

Minutes

SSAI Board meeting

Home Gabelshus Hotel, Oslo, 29th- 30th January 2026

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),
Christian Wamberg	(Dir Acta Foundation; DEN),
Sören Pischke	(past Dir Acta Foundation; NOR),
Rune Sort	(president DASAIM; DEN),
Anders Kehlet Nørskov	(representative DASAIM, DEN), Thursday
Katrin Thormar	(president Icelandic society; ISL)
Timo Kaakinen	(president SAY; FIN),
Johanna Hästbacka	(representative, vice-president SAY; FIN)
Svein Arne Monsen	(president NAF; NOR), Thursday
Kristian Strand	(representative NAF; NOR),
Karin Löwhagen	(president SFAI; SWE),
Amanda Irgum Liljeström	(representative SFAI; SWE),
Martin Ingi Sigurðsson	(congress president SSAI2026, CPC)
Ebbe Hvidberg Bessmann	(chair EdCom; DEN),
Lauri Husa	(chair NYA;FIN),

Excused:

Gunnar Thorarensen	(representative Icelandic society, ISL),
Mads Astvad	(webmaster; DEN),

Thursday 29th, 09:00

1. Opening of the meeting

Kári opened the meeting and greeted the participants welcome. The board members presented themselves.

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

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

3. Approval of the meeting agenda.

The agenda was approved.

4. Upcoming meetings

Reykjavik, Iceland

- Board Summer meeting, 9th June 2026 at 15:00
- Acta Foundation Board and National Chairs Meeting, 9th June 2026, at 13:00. Officers meeting online in the weeks before.
- 38th SSAI Conference 10th – 12th June 2026
- SSAI General Assembly 11th June 2026 at 16:30

Copenhagen, Denmark

- Board Winter Meeting, 28th-29th January 2027,
- National Chairs meeting, Officers meeting, and Acta Foundation Board on 27th January 2027, after lunch.

5. Updates from the SSAI committees

Clinical practice committee – Martin
(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

Morten stepped down from the committee in August 2025.
Kasper Højgaard Thybo is the new Danish member.

New chair is Maija-Liisa Kalliomaki, FIN.

Concerning guidelines work, the focus is shifting from development to indorsement.

The CPC are looking into the use of the MagicApp in the Nordic countries. The utilisation of the App seems to be quite low, and the CPC will investigate this further in order to advise the Board on the decision next year on the involvement with MagicApp.

Educational committee – Ebbe
(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

Cecilia has stepped down as chair, but is still on the committee.
Ebbe Hvidberg Bessmann is new chair.

Joint meetings with AEP chairs, two online and one physical in 2025.

Budget 2026. Joint meeting DKK 70.000. Congress participation DKK 48.000. Lunch meeting at the congress for committee members and all AEPs, DKK 12.000.

Total DKK 130.000. The Budget was approved.

AEPs are thriving without recruitment issues. Looking at developing a formal policy on dropouts.

Focus for 2026.

- Sessions at the congress.
- Continued support for the AEPs.
- Improvement in promotion of SSAI.
- Improved leadership training across all AEPs.
- Transition to Azets.
- Admin support (again).
- CPD framework: establishing a working group led by Ebbe together with Doris Østergaard. Plans for 2026 presented (see presentation). Funding from Acta Foundation is applied for.

Nordic Young Anaesthesiologists – Lauri
(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

Two representatives from each country. Stab group last year.
5 online and one 2-day physical meeting in Copenhagen.
Grant recipients for 2026 have been chosen, 6 grants planned if funded, there were 23 applicants. 6 grants planned also for 2027.
SSAI congress session with Dr Valerie Young (imposter syndrome).

New Chair summer 2026: Kathrine Berggrav NOR

Budget: DKK 170.740 (SSAI congress + physical meeting in Reykjavik) + DKK 60.000 for grants. **Total DKK 230.740. The Budget was approved.**

Research committee – Michael
(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

Research Methods courses, 2 planned for 2026 (May and November). This will be courses 11 and 12 since the start.

Implementation science is still a possible topic, but will need some preparation.

Current post doc grant (2026-27) went to Iben Strøm Darfelt, Denmark. The topic is "End of life care in ICU".

Budget

CRIC will be supported with DKK 100.000 for 2026. CRIC will however need to reapply every year from next year.

DKK 150.000 for Research methods courses. **Total DKK 250.000. The budget was approved.**

The national chairs suggest that the members of the RC should have ambition to be “ambassadors” for research collaboration. The Board support that the RC should have this role. The national societies will consider who will best represent their country in the RC with this aim of focus on Nordic research collaboration.

6. Update from the Journal – Michael
(presentation uploaded on Basecamp)

The grants from Acta to the national societies have been DKK 10.000 for years, and has traditionally been used for abstract prices. **The grants will be increased to DKK 20.000 from 2026**, and Acta hope they can be used to attract speakers to an SSAI/Acta session during the national meetings. The wish is to make the Journal more visible on the national level.

