

**EUFAS GA Meeting
Alicante, March 10th, 2016**

Minutes

Participants:

Aubin, Bramness, Dom, Drummond, Gual, Mann, Bobes, Scafato, Wojnar, Vasconcelos (for Curto).

Excused: Wurst, Subata.

Agenda

1. Welcome / Adoption minutes Dundee (2015):

Minutes are accepted without changes.

2. Report of the President (T. Gual)

- ***Relationship with EAR.*** Formally confirmed that EAR is the official journal of EUFAS. An editorial was published on this topic authored by Karl Mann, Antoni Gual and the two editors of EAR, Wim van den Brink and Falk Kiefer. It is agreed that the editor of AER, Falk Kiefer will be (non-voting) member of the board of EUFAS and that some EUFAS board members will take part in the editorial board of EAR.
- ***The EAR award*** is established and Prof. K. Mann gets the first award. It is questioned how to market it better, towards the future. This in order to give an incentive to EUFAS member associations to propose future candidates to the nomination committee. It is decided that the following awards are to be delivered at the occasion of the following EUFAS meetings.
- ***Following EUFAS meetings.*** For the following EUFAS meetings it is decided to try to connect these to planned scientific events. For 2017 a EUFAS symposium will be prepared and submitted for the joint EMCDDA – Portuguese addiction society meeting in Lisbon, October 2017. For 2018, a symposium and a meeting will be prepared together with the EPA section on Addictive Behaviours, to be held within the 2018 EPA congress. To prepare the symposium submission/organisation a committee is created consisting of Bobes, Aubin, & Dom.
- ***Kassindra project:*** Antoni Gual reports on the progress of this submission. Topic is education and training, and ample information has been sent earlier to the EUFAS board. EUFAS coordinates work package 6 (+/- 100.000 E). In June 2016 feedback is expected. The odds of getting the actual grant are low, but it is already important that EUFAS is accepted as partner for submissions of European projects. This opens up possibilities for future applications.
- ***EMCDDA & Lisbon conference*** (with the Portuguese National Center of Addiction): Last year 2015 was a big event and success. The planning is to organise the “Addiction Europe Conference” every two years. Antoni Gual had contact with EMCDDA new director (Maria Moreira is the contact person) about collaboration for the 2017 meeting. Offer free meeting symposium & allowing submission of EUFAS symposium (has to go through review process) & opening to give award presentation.

- EUFAS website is updated but the challenge remains to keep it updated and relevant. Somebody is needed to coordinate this aspect. It is decided that Karl and Bramness take it up. Antoni Gual will connect to a staff member of his organisation who can help with the technical implementation.
- Discussion of how to increase visibility on the European Parliament context. References are made to action within the next European Alcohol Awareness week, co-join efforts with EBC etc.
- Finally, the problem on the difficulties within the Spanish Society and the editorial board of their journal is discussed briefly. The president, Antoni Gual, will send a letter to explain that, for EUFAS, it is on the one hand important that editorial work is both scientifically well founded and financially sound; on the other hand indicating that EUFAS regards these problems as internal affairs of member societies.

3. Report of the General Secretary (G. Dom);

The SG has nothing new to report. No changes of statutes have been suggested during the last year. Number of societies' members has remained stable. Denmark and Switzerland joined in and Sweden dropped out.

4. Report of the Treasurer (F. Wurst):

EUFAS continues to do fine also regarding financial aspects.

The balance generally is around 50.000€.

As of Sept 30 2014 the balance was 50.186,74 €, on December 31, 2014 48684,65 €, on September 30, 2015 49532,67 € and on February 23, 49.926,34 €.

Gains are mostly based on membership fees, whereas expenses mostly reflect travel supports for members to attend the meeting.

To recapitulate (see previous minutes), fees are based on the number of members of a respective society. Of note, the maximum fee is 300€ even if the number of members exceeds 300. Furthermore, societies that cannot afford to pay the membership fees may apply to the board.

Report of the internal auditors (C. Ribeiro, C. Farren):

The report and balance had been sent out to the external auditors Ribeiro and Farren and was approved by both.

5. Acceptance of the financial report:

The board/EC approves the financial report.

6. Activities of the task forces

➤ EUFAS surveys:

- Specific topics will be investigated through inquiries of the EUFAS member societies:
- J Bramness, F Wurst, report on drugs for AUD (J Bramness, F Wurst) J Bramness, F Wurst and colleagues will report at the EUFAS symposium on the web-based EUFAS survey on the use of different medications to reduce alcohol intake. The results from 21 countries, that have responded have been compiled and analysed. Jorgen reports on the first EUFAS survey; Good response rate. Complete report of this survey is included in presentation of Bramness in the EUFAS symposium (pdf will be on EUFAS website).

