MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 23 November 2022

The General Assembly of the Association was held at the head office by videoconference on 23 November 2022.

The General Assembly is chaired by Sanjay BHAGANI, President. The meeting secretary responsible for recording the minutes is Esteban MARTÍNEZ.

The attendance list of the members present and represented at the General Assembly is attached to the minutes.

After having checked the proxies, the President opens the meeting at 17:00 CET.

**Agenda of the General Assembly**

1. Welcome from the President, approval of the agenda
2. President’s report
3. Nomination of Governing Board member for Europe-EAST
4. Financial Report: Approval of the accounts from 01/07/2021-30/06/2022 and the budget for the financial year 01/07/2022-30/06/2023
5. Looking ahead

1. **Welcome from the President, approval of the agenda**

The President welcomed the members and opened the General Assembly. The President detailed the agenda to the General Assembly.

After deliberation, in compliance with the attendance quorum and the majority of votes provided in the Articles of Association, the General Assembly approved the agenda.
2. President’s report
Sanjay BHAGANI reviewed this year’s EACS programmes and activities.

Education:
Sanjay Bhagani presented the YING 2022 Conference and monthly Journal Club, Management of HIV and Co-infections Online Course, the HIV Summer School that took place face-to-face after organising it online for the past two years and introduced the fellows from the Medical Exchange Programme (Career Development Fellowship and Short Clinical Exchange Programme. He also mentioned that EACS hosted a Short Clinical Exchange Programme Ukrainian Fellowship programme in support of their Ukrainian colleagues.

He thanked all faculty, organising committees, mentors, and the Governing Board members for their support in ensuring the success of the Education and Training Programme.

Standard of Care:
Sanjay Bhagani presented the Standard of Care programme. The Standard of Care and Co-infections in Europe meeting took place face-to-face in October 2022 in Brussels. He underlined that the major outcome of the meeting was the announcement that EACS had won a tender launched by ECDC on European standards of HIV care. This work will start in 2023 and will be over a 4-year period. The aim is, on one hand, to define standards of HIV care along the care continuum pathway and related quality statements and measurable and auditable outcomes in EU/EEA countries and, on the other hand, to develop a tool which can be used to audit the implementation of defined standards a national clinical and community level.

He added that EACS also won another tender launched by ECDC on Country support for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, STIs and viral hepatitis in EU/EEA countries. This programme aims to strengthen capacity/capability for Public Health policies and practice in response to standard formats for data in Infectious Diseases and to increase technical and scientific exchange among EU/EEA professionals working in these areas. There were three webinars and four workshops organised in 2023 in collaboration with CHIP (Centre of Excellence for Health, Immunity and Infections) and with the technical support of COBL (University of Copenhagen).

WAVE:
Sanjay Bhagani also presented the work the WAVE working group did in 2022, such as work on breastfeeding, Migrant women, HPV, and the organisation of WAVE in Ukraine online workshops which were very successful with over 100 attendees.

EACS Guidelines:
EACS updated the EACS Guidelines version 11 with a minor revision that was presented at HIV Glasgow 2022. The President mentioned that EACS encourages inclusive language and changed the term PLWH to people living with HIV or persons throughout the entire EACS Guidelines.
Ukraine:
The President touched on the work EACS did following the situation in Ukraine:
- EACS published a statement at the beginning of the war
- YING launched #awarehivUkraine initiative through the Erasmus University
- YING published in Lancet HIV their viewpoint on a unified European support framework to sustain the HIV cascade of care for people living with HIV including in displaced populations of war-struck Ukraine
- EACS published a statement and standardised protocol together with ECDC, WHO, CHIP, EATG, and ECEE.
- EACS supported an exchange programme for Ukrainian fellows.
- EACS is discussing with Ukraine Public Health to translate the EACS Guidelines into Ukrainian.

Mpx in Europe:
With the outbreak of Mpx in Europe, EACS published a statement and realised that this would become a particular issue among gay and bisexual men. EACS launched together with neat-ID a Mpx and HIV co-infection data dashboard. EACS is also organising regular informative webinars with ECDC on Mpx risk assessment and response.

EACS membership survey:
EACS launched a membership survey. The result was that the EACS members value most is the EACS Education and Training Programme and access to the membership database. They also responded that they liked mostly the conferences, meetings, access to new information and the EACS Guidelines.

The conclusion is that EACS will try to include as much as possible their members in the activities.

