

Minutes

SSAI Board meeting

Hotel Hilton Reykjavik Nordica, Reykjavik, 12.-13. June 2025

Present

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Kári Hreinsson | (President SSAI; ISL), |
| Gunnar Bentsen | (Secretary General SSAI; NOR), |
| Steffen Kløve Albæk Pedersen | (Treasurer SSAI; DEN), |
| Michael Haney | (EiC, chair RC; SWE), |
| Sören Pischke | (Dir Acta Foundation; NOR), |
| Rune Sort | (representative DASAİM, DEN), Thursday |
| Katrin Thormar | (president Icelandic society; ISL) |
| Gunnar Thorarensen | (representative Icelandic society, ISL), Thursday |
| Randi Mohus | (deputy president NAF; NOR), |
| Kristian Strand | (representative NAF; NOR), |
| Amanda Irgum Liljeström | (representative SFAI; SWE), |
| Anne Vakkuri | (president SAY; FIN), |
| Timo Kaakinen | (representative, vice-president SAY; FIN) |
| Lauri Husa | (chair NYA; FIN), |
| Cecilia Escher | (chair EdCom; SWE), |
| Martin Ingi Sigurðsson | (congress president SSAI2026) |

On Zoom:

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| Mads Astvad | (webmaster; DEN), |
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Excused:

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Klaus Olkkola | (Past President SSAI; FIN), |
| Morten Hylander Møller | (chair CPC; DEN), |
| Christian Wamberg | (president DASAİM; DEN), |
| Karin Löwhagen | (president SFAI; SWE), |

Thursday 12th, 09:00

1. Opening of the meeting

Kári opened the meeting and greeted the participants welcome.

2. Approval of the minutes from the Board meeting in January 2025

Highlights from the minutes were presented. The minutes were approved.

3. Approval of the meeting agenda.

The agenda was approved.

4. Upcoming meetings

Board winter meeting, 29.-30. January 2026 in Oslo, Norway.

Officers' meeting, Acta Foundation Board, and National Presidents meeting after lunch on 28. January 2026.

Board summer meeting (Congress meeting), Reykjavik, Iceland, afternoon on 9th June 2026. Officers' meeting, Acta Foundation Board, and National Presidents meeting from lunch on the 9th.

5. Updates from the SSAI committees

Clinical practice committee – Morten
(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

Morten had sent over slides. Presented by Gunnar

The Board discussed the use and value of MAGIC app for our members. It is not well known amongst our members, and the Board is worried about whether it will be useful for our members.

Educational committee – Cecilia (presented on Friday)
(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

Members from all countries.

3 online meetings and joint meeting (with AEP chairs) and 1 physical.

- Mentimeter turned out to be much more expensive, so unsolved issue.
- Could other programs have some of the leadership training that POOM has? EdCom is looking into this.
- All programs are thriving
- Strong connection with the Congress much appreciated.
- EdCom members would profit from a closer connection with the National Societies.
- CPD-work ongoing

Did EdCom achieve anything during the past 6-7 years?

- Guideline
- Azets for economic transparency and adherence to new regulations
- Advanced programs more involved in the congress program
- Increased number of meetings with the AEP's
- Better communication with the AEP's, less distrust

Cecilia has decided to step down as chair.

Ebbe Hvidberg Bessmann will take over as chair from 2026.

The Board thanks Cecilia for her great work as chair of EdCom over many years.

Nordic Young Anaesthesiologists – Lauri

(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

Small changes to the committee members. 10 members.

3 online meetings this spring.

Simon Carley recruited as a speaker to the Congress on the topic "Maintaining balance in tough times".

5 grants in 2025, plan for 6 in 2026. Feedback is very positive.

Research committee – Michael

(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

Research Methods course (observational studies) held this spring, but was not filled. Need for new topics? **Implementation science** could be a good subject. The target group for this would be different from the current subjects covered in the courses (observational studies, systematic reviews, clinical trial methodology). So, plan is to pause the course this fall and rather work on creating a new course. The Board supports this.