- **Liver transplantation issues:** F Wurst, M Wojnar, Dom, G. A pilot study in LTX patients employing besides questionnaires and self-reports also ethanol metabolites to assess alcohol use in this population has been finalised by F Wurst. Together with colleagues from the EUFAS, the project is intended to be broadened and EUFAS members are welcome to join with the aim of an EU project. In addition, Marcin Wojnar reports on ideas of organising a survey on this topic. Antoni Gual mentions the SALVE initiative of the European society on alcohol liver disease in Europe. He will provide the contact to Marcin.
- **Education:** Vossenbergh, Marcin, Wolter. No news.
- **Treatment guidelines**
 - A first step will consist of a survey on existing guidelines with suggestions for harmonisation. This should generate a publication in EAR. A close cooperation with EMCDDA is suggested. Aubin, Bramness, Drummond, Mann, Wurst, Wojnar. Dom joins the taskforce. A survey is planned on the use of guidelines.
- **Cannabis task force:** Eva Hoch, Wolter, Vossenbergh, Simon (EMCCDA) (suggested). Task force is active, with many thanks to Eva Hoch. Antoni Gual indicates that cannabis is an important strategic target for EUFAS, given the European (EU) interest for this topic.

Overall all task forces are requested to make report of their activities, and send these around to board members.

7. Election Executive Committee (T. Gual)

Proposal:

The present members of the EC stay in office for further two years.

Antoni Gual (President)
Henri-Jean Aubin, Villejuif (1. Vice-President)
Emanuele Scafato, Rome (2. Vice-President)
Geert Dom, Boeichout (Secretary General)
Friedrich Wurst, Salzburg (Treasurer)
Karl Mann, Mannheim (Past President)
Julio Bobes, Oviedo
Jørgen G. Bramness, Oslo
Colin Drummond, Irvine
Marcin Wojnar, Warsaw
Giuseppe C arra, Monza (opt).
Emilis Subata, Vilnius (opt.)
Falk Kiefer (Editor of European Addiction Research, non-voting)

Proposal is accepted by the GA.

8. European Research Award

As indicated above, we need to think about what is the best strategy to market it in order to get nominations for future award candidates from the different member associations.

9. Adaptation EUFAS statutes

Nomination Committee etc.

Some aspects of the statutes need to be addressed:

- Some inconsistencies. Geert Dom, as secretary, will look into it.

10. Proposal for the next EUFAS meeting

Proposal 24-26/10/2017 Lisbon conference is agreed upon for next GA meeting.

ESBRA/ISBRA Berlin 2016, September, we will organise a working meeting for those who are coming, to follow-up the work of the task forces.

11. General brain storming on future activities (all).

A general discussing on both reframing future goals of EUFAS and methods of implementation is held. After feedback following items are concluded and decided.

- a. The initial scope of EUFAS targets has been considered as too wide. We need to limit the scope and focus on topics that other societies do not cover. Core business of EUFAS is not research but dissemination and translation, and harmonisation, of addiction related topics. Indeed, in reality we have been focusing mostly on treatment issues. So we need to narrow focus down. Also a clear view is necessary so that we are not doing things other societies are doing. Focus on treatment should be put in the statutes.
- b. In this sense the name "Research Award" is somewhat misleading and would better be called "lifetime contribution to the field".
- c. Overall the need is felt that EUFAS should develop a longer-term (e.g. 3 year) strategic plan.
- d. A limited set of topics is withheld to focus on next period:
 - ✓ Specific topics smoking and mental health. JH Aubin, G. Dom, Bobes, a staff member of Gual, will further develop. Also Ann McNeil from UK, will be asked to join. J.H. Aubin will contact the European chapter of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) on this. Earlier they were contacted to become a member of EUFAS, but in response of money problems at that time they did not choose to become a member.
 - ✓ Target to reflect how treatment in Europe is implemented; mapping its gaps, quality, indicators, and inequalities aimed at providing information for (European) policy makers. Task force on guidelines fits in this focus area.
- e. To develop and work out these topics EUFAS needs to make use of its strengths:
 - ✓ Development of position papers that are supported by all member societies
 - ✓ Involving societies and reaching out to experts in the different fields, so that member societies have a sense of ownership in this kind of processes with EUFAS coordinating these efforts
 - ✓ Expand on the use of surveys throughout member societies.

12. Varia

- Target behavioral addictions in view of ICD 11 development. Last week positioning paper was endorsed by the DGPPN, stating that behavioural addiction needs to be placed within the addiction chapter of the ICD11. Therefore support is needed from psychiatric associations to influence the WHO-ICD working groups
- It is remarked that the Advisory board has not been contacted for the last 3 years. Needs to be checked whether current members are still available.

Boechout, March 23rd, 2016

Antoni Gual
President

Geert Dom
Secretary General