

Report on Clinical Audiology Working Group Activities to the EFAS Board

The activities of the Clinical Audiology Working Group (WG) are focused on enhancing patient care, streamlining clinical practices, and fostering collaborative research within the European Federation of Audiology Societies (EFAS) members. The primary goal regarding standards is identifying, discussing, and standardizing protocols for hearing assessments, hearing aid fittings, cochlear implants, and vestibular function testing.

To that aim, an additional WG member (Sebastian Cosma, Iasi, Romania) has joined the group based on the initiative meeting in Vienna in May, 2025. Three further meetings have taken place, where the WG activities have been discussed and promoted: The CORLAS meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, in August, 2025, the European Balkan Implant Conference in Banja Luka, BiH, in October 2025, and an additional meeting with Lukas Varga from Bratislava, Slovakia was organized in December 2025, to plan for the optimal platform of discussing audiologic standards' harmonization in the next year.

The following 7-month plan builds directly on the outcomes of the initial meeting and the three following meetings during the year 2025, focusing on establishing minimal practices for clinical audiology centered on diagnostics and outcome management.

10-Month Activity Plan for Creating Unified European Standards in Audiology Diagnostics

Phase 1: Data Collection and Standardization Proposal

1 (May/June 2025)	Administrative Setup & Foundation	Formalized Funding: Ensured that EFAS funding grant was successfully channeled through the designated non-profit organization, the Croatian Society for Cochlear Implantation (Hrvatsko društvo za kohlearnu implantaciju).
2 (March 2026)	Distribution and Data Submission	Finalize the Short List: Discuss, define and finalize the "short list of conditions, audiological diseases and diagnostic entities" that will serve as the initial focus for setting minimal practices during three initial meetings. Distribute Practice Survey: Distribute the finalized short list to all WG members (including excused members) in the form of a table to collect their current practices.
		Identify Resources: Encourage members to use and reference all existing, usable protocols and algorithms, specifically mentioning the BIAP standards and the Barany Society standards, that were specifically discussed. Members should also lean on established external resources, such as the guidelines published by the American Academy of Audiology.

3 (April/May 2026)	Practice Review and Consolidation	<p>Collect Submissions: Ensure all WG members submit their current practice tables detailing diagnostic procedures for the focus conditions.</p> <p>Initial Analysis: Begin compiling and analyzing the collected data to identify common elements and significant variations in current diagnostic practices across EFAS member states.</p>
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Phase 2: Analysis, Drafting, and Preparation

Step	Activity Focus	Key Tasks and Deliverables
4 (August)	Drafting Minimal Standards	<p>Draft Preliminary Guidelines: Based on the data analysis, draft preliminary recommendations for minimal practices for clinical audiology centered on diagnostics. This is aimed at creating a platform of commonly shared practice essentials.</p> <p>Structure Deliverable Outline: Outline the framework for the eventual White Paper or Position Statement concerning the minimal and optimal standards for the most common processes in clinical audiology.</p>
5 (September/October)	Online Meeting Preparation	<p>Internal Review: Circulate the draft minimal practice guidelines among the core WG members (including those with specific expertise in measurement standards) for critical feedback and input.</p> <p>Prepare Meeting Agenda: Finalize the materials, presentations, and discussion points for the upcoming online meeting.</p>

Phase 3: Consensus and Planning

Step	Activity Focus	Key Tasks and Deliverables
6 (November/December)	Online Working Group Meeting	<p>Conduct Online Meeting: Hold the scheduled online meeting of the WG. The focus will be achieving consensus on the preliminary draft of minimal standards for audiological diagnosis and outcome management.</p> <p>Review Scope and Aims: Use the meeting to evaluate the usefulness, purpose, and relevance of the WG agenda and confirm that the goal is to create a shared platform rather than enforce standards.</p>

7 (December)

**Post-Meeting
Documentation and
Future Planning**

Finalize Minimal Standards: Integrate feedback from the online meeting to produce a finalized draft of the minimal practices for diagnostics, familiar and available to all EFAS members.

Launch Collaborative Research Framework: Establish the foundational framework necessary for future multicenter research studies. **Uniform criteria** are required to compare and share standardized data, enabling improved research and education.

Plan Educational Modules: Begin providing ideas on continuous education and professional development opportunities for audiologists, based on the agreed-upon minimal diagnostic standards.

Disseminate Results: Research papers, conferences and round table discussions sponsored by EFAS.

This plan lays the groundwork for the Working Group's overall following 12-month timeline, which is designed to produce guidelines, launch research initiatives, and develop educational modules. The resulting minimal standards will form the consensus required to move toward the future direction goal of proposing **optimal practices for clinical audiology**.

Group Chair: Andro Košec, Croatia,

Members: Hung Thai Van, France, Liat Kishon Rabin, Israel, Stefan Stenfelt, Sweden, Piotr Skarzynski, Poland, Madalina Georgescu, Romania, Sebastian Cosma, Romania, Bojana Bukurov, Serbia, Lukas Varga, Slovakia, Gabrielle Saunders, UK, Nicola Quaranta, Italy, Dorothe Veraguth, Switzerland, Daphne Ari-Even Roth, Israel