CRIC infrastructure is sponsored by SSAI by DKK 100.000

2024-5 post-doc grant (the third) in place. M Bjurström in his 2nd year.

Acta Foundation approved an additional grant for 2026-7. Application deadline Sept 2025.

Support for SSAI 2026 congress – strong accept for congress participation from Acta Editorial Board.

6. Update from the Journal – Michael

(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

The Journal continues to go well.

A strength that the Journal is owned by SSAI/AF giving us full control over content.

A new editor recruited for statistical consults.

Fraud and poor publishing ethics increasingly challenging.

2024 Publishers report was briefly reported.

Norway now out of Wiley transitional agreement. Will this spread to the other Nordic countries, or will there be renegotiations bringing Norway back

on?

Should Acta look for a new publisher? Probably little to gain.

7. Update from the Acta Foundation – Søren (presentation uploaded on basecamp)

2024 Annual report. Revenue from Wiley is increasing. Gross profit was DKK 613.000. Also profit from investments about DKK 900.000. So, a total surplus of 1.5 MDKK that will be used for grants. Søren presented more of the details from the results (uploaded).

The AF Board is discussing if it is wise to build up the capital a bit in years with a large surplus.

From 2027 the AF will have less to give out in grants than before.

The National Societies need to apply for their grants.

Future plans: re-assess investments and follow SSAI investments.

Christian Wamberg will take over as Director in 2026. 2025 is being used as a transition period.

8. Report from the treasurer incl. investment strategies – Steffen

SSAI reserve capital is needed for financial stability for the Congress, the AEPs, and the Board and committees. It is about 13 MDKK.

SSAI new investments strategy (fully implemented in 2030)

Investment horizon of 5-10 years

Return expectations; inflation + 3%

Risk tolerance; medium (15% loss risk in 1 year, but regain over 5 years)

ESG (ethics) is included

Steffen explained in more detail how we are advised to change our asset allocation (uploaded). This include more diversity than we have now, and less bonds in companies (relative high risk). Include some real assets and private equity.

3 alternatives were presented, and Steffen recommend Alt. 2 (se table in uploaded material). This includes bonds where some expire yearly. This frees cash making it easier to adjust investments to comply with our strategy. This alternative also includes using an external advisor (taking some weight of the treasurer). It does not include balanced funds in the portfolio.

Operating limits are defined and presented. These will guide the treasurer and investment advisor

Cost: In-house management (treasurer does it all), just the cost of the funds (0,7-1 %). If we add an external advisor, the total cost will be approx. 1,5%. Today we pay 3% (Carnegie, Garantum).

There will also be a cost related to moving the funds from Sweeden to Denmark.

The Board decided to support the new strategy, and to go with the presented alternative 2 including and external advisor.

The Board decided to use Deloitte for auditing and bookkeeping for 2024 and 25.

Results 2024

Net profit -220.000 DKK

Budget 2025

- 629.000 DKK – detailed by Steffen (uploaded)

Budget 2026

- 555.000 DKK

Financial status

13.6 MDKK in investments

9. The need for Board insurance and other insurance? – Steffen

Steffen has consulted with Tryg who suggested 3 types of insurance

- D&O Liability insurance (1 MDKK)
- Business Liability Coverage (19 MDKK)
- Online theft insurance (3 MDKK)

Cost for this package is 2972 DKK/p.a.

The coverage would need to be increased to be meaningful.

The Board decided: the issue needs further investigation. Steffen and Rune will find out about the terms and conditions of the insurance the Danish national society has and present this at the next meeting.

10. AEP's AZETS implementation status – Steffen

The status of implementation of Azets for the AEPs was presented. Two more programs are now on board.

Implemented: Ped Ane, Obst Ane, SSAI, CrEM, (POMM 2025)

Scheduled:, CTVA 2026

Undefined: Pain, ICU (dialog)

Digital invoicing is mandatory. Challenging to get all the needed information from all the candidates.