The Journal is going well. The targets are being met. There is a huge number of submissions from China, but very many of these are not publishable. The Journal continues to focus on helping Nordic research groups to improve their submissions.

The struggle to recruit, especially female, members to the editorial board is ongoing.

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

The history, purpose, and organisation of the foundation was presented. How does Acta support the National Societies?
- Acta lectures at national meetings (DKK 20.000)
- Via the Congress

Major events 2025. Transition to new Director. Post Doc grant handed out (Iben Strøm Darfelt, DEN)

Financial status was presented, and an overview of grants presented was described. Grant budget for 2026 increased to DKK 1.285.000. Unchanged investment strategy (50:50 bonds and shares). AAS promotion – a text was published in the Norwegian anaesthesia journal (NAF forum). This text can be adapted for use in the other countries.

Election of Board members:

EiC and SSAI Secretary General are members of the board. National members must be elected every 2. Year.

The following were elected:

Rune Sort DEN
Johanna Hästbacke FIN
Kári Hreinsson ISL – also elected chair
Randi Mohus NOR
Karin Lövhagen SWE

8. Report from the treasurer – Steffen

Auditing 2024/25

Ongoing by Deloitte. Report ready before next meeting.
Numbers delivered now are preliminary.

Financial Status 2024/25

Revenue 1.239TDKK. Expenses 1.543TDKK.
Profit before financial income -528TDKK
Financial income 1.282TDKK
Net profit 855TDKK

Bank account and the AEPs financial status were presented.
Investment status 14.6 MDKK. Large plus this year. In 2022 there was a big loss, so it varies.

Budget 2026

Before investments: -591 TDKK

Finding the Balance

The history of flow of funds within and between SSAI and Acta was presented. For SSAI it looks like there will be a yearly neg balance about -500TDKK before financial income. This is a bit risky.

How can controllable income be increased?

AEP admin fee, already on DKK 2000. This is not advisable to increase now.
Membership fee DKK 275 (unchanged since 2018).

Proposed increase in membership fee:

2027: 300 DKK

2028: 325 DKK

so, + 50 DKK/member, approx. 200 TDKK/year

The Board decided to present this to the GA in June for decision.

The investment policy decided on at the last meeting is being implemented.

9. AEP's AZETS implementation and investment strategies – Steffen

Of the AEPs, four is on board. CTVA is onboarding now. ICU planned for 2027. Pain is unresolved.

To come. Azets will do bookkeeping of investments, and do tax reporting on fees and compensation.

Bookkeeping costs +/- 300TDKK

10. Update from the Webmaster

The Board decided to delete the SSAI X-account

11. Updates from the National Societies

SSAI Chairs´ meeting 28.1 – Rune

(Minutes uploaded to BC)

Agenda

Follow-up on previous issues

- Iceland – help with recruitment of specialists
- Emergency medicine – collaborations and concerns

Nordic research collaboration

Organizational structure and working practices in the societies

Denmark – Rune

National health reform ongoing

Transfer from national authorities to regional

Writing up new specialty descriptions

Difficult dialogue with Emergency medicine

Finland – Timo

Society celebrates 75 years next year

Annual meetings are since 1990 held in tight cooperation with the surgeons, more than in the other countries.

Problems with cuts in economical support for training courses.

Problem recruiting candidates to the SSAI AEPs.

There has been a change over a few years, going from major difficulties recruiting aesthetic nurses, to now seeing a lot of applicants for positions.

Iceland - Katrin

Speciality training. Sweeden virtually closed for Icelanders. Some improvement seen with Norway.

Some improvements also seen in the availability of anaesthesiologists.

The Congress takes (almost) all focus.

Norway – Svein Arne

The society has several committees that are important.

Anne Berit Guttormsen has stepped down as editor of NAF forum after 16

years, and a new editorial group has been established around the new editor Rolf Arne Iversen.

Much effort is going into work with a new strategy document "Young"-NAF now established.

Sweden – Karin

Focus areas

- Aging population
- Lifelong learning and CPD
- Choosing wisely

SFAI meeting for leaders held yearly

The Swedish interpretation of EU work hour regulations. Still a major headache.

Homepage now includes very popular links to guidelines.

SFAI meeting Sept 23-25, in Stockholm. Welcome !

Welcome also to **SSAI 2028, Sept 5-7.2028. Congress President to be elected in March.**

12. Meeting with the Estonian Society of Anaesthesiology

- Veronika Reinhard / Hans Erik Ehrlich.

Motivation presented.

The Estonian Society recognise they have more and more interaction with SSAI. Some Estonians are partaking in SSAI AEPs, and Estonia is a part of Scandiatransplant. The collaboration with Finland is obvious. Short distance, similar language. Some Estonian anaesthesiologists work in Finland.

