

## Minutes of the AAATE General Assembly 2023

**Time:** Thursday 31st of August 2023 at 17.00-18.30 CEST

**Place:** Centre de Colloques, Place du Front Populaire, 93322 Aubervilliers Cedex, Paris, France

**Online:** It was possible to follow the Assembly remotely: <https://zoom.us/j/9056550031>

### Agenda

1. **Welcome and opening**
2. **Minutes of the last General Assembly**
3. **Report from the treasurer and the auditors**
4. **Relief of the Board**
5. **AAATE activity report and highlights**
6. **Elections of the Board**
7. **Short Announcements of members**
8. **Any other business**
9. **Meeting closed**

### Minutes

#### 1. **Welcome and opening**

The President Georgios Kouroupetroglou opens the General Assembly and welcomes the 41 members present.

#### 2. **Minutes of last General Assembly**

The minutes of the last General Assembly are approved.

#### 3. **Report from the treasurer and the auditors**

The financial report representing 2022 is illustrated by the treasurer Silvio Marcello Pagliara and examined by the Assembly. The balance is following regulations, and it is reviewed by external independent auditors.

The report covers different years in order to better see the trends, as well as the state of art over 2023 at this moment of the year. The major fluctuations in income and expenditure are caused by the fact that income from projects is irregular and registered in the account in the year of reception, while expenditure might be incurred the years after. There is a conference income from ICCHP-AAATE 2022.

The financial situation according to the treasurer is healthy and sound.

The structure for the membership fees is explained. It is possible to renew membership for two years, against a discount. This is experienced to function well, as more than half of the members have grasped this opportunity.

The reports of the auditors Jan Engelen and Susanne Dirks, who confirm the soundness of the accountancy and the overall financial situation, are available and appreciated by the GA. The financial report is approved by the GA as well as the reports of the auditors.

#### **4. Relief of the Board**

The relief of the board for the financial management is approved.

#### **5. AAATE activity report 2022-2023**

The president has presented the activity report covering:

- Strategic development
- National contact Persons
- Project participation
- GAATO - UNICEF - WHO
- Communication & Publication affairs

The president started with highlighting the Vision of AAATE and the objectives:

- to intrinsically strengthen the association
- to improve the organisation's external and internal communication
- to increase the impact of the Association
- to activate resources

The President Elect Pedro Encarnação has presented the status regarding the National Contact Persons (NCP). AAATE now has NCPs in 33 countries; 8 new countries; 6 countries changed their NCP. Two NCP meeting have been organised; 1st NCPs meeting on June 12, 2023 - Collecting ideas and finding ways of collaboratively working with the AAATE board to advance AT in each country and enhance the association's impact;

and a 2nd NCPs meeting on August 30, 2023.

The General secretary Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf has presented AAATE's involvement in project activities:

### **Projects started in 2020**

- TRIPS (Increasing accessibility of public transport - concluded in January 2023)
- ENTELIS+ (Erasmus+ Project – completed January 2022)
- VisuAAL (COST Action, supporting PhD Students in video based AAL technologies)

### **Projects started in 2021**

- SEURO (transferability study person-centred technologies for integrated care)

### **Projects started in 2022**

- DIGI READY (Erasmus+ Project)
- Right to Connect Now (Erasmus+ Project)

Sabine Long has presented the Communication Channels & Main Publications

- AAATE website: <http://aaate.net/category/news/>
- X (Twitter) account: [https://twitter.com/AAATE\\_net](https://twitter.com/AAATE_net)
- LinkedIn AAATE Group and Page:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2094327> and  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-for-the-advancement-of-assistive-technology-in-europe-aaate/>
- e-mails to members
- Presentations at events
- Press releases
- Reports of events
- Quarterly Newsletters (*coming soon!*)
- Technology & Disability Journal
- Proceedings of AAATE Conferences

Gabriela Ricci, IOSPress has presented the journal Technology and Disability, IOSPress

The journal has received its first impact factor ever: of 0,5

The participants express their satisfaction with the work done and congratulate the board with the achievements.

## 6. Elections of the Board

The Election Package was distributed to the members upfront.

AAATE Nomination Committee: Luc De Witte, Renzo Andrich, Klaus Miesenberger.

Positions for election for the term 2024-2025, currently held by:

- President: Georgios Kouroupetroglou (GR)
- President Elect: Pedro Encarnação (P)
- Past President: Katerina Mavrou (CY)
- Treasurer: Silvio Marcello Pagliara (IT)
- Secretary: Tone Øderud (No)
- Project Officer: Dominique Archambault (FR)
- External Communication and Information: Siobhán Long (IE)

Candidates proposed by the board in office, following the election by-law:

- President: Pedro Encarnação (P)
- President Elect: Dominique Archambault (FR)
- Past President: Georgios Kouroupetroglou (GR)

Candidates for four board positions:

- Maurice Grinberg (BG) (new candidate)
- Tone Øderud (No) (re-candidate)
- Silvio Marcello Pagliara (re-candidate)
- Emma Smith (IE) new candidate)

Candidates for the three positions in the Nomination Committee.

- Renzo Andrich (IT) (re-candidate)
- Luc de Witte (NL) (re-candidate)
- Klaus Miesenberger (AT) (re-candidate)

Candidates for the two auditors:

- Susanne Dirks (DE) (re-candidate)
- Jan Engelen (BE) (re-candidate)

The Board was elected by acclamation.

The auditors were elected by acclamation.

The nomination committee was elected by acclamation.

**7. Short Announcements of members**

Announcement from Hannah Usatenko (NCP for Ukraine) about collecting funding for the translation of Steven von Tetzchner's book into Ukraine.

**8. Any other business**

No further issues were raised.

**9. Meeting closed**

The meeting was closed at 18.40 CEST