Invoicing once a year instead of per course. Saves money and work.

Work in progress on some terms and conditions concerning economic issues to be included in the candidates' contracts.

The goal of including all SSAI activity in Azets by the end of 2026 is still possible. Total costs of Azets about DKK 300.000 p.a.
AEP costs now is 1500 DKK/participant/year, this will increase to 2000 DKK in 2026.

11. Update from the Webmaster – Mads (given on Friday)

- Technical changes to the site is now more or less completed, so now “just” maintenance.
- The webpage design and thoughts behind it was presented.
- Hosting of the congress webpage. Agreement to go with ssai2026.is this time, but most of the content will be replicated on ssai.info.
- Event calendar empty. Taken down. Katrin and Gunnar will communicate with Mads about which events to try to promote in the future, and the Board find that links to other websites with overview of events would be useful.
- The CTVA program asks to publish names of candidates that has completed the program. The Board finds that this would be to problematic due to GDPR. However, accumulated statistics are welcome.

12. The MAGIC app. update – budget 2025/use in 2024 – Steffen / Morten

Postponed again to next meeting.

13. Updates from the National Societies

Denmark – Rune

Upcoming health reform reversing some of the centralisation that has been the trend over the last years. Risk to lose some of the specialisation that is beneficial for some patient groups (e.g. neonatal anaesthesia).

Heated debate with the emergency medicine community. They want to implement an European curriculum conflicting with what is seen as tasks for anaesthetists in the Nordic countries (e.g. advanced airway management).

Finland – Anne

Health reform ongoing. Some health institutions (15) are being put under administration by the ministry of finance.

Waiting lists still too long, though shorter over the last 6 months.

Serious shortage of anaesthetists in the Helsinki region.

Nice improvement in availability of anaesthesia nurses.

Iceland – Katrin

Annual scientific meeting in April together with other specialities and nurses. The topic was obesity.

Worries regarding BT/LIS – young Islandic doctors seeking positions in

Sweden and Norway do not get approval for BT/LIS (training positions). 10-15 junior doctors now in a "waiting position".

The Board Decided: to formulate a letter/statement signed by the SSAI President and all the National Presidents addressing the issue.

To the Nordic Council and all Nordic health ministers.

Gunnar Thorarensen will make a draft.

Working hours reduced to 36 hours/week. This does not go well together with a shortage of anaesthetists.

The main focus of the society now is of course the SSAI 2026 Congress.

Norway – Randi

Ongoing work on a Strategy document

- focus on competence
- hope to finalize this fall

Ongoing work also on a guideline on obstetric anaesthesia. Other chapters to follow (hopefully).

Yearly meeting this fall with theme "Trouble in Trondheim"

Sweden – Amanda

SFAI – focus areas

- highlighting the speciality
- started a newsletter to members (was asked for)
- "digital museum"
- Guidelines

The EU legislation on working hours still hot topic
Choosing wisely widely implemented

Challenges

- time and funding to participate in SFAI work
- fewer residents

SSAI 2028, Gotheburg, 5.-7. September 2028

14. The SSAI 2026 congress – Martin / Katrin

"Finding the balance"

Local team. Actually, almost all of the colleagues in the country..., which are about 60 in total.

Logistics. Athygli conferences. Very experienced, lean, and responsive.

Interactions with SSAI AEP and subcommittees. Contact since Oct 2024.

Take responsibility for many sessions, several in place already. Seeking to avoid AEPs having course days during the congress. Wants to pool together free paper presentations from the different AEPs.

Organization. Harpa. Large hall (520), 3 large halls can be combined to 700, 2 medium (60-70), 1 small (30), meeting rooms, large exhibition area and open area. Aiming for 1100, budget 900 participants.

3 simultaneous sessions.

Pre-congress activities. TAASK course. AEP programs. Meetings.

Planned sessions. Room for 37 sessions. Many are filled.