The collaboration between the Baltic countries has decreased over the last decades. This has happened in parallel with the fact that the possibility for participation on European congresses etc has opened up for Estonians. The affiliations with the European societies are quite widespread.

Society main focus areas.

Now. Arranging small meetings. Handing out grants for taking part in congresses etc. Evaluating the hospitals.

Future. Create better educational and scientific opportunities.

Establish more standardised protocols and guidelines for practice.

Main advantages of an SSAI membership

Collaboration. Network.

Access to the AEPs.

Research collaboration.

There was a conversation between the Estonian representatives and the SSAI Board, and here are some of the topics touched upon.

Specialist training in Estonia.

Tartu University is responsible. They decide how many to train. Entering exam held to choose the decided number of candidates.

First year in Tartu UH. From second year spread out to other hospitals.

Defined length of employment defined for the different subspecialities. Total of 5 year. Feedback after every subspeciality. Midterm and Final exam.

Growing expectation of also completing the European Exams.

Plan to make the training more competency based. The society has an advisory role. E.g. how many new anaesthesiologists are needed.

Most anaesthesiologists are members of the Society.

How would the membership fee impact the Society?

It is expected that members would accept an increased fee to be a part of the SSAI.

The Society have no permanent committees, but task groups are established when needed. Yearly 3-day meeting incl. GA. (scientific and social event).

Set up in OR. Anaesthetic nurses present, but less autonomous than in Nordic countries. They are either being trained four months in anaesthesia, or they can do a 2-years master with anaesthesia, ICU and emergency training.

Friday 13th, 09:00

13. The process of the application of the Estonian Society incl. changes of the SSAI articles and preparation for the GA in Reykjavik.

The request from the Estonian society is a recognition of the SSAI.

The Board is however not ready to start a process of changing the Articles to include the Estonian society as a full member. This would have major implications on financial issues, dynamics of the Board, and might turn out to be a legally difficult process. There is no mention of a procedure for this in the Articles, and one might have to go via a Dissolution of SSAI (§21), and then rebuild it again in order to include a new national society.

Before coming with an offer to the Estonian society, the SSAI Board needs to formulate a plan and vision for future expansion (if any).

The Board decided to work towards offering the Estonian society Associate Membership in the SSAI.

Such a membership is described in the Articles §6. This would be an Associate Membership for the Society, and not just for individuals, so some sort of agreement with the Estonian society on renewal and termination should be in place from start.

As of now, the Board suggests conditions along the following lines:

- The membership fee will be the same as for full members.
- The SSAI Board will certify that members of the Estonian society will be entitled to apply for SSAI grants and participation in the SSAI AEPs.
- The Estonian members will have the same fee to SSAI congresses as full members.
- Included is also the subscription to the journal ACTA (§6).

Plan:

Kári and Rune will draft a document on how the SSAI sees the future when it comes to including other societies as associate members. We need to formulate some clear thoughts on if we want expansion, and if so, how. Why would we say yes to one society and no to another (geography, size ?)

EdCom (Ebbe) will approach the AEP chairs on the topic of offering a opening in their programs for Estonian candidates.

The SSAI President will present this decision to the Estonian society and ask for feed-back on this sketch. We do not open for an application just yet.

14. The SSAI 2026 congress – Martin
(presentation uploaded on basecamp)

“Finding the balance”

The local team is very compact! Functioning very well, as does the event bureau (Athygli).

Pre congress program.

4 AEP programs finishing courses leading to the congress

TAASK courses planned.

Final program is ready

39 sessions. 14 workshops, some sponsored activity. Free paper presentations (oral presentations, no posters).

Highlights.

Laerdal lecture – Helen Higham (The Pivotal Role of Anaesthesia in Patient Safety).

ACTA lecture – Doris Østergaard (The future of simulation teaching in anaesthesia and critical care)

Abstracts: final schedule April 1st

Sponsors: 1 Gold, 6 bronze. Goal of 140kEUR, now 81 kEUR.

Registrations so far 225 (goal 1000).

The Budget was presented and approved by the Board.

15. Election of Board members and chair for the Acta Foundation Board – Søren / Christian

Done yesterday, see agenda point 7.

16. Report from the election committee – Gunnar
(presentation uploaded to BC)

The election committee nominates dr Anne Brynolf to be a candidate to run for secretary general position in SSAI board in 2026 election.
No other candidates were available

Sincerely,
Janne Liisanantti

The Board also discussed the possibility to have a candidate ready for Communication Officer before the GA. If the Article changes are ratified by the 2026 GA, a Communication Officer could be elected this year, not having to wait another two years.

The Board decided to search for a candidate to Communication Officer and report to the Secretary before April 1st. If a good candidate is found, she/he will be launched for the post at GA if Article changes are approved.

17. Any other business – Gunnar

None

18. Closing of meeting – Gunnar

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10
Minutes by Gunnar