Minutes of the 2026 EFAS General Assembly, Trondheim, Norway
Monday, May 18th, 2026, 15.00-18.00
Venue: 02-034, Helgasetr, Vangslundsgate 2, NTNU, 7030 Trondheim

1. *Welcome and Report from EFAS President* - (Vinay Swarnalatha Nagaraj)

Vinay as President and Ulrich as Secretary Genral welcome the attendees. Vinay gives an overview of the today's agenda. He presents the new EFAS board, the auditors and the search committee. He provides an overview oft he EFAS activities over the last year.

The number of EFAS member societes increased over the last years, in particular due to the engagement of Robert. EFAS has now five active working groups:

He describes some global activities of the EFAS president including a talk in India at the Indian speech and hearing association, suport of education programmes in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Europe.

Furthermore, he mentions the next conferences of the Confederation of European ORL-HNS (EFAS is a member society): 2028, September 16-20 in Berlin, Germany, and 2030 in Antalya, Turkey. It is planned to contribute to CEORL-HNS in 2028 with an audiological session (Andro Kosec and Uli Hoppe will organize).

The next ISA World conference will take place in Seoul, May 25-28.

EFAS support the EROC Global Forum in Dubai, 2027, January 14-16.

The next EFAS events are:

2027 June, 2-6: EFAS Congress in Odense, Denmark

2028: EFAS General Assembly in Cambridge, UK

2029: May, 16-19EFAS Congress in Lyon, France

2. *Attendance and Apologies* - (Ulrich Hoppe)

Attendance: Deborah Vickers (United Kingdom), Nina Božanić Urbančić (Slovenia), Maja Jovanovic (Montenegro), Ulrich Hoppe (Germany), Birger Kollmeier (Germany), Andro Košec (Croatia), Vinay Swarnalatha Nagaraj (Norway), Tobias Neher (Denmark), Piotr Skarzynski (Poland), Robert Trotić (Croatia), Christof Stieger (Switzerland), Jan Wouters (Belgium), Lea Župan (Slovenia), Kerttu Huttunen (Finland), Lars Gunnar Rosvoldaunet (Norway), Rodolfo Sardone (Italy)

Apologies: Kurt Stephan (Austria), Patrick Zorowka (Austria), Hannah Keppler

(Belgium) Sam Denys (Belgium), Hung Thai-Van (France), George Tavartkilaze (Russia), Joseph Kiss (Hungary), Domenico Cuda (Italy), Joseph Attias (Israel), Dorothe Veraguth (Switzerland), Saima Rajasangam (UK), Stefan Stenfelt (Sweden) Martin Kompis (Switzerland), Gaby Saunders (United Kingdom),

The secretary general explains that each country should provide three representatives. Some countries only have two representatives. Changes should be communicated tot he secretary general.

3. *Minutes GA Vienna, May 2025* - (Ulrich Hoppe)

Minutes were finalized by the former secretary general Stefan Stenfelt.
They can be reached via the EFAS website: https://efas.ws/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Minutes-EFAS-GA-2025.pdf

➔ There are no objections against the minutes.

4. *Report on EFAS 2025 Congress in Vienna* - (Vinay Swarnalatha Nagaraj)

Vinay presents the report on behalf oft he Vienna conference team. With about 400 participants the congress was a success. Georg Sprinzl and his team prepared a detailed report which can be found on the EFAS website: https://efas.ws/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/EFAS_2025_Final_Report.pdf

5. *Treasurer's report: Statement of auditors and voting on acceptance by GA* (Christof Stieger)

Christof Stieger presents the finances of EFAS
Report on the fiscal year from May 1st 2025 to April 30th 2026.
Income: **8,365 €** (3,000 € from the Vienna congress and EFAS fees (some are missing))
Expenses: **11,783.19 €** (Scholarships, project grant, website, meetings)
Balance at the end of the period: **73.515,78 €**
Both auditors (Piotr Skarzynski and Astrid van Wieringen) were satisfied with the report.
Piotr Skarzynski as present auditor recommends the acceptance of the report.

➔ The GA vote for discharge is given to the board.

6. *Report on progress: EFAS Conference 2027* (Tobias Neher) *and EFAS Conference 2029*

EFAS conference 2027: Tobias Neher from Denmark reports from the planning of the 2027 EFAS congress to be held in Odense. The dates for the congress are June 2-5, 2027, and the congress is to be held at the Odense university campus. The campus is nearby the city centre and easy to be reached by tram. No decision about registration fees has been made but the aim is to keep them as low as possible, especially for students. A variation of hotel rooms has been reserved from hostel to upper-scale hotels. The development of the scientific program is in the final phase and will be finalized until September 2026.

EFAS conference 2029: On behalf of Hung Thai-van Vinay explains the situation in Lyon. The EFAS congress will be jointly with the French Tinnitus Society meeting. The venue nearby the Rhone (Lyon congress center) is reserved for EFAS and the congress will be from 16-19 May 2029. He presents the organizing team.
Proposed fees are between 190 € (students) and 550 €/660€ (regular before/after deadline).

7. Short report on EFAS working groups:

Working Group on school age hearing screening:

Jan Wouters provides an update on the status of the working group. So far, two publications were achieved. The actual questions are about implementation oft he digit triplet test and the prevalence of hearing loss in the group of interest.
Interested colleagues may contact Sam Denys: sam.denys@kuleuven.be

Working Group on Clinical Audiology

Andro Kosec explains the ideas and the plans of the working group.

Working Group on Standardized Data Formats for Big Data in Audiology

Birger Kollmeier reported the work done in the WG Data formats for Big Data in Audiology. In particular, he explains the detailed work in defining meta-data.

Working Group on Auditory Processing Disorders

and

Working Group on Artificial Intelligence inAudiology

These reports were skipped due to lack of time.

8. *Audiology Program at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU, Trondheim) –*

Lars Gunnar Rosvoldaunet explains the education programme of Audiology in Norway. Lars Gunnar Rosvoldaunet is Assistant Professor at the Department of Neuromedicine and Movement Science at the NTNU in Norway.

The entire Norwegian Audiology training is located in Trondheim. Bachelor degree is comparable to Physotherapists etc. By now, there are 44 students in the programme, next year 60.

9. *Location and date for General Assembly and Research Seminar 2028*

Deborah explains the initial plans for the GA in Cambridge. Cambridge has a couple of notable alumni as Isaac Newton, Alan Turing, Ludwig Wittgenstein, …

There are 31 colleges in Cambridge which may serve as a location. A possible time range is in May/June 2028. College accomodation is cheaper than hotels and is probably available. She invites EFAS members for further suggestions.

10. Any other business

Jan Wouters recommends to modify the rules for elections in the bylaws. The actual bylaws allow for non-present members an email voting by sending an email to the Secretary General (at least 24 hours before the GA starts). Hence, a modification oft he bylaws would be necessary. The EFAS board will discuss this issue until the next board meetings.

11. Close of Meeting

Vinay Swarnalatha Nagaraj closes the meeting and invites all participants to the dinner.

Ulrich Hoppe (Secretary General)