



Center for Legal Data Science Bylaws

§ 1 Name, Purpose and Fields of Activity

1. The Center for Legal Data Science (CLDS) is an interdisciplinary, scientific network. The core task of the CLDS is the scientific penetration, application, critical reflection and promotion of data science methods in national and international legal contexts.

2. The CLDS sets the following high-level goals:

a) Advance legal knowledge and legal knowledge production through the application of quantitative methods,

b) Improve the transparency of law and legal processes through the application of quantitative methods,

c) Facilitate interdisciplinary legal research and teaching using quantitative methods, on a national and international level.

3. The areas of work of the CLDS are:

a) Empirical legal research,

b) Computer-assisted methods in legislation, application and finding of law,

c) Fundamental research in the working areas of the CLDS.

§ 2 Sponsorship

The sponsor of the CLDS is the Faculty of Law (RWF) of the University of Zurich. The CLDS is a faculty center and administratively assigned to the RWF.

§ 3 Members

1. Membership is open to academic persons (members of the “Mittelbau”, private lecturers, titular professors as well as active and emeritus professors) of the RWF.

2. Academic persons of RWF shall be admitted as full members. The Executive Board may propose or accept applications for associate membership from academic persons of other faculties of the UZH and academic persons of other faculties of Swiss and foreign universities who are active in the fields of work of the CLDS and have a track record in this field commensurate with their standing. The Executive Board may propose or accept applications for associate membership from other persons (e.g. students, political and social figures) if their membership is in the interest of CLDS.

3. The General Assembly decides on the admission and exclusion of members and associated members.
4. Members and associated members have the same rights and duties.

§ 4 Rights and duties of members

Members of the CLDS have the following rights and duties:

- a) Participation in the events of the CLDS,
- b) Participation and exercise of the right to vote at the General Assembly,
- c) Submission of proposals to the General Assembly and to the Executive Board.

§ 5 Associated Researchers

The Executive Board may grant the status of "Associate Researcher" to academic persons who have rendered outstanding services to the CLDS, are active in the CLDS's fields of work, and have a track record in this field commensurate with their standing. This does not establish a legal relationship with the CLDS.

§ 6 Organs

The organs of the CLDS are the General Assembly, the Executive Board, the Office and the Advisory Board.

§ 7 General Assembly

The General Assembly shall consist of all members of the CLDS. It is the principal organ of the CLDS and has the following tasks in particular:

- a) Election of the members and the Chair of Executive Board,
- b) Election of the members of the Advisory Board,
- c) Decision on the admission of new members,
- d) Approval of annual accounts and of the annual report (academic report),
- e) Advising the Executive Board on research projects, conferences and continuing education events and courses, as well as on applications for external funding and on the annual budget,
- f) Enactment and amendment of the Organisational Bylaws,
- g) Deciding on the continuation and dissolution of the CLDS.

2. The General Assembly meets once a year, if necessary by video conference. It shall be convened by the Executive Board at any time if requested by one quarter of the members.

3. The General Assembly decides by simple majority of the members present. Circulatory resolutions are possible at any time; they require the approval of the majority of all members.

4. The Chair of the Executive Board shall chair the general meeting. In the event of a tie, he/she shall have a casting vote.

§ 8 Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of four to six full members of the CLDS who are members of the RWF. The Executive Board shall have a Chair. The Executive Board shall decide on all current matters of the CLDS as well as on matters which are not assigned to any other body.

2. The Executive Board shall meet once per semester, if necessary by video conference. It shall be convened at any time by the Chair if requested by a member of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall make decisions by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote. Circulatory resolutions are possible at any time; they require a majority of all members of the Executive Board.

3. The Executive Board and the Chair shall be elected for a period of four years. Re-election is possible.

4. The General Manager shall participate in the meetings of the Executive Board in an advisory capacity.

5. The Executive Board has the following tasks:

a) Developing and implementing the high-level goals of the CLDS,

b) Promoting cooperation with other faculties and units of the UZH, other scientific and social institutions, public authorities and companies,

c) Deciding on the implementation of research projects, conferences and continuing education events and courses, the submission of applications for external funding and the annual budget,

d) Financial management of the CLDS, in particular the preparation of the annual budget and annual financial statements, securing of funding, in particular through the acquisition of third-party funds, decision on the use of funds, control of the financial budget,

e) Representation of the CLDS in relation to third parties.

6. The members of the Executive Board participate in the General Assembly and the meetings of the Advisory Board with all their rights and duties.

§ 9 Office

1. The Office shall manage the current affairs of the CLDS. It shall consist of a General Manager and other scientific staff.

2. The General Manager and the other scientific staff members shall coordinate the research projects, actively participate in the research work and ensure the organization of the scientific conferences, continuing education events and courses.

3. The managing director is subject to the instructions of the Chair of the Executive Board.

§ 10 Advisory Board

1. The Advisory Board shall be composed of persons from science, society and practice who have distinguished themselves by outstanding achievements in the focal areas of the CLDS.

2. The main tasks of the Advisory Board are to advise on the strategic orientation of the CLDS, to provide scientific support for ongoing research projects, and to advise on future research projects.

3. The advisory board meets once a year, if necessary by video conference.

4. Members of the Advisory Board participate in the General Assembly with all their rights and duties.

§ 11 Financing

1. The financing of the CLDS is secured in the founding phase (July 2022 - June 2026) by TRANSFORM funds, supplemented by funds of the participating units of the RWF (e.g. by funds granted by the chairs) and by third-party funds.

2. After the end of the founding phase, the CLDS will be financed by third-party funds, supplemented by funds of the participating units of RWF (e.g. by funds granted by the chairs).

3. The financial management is carried out according to the general guidelines of the university.

§ 12 Entry into force

The Rules of Procedure shall enter into force after approval by the General Assembly on 8.11.2022.