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The Slovak Academy of Sciences and The Learned Society of Slovakia

The Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) is Slovakia's national autonomous non-university research and science institution.

The SAS was established in 1953 under a state law within Czechoslovakia. It was not, however, the first academy or learned society on the territory of Slovakia. The first societies were established in the 2nd half of the 18th century. Their lives were relatively short due to several reasons. One of them was the fact that the Slovak nation had not been recognized in the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy until 1848. The first learned society was thus founded only after Czechoslovakia had been established on October 28, 1918.

The SAS was from its beginning a national institution performing mainly basic research in the academy's institutes. Assembly of elected Academicians and Corresponding Members of the SAS acted as a learned society.

The SAS had undergone substantial modernization after the political change in Czechoslovakia in 1989 and after the state law on the SAS had been revised on January 1st, 1990. The SAS has definitively become a national non-university research and science institution after The Slovak republic was established on January 1st, 1993 (by splitting Czechoslovakia into The Czech Republic and The Slovak Republic).

The SAS performs research in 45 institutes and research centers in the Earth and Space Sciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Medical Sciences, Biological and Chemical Sciences, Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences, Historical Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences and Arts and Culture.

The revision of the state law on the SAS in 1990 had annulled titles and positions of Academicians and Corresponding Members of the SAS, and thus also their assembly. Slovakia thus lost its learned society.

The SAS established The Learned Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences on March 19th, 2003 as an honorary society of the SAS. Members of The Learned Society were elected from the best scientists of the academy.

A new by-law of the SAS was adopted on July 1st, 2018 in response to the new state law on public research institutions. The new by-law declares The Learned Society of Slovakia (LSS) as an honorary body of the SAS. The society is an assembly of distinguished scholars of Slovakia. Membership in the LSS is not any more conditioned by affiliation to the SAS. The LSS is the supreme representative of the scientific community in Slovakia, promotes Slovak science abroad, supports research and science, promotes excellence in science, supports international scientific collaboration, debates ethical aspects of research and its practical applications, takes and declares clear positions on the problems and norms of science and technology in the Slovak Republic.

The LSS has 56 regular members, 47 emeritus members, and 9 foreign members. The members of the society are Academicians of The Learned Society of Slovakia.