

ELACTA General Assembly 2022

Date: 13th May 2022

Time: 5:00 – 7:30 pm (CET)

Place: Die Glocke, Bremen, Germany

Attendees: according to the entering list.

Attendees Board 2020-2022: Mihaela Nita (MNi), Christina Law-Mclean (CL), Joke Muyldermans (JM), Micaela Notarangelo (MNo), Dinka Baric (DB), Daiva Sniukaite (DS).

Minutes: Joke Muyldermans

MINUTES

1. Welcome.

- a. Verification of the quorum: 61 participants.

2. Operational matters

- a. Approval of the online General Assembly minutes from 2020. Minutes are approved.

3. Report of activities - Annual Reports

- a. Board meetings
 - First live board meeting in Iceland September 2021. Good to see how to organize a conference during Covid, being in contact with other member associations (Denmark, Finland, Iceland). A costly board meeting with a good outcome.
 - Second board meeting was in Brussels, meeting with Anne Nisset, representative of the French Belgium association, which stepped out of ELACTA several years ago. This meeting gave us insights into points where to work on, to get them back involved. To invest more in French speaking members will be a challenge for the future.
 - Monthly online meetings. It was difficult to work without in person meetings. We had one board colleague that resigned. Daiva Sniukaite replaced her, she was next on the voting list of candidates for the board.
- b. Online events and trainings
 - We had to replace the need of communicating with the member association and ELACTA members by organizing online events and trainings. The communication with members was normally happening during the conferences and events organized by ELACTA and member associations, but those were canceled due to Covid.

- CERPS international was challenging. It was meant to take place in France, but was organized online, 2 days of English presentations, 1 day of French presentations. As an outcome- more than 70 French speaking participants followed the event and became ELACTA members..
 - Shortly after the war in Ukraine started, we set up an online training course about Infant and Young Child Feeding during Emergencies. This was given by speakers from Safely Fed Canada and was offered for free as a live event and for one month online. We translated magazine protocols on the same topic in Ukrainian and Russian and shared them on the ELACTA website and social media.
 - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the ELACTA conference that was supposed to take place in Milano was canceled and held online with the collaboration of iLactation.
- c. Presidents' meetings (PM)
- First PM was about the recognition of the IBCLC profession, facilitated by Micaela Notarangelo, the chair of the taskgroup.
 - Two other PMs were about the Education of the IBCLC and the development of an European Curriculum.
- d. 7 people in the ELACTA board and also in 6 taskgroups (TG):
- TG Recognition & communication (chaired by Micaela Noterangelo): updated professional profile was sent to all member associations; creation of a discussion group on facebook on recognition was done.
 - TG Education, translation and research (chaired by Maria Enrica Bettinelli): focused on breastfeeding education in Europe in order to reach a common core curriculum in different languages; facilitated the IBCLC training through ELACTA educational grants (Croatia 2019, UK, 2020, Romania 2021).
 - TG Journal (chaired by Joke Muyldermans): see point 4 and 5.
 - TG Conference (chaired by Christina Law-McLean): conference in Bremen was difficult to organize due to uncertainty of COVID-19 evolution. A lot of things needed to be decided online without visiting the location. In such a difficult situation ELACTA is satisfied with the result.
 - TG Core Values (chaired by Nita Mihaela): discussions on inner documents, procedures, statutes.
 - TG Website and social media (chaired by Micaela Noterangelo&Joke Muyldermans). Website was kept up to date very often. ELACTA invested more in social media with some recurrent messages on different days. Instagram was started and being more active.
- e. Meeting with partners

- ELACTA representatives had been meeting with EISL regarding the renewal of the contract, discussion about the types of courses EISL provides, members of the board participated in several courses, the possibility to translate and provide the basic script to the member associations, the future collaboration about the IBCLC education in Europe.
- f. Participations at online events
 - ILCA conference
 - LCGB conference
- g. ELACTA membership situation
 - One new ELACTA member: Iceland
 - 2020: 2650 total number of members. 2022 mainly the same number.
 - We gave a free membership to the Ukrainian IBCLCs, as a support. They have the need for more information on infant and young child feeding during emergencies.
 - ELACTA had to cancel one speaker from Russia, as she was not able to come.
- h. Journal Lactation & Breastfeeding report of activities
 - In person meeting in July 2020 in Potsdam with ELACTA board representative
 - Dedicated ELACTA email addresses, use of google drive for ELACTA
 - Better communication and collaboration, help with the search for contributors.

