members may propose to the Council Board founding of Vocational Midwives Class.

Decision on founding Vocational Midwives Class shall issue the Council Board.

**Article 55g**

Bodies of Vocational Midwives Class shall be:

1. Assembly,
2. Board,
3. President and vice-president,
4. Secretary.

Vocational Class may have branches.

**Article 55h**

Member of the vocational class may be voluntary member of the Council who works on midwife position or nurse position.

### **Article 55i**

Member of Vocational Class shall permanently renew acquired knowledge and adopt new knowledge in accordance with the newest accomplishments and discoveries from nursing profession if she works on nurse's position, or from her professional area.

Continuous professional education shall be performed by participation on professional seminars, courses and professional congresses.

Content, terms and procedure of continuous professional education shall be regulated by general act of the Council.

### **Article 55j**

Council shall issue certificate which replaces the licence to the member of the professional class.

Certificate shall be renewed every six years.

Conditions for issuing, renewing and requisition of certificate shall be regulated by the general act of the Council.

### **Article 55k**

Vocational class branches shall be founded as county branches and branch of City of Zagreb.

One branch may be founded for few counties.

Members of the branch are members of Vocational Class who are working on branch's area.

### **Article 55l**

Vocational Midwives Class Rules shall regulate activities of vocational class, members' rights and obligations, election for vocational class bodies modality and their activities, conditions and modality of branches organizing and other issues relating to organisation and activities of vocational class.

**Article 55m**

Heads VIII and IX shall become heads IX and X.

**Article 55n**

Members of the Council may become midwives with passed state exam who acquired vocation of midwife and passed state exam no later than December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

After December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004. members of the Council, on voluntary basis, may become midwives who shall acquire vocation of nurse by additional education and pass state exam.

**IX PROCEDURE WITH THE ASSETS IN CASE OF COUNCIL CESSATION**

**Article 56.**

Should the Chamber cease its work, its assets shall be taken over by Croatian Nurses Association.

**IX CLOSING PROVISIONS**

**Article 57.**

The Council shall adopt general acts in accordance with the Nursing Act ("Narodne novine" 121/03) and this Statutes within the six-month period from the day of foundation.

**Article 58.**

Changes and additions to this Statutes shall be adopted by the same procedure as Statute.

**Article 59.**

This Statute shall be announce on bulletin-board at Ministry of health and Croatian Nurses Association and become effective at the day minister of health issues the approval.