

1. Board Composition and Transition

Following the ELACTA Conference Liège 2024, several changes occurred within the Board.

Departures:

- Micaela Notarangelo (Treasurer)
- Joke Muyldermans (Assessor)
- Anne Manawa (Second Secretary)

New Board Members:

- Helen Borg (Secretary)
- Asta Vilpisauskiene (Secretary)
- Renata Vettorazzi (Treasurer)

Board roles were assigned to ensure continuity and smooth transition, while allowing flexibility for future adjustments in 2026.

The first months were challenging, but new colleagues adapted quickly:

- Asta Vilpisauskiene – Google administration, website
- Helen Borg – newsletters and online conference implementation.

Their contributions were essential in maintaining and expanding ELACTA's operational capacity.

2. Strategic Direction and Conference Planning

For the first time, a conference was planned four years in advance, allowing early promotion and structured planning.

A Conference Taskforce was established, chaired by Livia Bratu.

Key milestone:

- First Board Meeting: Bucharest, 8–10 November 2024

Main objective: initiate strategic and operational planning for the upcoming conference.

3. Major Events Organised

CERPs International 2025 – Lisbon (2–4 May)

Organised with the support of Andrea Hemmelmayr.

Hosted by the Portuguese association, represented by Raquel Chaves.

- Fully booked event
- Additional Board meeting before the event
- Logistical challenges due to power outage

Online Conference Launch:

- Recorded format
- Flexible access
- Reduced cost participation
- Participants could select specific lectures.

4. Representation at International Events

ELACTA Board participation included:

- LCGB Conference, Birmingham, UK (October 2024) - Helen Borg
- BDL Conference 35th Anniversary (March 2025) - Mihaela Nita
- Nordic Breastfeeding Conference, Uppsala (Sept 2025) - Daiva Sniukaite, Renata Vettorazzi
- Danish Annual Conference, Copenhagen (Oct 2025) - Livia Bratu
- VSLÖ Breastfeeding Congress (Oct 2025) - Andrea Hemmelmayr, Lisa Maria Koehle
- APCLC International Conference, Portugal (Nov 2025) - Asta Vilpisauskiene
- ALCI Education Sessions (2025 & 2026) - Helen Borg
- UIA Round Table Europe Brussels (Nov 2025), hosted by the Union of International Associations - Daiva Sniukaite, Asta Vilpisauskiene.

Key takeaway:

- Collaboration is essential not just to survive, but to thrive. The Round Table underscored the importance of peer learning, creative collaboration, and collective problem-solving in today's fast-changing world;
 - Updated participation and ELACTA data in the UIA register.
- national events that all the board members participated in promoting ELACTA and its activities and events

5. Board Meetings

Regular online meetings once per month.

Live meetings:

- Bucharest (Nov 2024)
- Lisbon (May 2025)
- Frankfurt (Nov 2025)

In order to efficiently use ELACTA's finances, the board tried to keep their work as much as possible online and to do the board meetings connected to other events like Cerps International.

6. Communication and Outreach

Press release issued regarding infant formula recalls, reinforcing the importance of breastfeeding and having access to professional lactation support.

7. Task Group Activities

Core Values Task Group (Daiva Sniukaite - chair; member - Asta Vilpisauskiene; volunteer - Lisa Maria Koehle (Austria))

This group is responsible for the compliance with the Statute in ELACTA's daily work, preparation of various agreements between ELACTA and partners, as well as the preparation of daily internal regulations and rules for the ELACTA board.

- Vilnius meeting September, 2025

Main objective:

One of the first and most important works for this half term was synchronization of the English and German versions of the amendment of the ELACTA statutes. It has been completed and posted on the website with involvement of the volunteer Lisa Maria Koehle from Austria.

- The TG has revised, examined and compiled a list of Articles of the ELACTA Statutes that direct the Board to establish Bylaws. Several documents have been approved by the board. Drafts of some documents are awaiting Board approval.

Website and Social Media Task Group (Asta Vilpisauskiene - chair, Daiva Sniukaite)

- ELACTA's core operations maintenance, including ongoing website and social media management—such as content creation, updates, coordination, and improvements—alongside effective communication, digital infrastructure oversight, and organizational support

- Significant progress in strengthening online presence and increasing engagement, which contributed to ELACTA social media profile growth and visibility

- 2025 FB statistics: 114.3K views, 2.8K interactions (116.2% increase), 922 link clicks (240.2% increase), 208 follows (108% increase; net follows 154, 116.9% increase)

Education, translation and research Task Group (Mihaela Nita- chair, Helen Borg, Asta Vilpisauskiene)

- Malta meeting Feb 2026

- Volunteer: Bianca Uzun (Austria), Chaimaa El Kard (Germany)

- Clinical Case Series, Connecting Experts Across Europe and Beyond project

Recognition Task Group (Dinka Baric - chair, Mihaela Nita, Renata Vettorazzi)

- Online meetings

- Volunteer: Elisa Steiner (Austria)

- Revised survey for national associations, registering ELACTA in the EU Transparency Register in 2026.

8. Journal Collaboration

- The year 2025 brought significant financial challenges in relation to the journal due to increased costs of production and posting.
- ELACTA proposed adjustments in the English version layout to reduce expenses. Increased financial contribution from German-speaking countries started in 2026.
- Actions taken: active participation in editorial meetings (Mihaela Nita), strengthening communication between the Board and the Editorial Team.
- Upon ELACTA request, the journal “Lactation & Breastfeeding” online version in pdf has been assigned the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)ISSN: 3061-0915 (Online) and included in the international ISSN portal.

9. Collaboration with National Associations and IBLCE

- Regular Presidents’ meetings ensured better communication and the consolidation of the group that is active and involved in the ELACTA’s governance.
- Discussions with IBLCE: official letters, live meetings with the board and the countries’ representatives to address the challenges we face with educational projects, certification/recertification, etc.

10. Conclusions

The 2024–2026 mandate has been marked by:

- Significant organisational transition
- Expansion of international visibility
- Development of new educational formats
- Strengthening of European advocacy efforts.

At the same time, it has been a period of intense workload and ongoing challenges.

All Board members contribute on a voluntary basis, often dedicating substantial time through frequent meetings and continuous coordination.

Despite these challenges, the Board has remained committed to:

- Advancing the IBCLC profession in Europe
- Supporting national associations
- Promoting breastfeeding and maternal-child health across Europe.