4. ELACTA Journal – Lactation & Breastfeeding (chair of the editorial team Eva Bogensperger)

- a. For whom:
 - For ELACTA members: basic version 4 issues/year.
 - Access to the archive in all languages that are available.
 - For German speaking members: printed version, that is paid for. The English version is in a pdf.
 - Single subscribers: only for German speaking printed version available, access to 4 issues of L&B each year, also available only single-issue German + English.
- b. Service:
 - Printed German version - 40 pages. English version - 30 pages. The English version has less pages because the German version has more information from German member association.
 - Possibility to earn CERPS- up to 8 per year, by reading the magazine and answering the test online (German and English).
 - PDF packages on particular topics and single pdfs are available.

- Handouts in German and English. Translation to national languages is possible.

5. Financial report - Journal – Lactation & Breastfeeding:

- a. Income depends on the number of members and use of the e- shop. In 2021 there was a deficit of 4446,09 euro. This comes because of a delay of the invoices for 2020 that were paid in 2021.
- b. Advertisement is one part with a lesser income.
- c. Shop started 2,5 years ago and is running well.
- d. Expenses: a new expense was the quiz for earning the CERPS.
- e. Expected income in 2022- similar to last year, despite expenses for in person meetings. First one for 2022 was on 12th May. There will be travel costs again.
- f. How many people use the quiz: 100 English speaking persons and 1271 German speaking persons.

6. Financial report – ELACTA (Micaela Noterangelo)

- a. Complex situations – ELACTA's accountant died last year.
- b. Financial statements of 2020 and 2021 are on the website.
- c. We had a good cash reserve from the previous board, which is good for being able to do projects. It is good practice to have 1 or 2 years of reserve. We are almost at two and so solid.
- d. In 2020 the ELACTA conference in Milano was canceled. This situation was financially difficult. ELACTA tried to limit the expenses.
- e. Because there was almost no traveling during the past two years, this helped.
- f. Main ELACTA expenses
 - Statutory activities like educational opportunities (conference, grants,etc), journal and activities to create a European community of IBCLCs to develop the profession.
 - Necessary expenses: board meetings, travel expenses.
- g. Financial challenges
 - Increased travel costs – need to travel for board meetings
 - Translations for the journal
 - Offer high quality lactation education at affordable prices for members.
 - The budget for the future must take these points into account.

Thank you to the board for doing this difficult work, especially during this Covid times.

EISL is an important income for ELACTA, thank you for that.

7. Financial report – Auditors

- a. Very impressed by the report. Every 2 years the quality is improving.
- b. No worries found. Only a free remark.

- Make it clear how much EISL reports to ELACTA. Easy to see where the money comes from.
- Limit the number of bank accounts, maybe second for reserve.
- Financial situation is healthy.

8. Activity and Financial report - The members of the GA approved the Report of the Board of Directors for the term 2020-2022 .

9. Discharge of the board. The members of the GA discharged the Board for the term 2020-2022.

10. Voting for the New ELACTA Auditors

- a. We have three free positions, to keep the auditors team an uneven number. In the statutes we need 2.
- b. We received 4 applicants.
 - Mirjam Pot
 - Christine Maier
 - Ulla Junghänel
 - Chiara Toti

It was considered an incompatibility for a former board member, former treasurer to be an auditor for ELACTA.

The auditors of ELACTA for the term 2022-2024 are: Christine Maier, Ulla Junghänel, Chiara Toti.

11. Elections for the ELACTA Board of Directors

- a. We have 7 positions in the Board of Directors. Five members of the current Board agreed to continue their work. This is good for continuity. Two positions are free.
- b. We have two candidates. They presented themselves to GA (information is on the website)
 - Livia Bratu
 - Anne Christine Manawa Nougho
- c. Questions/discussions:
 - In 2020, 7 board members were elected. Alenka Benedik stepped out and Daiva Sniukaite came in as the coopted Board member. She needs to be approved retrospectively.
 - Question to the GA- Do you agree to vote by raising hands to approve that the Board members who stay, can stay? This is a good sign as European association.
- d. Voting for current members of the Board of Directors to continue two extra years

- Suggested that Mihaela Nita, Micaela Notarangelo, Joke Muyldermans, Dinka Baric, Daiva Sniukaite continue working in the ELACTA Board of Directors for the term 2022-2024.
 - **Voting – yes** majority, **no** - 0, **abstained**- 0
 - **Decided:** Mihaela Nita, Micaela Notarangelo, Joke Muyldermans, Dinka Baric, Daiva Sniukaite elected for the term 2022-2024 by the majority of the participants of GA;
- e. Voting for the new members of the Board of Directors, voting by raising hands.
- Voting for Livia Bratu to work as a member of the Board of Directors for the term 2022-2024
 - **Voting – yes** - majority, **no** - 0, **abstained** - 2
 - Voting for Anne Christine Manawa Nougho to work as a member of the Board of Directors for the term 2022-2024
 - **Voting – yes** - majority, **no** - 0, **abstained** - 2
 - **Decided:** Livia Bratu and Anne Christine Manawa Nougho elected for the term 2022-2024 by the majority of the participants of GA;
- f. The new ELACTA Board of Directors is elected, consisting of: Mihaela Nita, Micaela Notarangelo, Joke Muyldermans, Dinka Baric, Daiva Sniukaite, Livia Bratu, Anne Christine Manawa Nougho
- g. Thank you to Christina Law-McLean and Maria Enrica Bettinelli for their work the past two years.