Faculty. – good ! (see presentation)

Ideas from ACTA board: Laerdal and ACTA lecture. Ideas on candidates are welcome.

Workshops. Pacemakers, work-life-balance etc etc

Exhibition. Contacts from March 2025. Conference Vetting initiated. Offering multiple layers of sponsorship (hoping for 140k EUR).

Social Program. Opening in Reykjavik Art museum. Congress party at Petersen suite. Hot topics in the hot tube.

Post-congress activities. Athygli can help, but no advertising.

Marketing. Oulu. Euroanaesthesia. Social media. National society meetings.

Budget. Based on 900 participants.

15. Visit to Harpa – Martin / Katrin

The Board was taken on a tour of the venue, which was very nice and suitable.

Friday 13th, 09:00

16. Report from the first National Chairs Meeting – Katrin reported (presentation uploaded to BC) All countries except Sweeden were present.

The problems for Icelandic young doctors to get training positions in Sweden and Norway was discussed. The Board decided yesterday on writing a joint statement addressing this (Item 13).

The debate with the emergency medicine community in Denmark was a topic.

Research. The Presidents will discuss in their societies if someone responsible for research should be appointed in each National Society. The Board interpret this as a signal that the RC members are found to be too little visible to the National Societies. The RC needs to be involved in this discussion.

The Congress – do we need it? Yes. It is found to have importance on many levels.

The group found the meeting and the format very useful and would like to bring it forward.

The Board decided to continue to facilitate this meeting for the National Presidents the day before the Board meeting in the future.

17. Board member roles – Structure of the board meeting

The Board decided in the January meeting

- The Board decided to keep two yearly meetings but make the longer winter-meeting the compulsory physical meeting and the summer meeting the hybrid. All Board members are however strongly encouraged to be physically present during both.

- Additional online meetings for the Board to make pressing decisions can be scheduled. Short online meetings can also be called to present to the Board background for upcoming important decisions.

- The officers could meet online 4 weeks prior to the meetings to go through the agenda.

The officers discussed the agenda on BC 4 weeks prior to the meeting

- The agenda should be found on Basecamp (BC) 2 weeks prior to the meeting. Planned decisions to be made, should be highlighted.

It was published in time

- Relevant material for a discussion should be presented online at the latest 1 week prior to the meeting.

To some extent this was done

- The committees should also upload material 1 week before the meeting, so that the Board in the meeting can focus more on discussions and feedback.

This was to a lesser degree executed. The SG can send reminders 2 weeks in advance

- All Board members are expected to meet well prepared.

- The minutes from the last meeting is to be recalled in the meeting.

Done and found useful

Forum for the national presidents

- The Board decided to facilitate a meeting for the national chairs at the same time as the Officers meeting (the afternoon before the Board meeting).

Found very useful. Will be continued.

Yearly report

- The President prepares a report for the General Assembly every 2nd year. This is not changed, but the Communication Officer (when in office), should make a yearly newsletter.

Introduction/information for new members to the Board

Gunnar will start to compile this for it to be available on BC.

Still on the To Do - list

18. Any other business – Kári

Application from the Estonian Society to become a member of SSAI

SSAI received this request 10.June 2025 from Veronika Reinhard.

This has come up before, in 2011. It was decided to have sessions from the Baltic states in the Congresses. This did not happen. It is now many years later, so we should see this request as fresh.

Adding another National Society will imply major changes to our bylaws. We need to take this step by step and start with asking for all relevant information from the Estonians to see if this will fit. The Board is positive to start such a process.

The Board decided to invite a representative of the Estonian Society to our next meeting in Oslo. Before that we will ask for written answers to necessary questions. Kári and Timo will take responsibility for the communication.

CEPRA support. An application for funding was received on June 9th.

Application for funding should go through one of our committees, in this case to the RC. This will be communicated to CEPRA.

The Board expects to receive a revised application, and if so will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

19. Closing of meeting – Kári

Thanks to Katrin, Martin and Kári for organising a great meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15

Minutes by Gunnar