12. Additional point to Agenda – BDL (Presented by Monika Janhke and Alexandra Glass)

- a. BDL is the biggest association in ELACTA. They decided that every member of BDL is a member of ELACTA, although not all members are IBCLCs. In BDL IBCLCs are active members, they have the most benefits of being members of ELACTA and BDL (CERPS, conferences, the right to vote). BDL wants to ask ELACTA to decrease the fee for non-IBCLC members of ELACTA. BDL asks the GA to allow BDL to pay the B-country membership fee for non IBCLC members from 2023.
- b. Discussion
- Some of the non-IBCLC are maybe planning to be an IBCLC, where the CERPS will also benefit them.
 - You can become a member of an organization of IBCLC, although you are not IBCLC. The Netherlands also has members who are not IBCLCs. Then ELACTA needs to give them the benefits. You know before you become a member, that you cannot vote. But all ELACTA members get a discount for the conference. So then as non-IBCLC you will get a discount as a

member, but still having the same discount for the conference. That is not fair.

- If we have 400 more members, and 10 people more visiting the conference, it will even bring more money.
- Those people who are not IBCLCs but still members of BDL, do this mostly to have access to the journal. They support the journal this way. But BDL doesn't have to have all these costs who come with this membership.
- The consequences could be that BDL decided to have the ELACTA membership not included in their membership (like some other countries do) This will give less members. So reducing the price will be a bigger gain for ELACTA then not.
- It is very elegant. You are not asking for not paying for these people but asking for a reduction. This is a nice solution.
- Germany is an A-country; you can't pay as a B country. Maybe we should just name it another way, so that it is clear.
- In Ireland we also have two different types of membership (IBCLC and non-IBCLC). We don't apply our non-IBCLC to ELACTA. If Germany would get this benefit, maybe we could also think about making them a member.
- This situation will give less expenses of 1000 euros for the BDL. But this will need to apply to other countries. Where ELACTA will maybe have less income. On the other hand, some other countries will maybe add more members.
- Two years ago this was already discussed, but due to online meeting, not possible to explain and understand the issue.
- I would have wanted to know this issue earlier, so that I can discuss it in my associations. I would want it to be a decision not only for BDL, but for all member associations.
- Formally we have to make the decision today for Germany, because they ask it. But for the future we need to discuss this also for the other members. These kind of decisions need to be written down.
- We need a proposal which is proper for all.
- We should vote for all members and today, because we already discussed this last GA.
- Where calculation made for the BDL members and ELACTA?
- ELACTA Board: Even if we have to decide this now, we can not have different Statutes for different member associations. This will bring a change for ELACTA in the future. Regarding the financial change, this can be around 1000 euros less for ELACTA from BDL. From all members, we don't know the impact.

- c. **Voting:** Do you agree for BDL (Germany) to pay less for the non-IBCLC (non-active) members (8,5 euros instead of 13 euros):
 - 35 votes in favor
 - 23 votes abstain.
 - 3 votes against
- d. **Decided:** Starting from 2023 BDL will pay 8,5 euros for their non-IBCLC members.
- e. For the other countries it will be discussed and decided in the next GA.

13. Membership fees

- a. Membership fees for the term 2022-2024 remain the same.

14. Call for the country for next ELACTA conference in 2024

- a. Countries that are willing to host the next ELACTA Conference 2024 presented their application:
 - Belgium
 - Romania

Voting by raising hands for the country for the ELACTA conference 2024

- Belgium – 34 votes
- Romania – 28 votes

Decided: The ELACTA Conference 2024 will take place in Belgium

- b. Countries that are willing to host the next ELACTA Conference 2026 presented their application:
 - Israel
 - Romania

Voting by raising hands for the country for the ELACTA conference 2024

- Israel – 8 votes
- Romania – 46 votes

Decided: The ELACTA Conference 2026 will take place in Romania.

15. General Assembly 2022 is closed.

Joke Muyldermans

Mihaela Nita

Minutes

Board Member, secretary

President