EACS partnerships:
EACS has built many partnerships over the years. In 2022, EACS has worked well with a wide number of partners through, for example joint sessions, publications of statements, and projects. EACS will continue to build their partnerships and forge new ones too.

EACS on social media:
EACS is now very active on social media through the different platforms: Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn with a focus on professional development.

19th European AIDS Conference, EACS 2023:
The next EACS Conference will take place in Warsaw, Poland from 18-21 October 2023.

Sanjay Bhagani stated EACS would continue to grow and respond in the face of global situations, remain steadfast in their mission. He concluded that engagement from the EACS membership is very important for this mission and encouraged the EACS members to have their friends and colleagues join EACS in its mission.
3. Nomination of Governing Board member for Europe-EAST

The President thanked Mrs Tetiana Kyrychenko who resigned from the Governing Board on 5 August 2022 for her commitment to the Association.

The General Assembly takes note of the resignation of Mrs Tetiana Kyrychenko.

The President introduces Mrs Marta VASYLYEV chosen among the EACS members of the region Europe-EAST.

After deliberation, in compliance with the attendance quorum and by a majority of votes provided for in the Association’s articles of association, the General Assembly decided to approve the election of the Mrs Marta VASYLYEV on the Governing Board for the remaining term of two years, until 1st January 2025.

The president then hands over to Milosz Parczewski, Treasurer, for the presentation of the annual accounts and the budget.

4. Financial Report: Approval of the accounts from 01/07/2021-30/06/2022 and the budget for the financial year 01/07/2022-30/06/2023

Milosz Parczewski, Treasurer, presented the financial report for the period from 01/07/2021 to 30/06/2022 and the budget for the period from 01/07/2022 to 30/06/2023.

The income from the 18th European AIDS Conference (EACS 2021) that was held in November 2021 in a hybrid format as higher than expected. The overall income generated was higher than expected thanks to the revenue from the conference. The expenditures were maintained and a little lower than budgeted.

After deliberation, in compliance with the attendance quorum and the majority of votes provided in the Articles of Association, the General Assembly approved the financial report for the period from 1/07/2021 to 30/06/2022 and the budget for the period from 01/07/2022 to 30/06/2023.

The President thanks the Treasurer and hands over to Esteban MARTÍNEZ, Vice President/President-elect.
5. Looking ahead
Esteban Martínez thanked Sanjay Bhagani for his work and time he dedicated during his mandate as President. He also thanked his colleagues on the Bureau and Governing Board, the EACS members, and Secretariat for their involvement in 2022. He said that EACS had a solid structure and that the achievements made so far had to be maintained, but that there was still room for growth. During his term as EACS President, he will strive to launch the EACS European Diploma in HIV Medicine examination that EACS has been developing over the past few years. He stated that the current and new activities will be his major objective during his mandate. He will also reinforce the three EACS pillars:

(i) EACS Guidelines with a major revision in 2023  
(ii) 18th European AIDS Conference, EACS 2023 that will be organised in Warsaw, Poland giving the opportunity to expand collaboration in Eastern-Central Europe.  
(iii) Standards of HIV care that will be further developed in collaboration with ECDC

He stated that he wished to encourage EACS members to contribute to the EACS activities by giving them more opportunities to participate in the different working groups. He added that he would sustain and further develop the current partnerships and new ones as well. He mentioned that he wished to increase the membership because he believed that colleagues would benefit from being part of EACS. He also said that he would give a special attention to the YING and WAVE working groups, as well as the YING initiative #AwareHIV launched #awarehivUkraine initiative which he found of particular importance. He said that he would be able to achieve this thanks to the support of the EACS members. He underlined that he was open to suggestions, comments, or any constructive criticism from the EACS members and that these could be submitted directly to him or through the EACS Secretariat. He concluded that he counted on each and everyone to work with him at making EACS grow.

Sanjay Bhagani thanked the EACS members for attending the General Assembly and said that he hoped to see everyone at the EACS 2023 Conference in Warsaw.

The general assembly mandates Jordens bvba (NE : 0417.478.003), Mr. Serge Solau and/or Mrs. Marion de Crombrugghe to proceed with the different formalities related to these decisions, including the signature of the publication documents in the Belgian Official Journal.

The agenda being exhausted, the President adjourned the meeting at 17:50 CET

Sanjay BHAGANI                 Esteban MARTÍNEZ
President                        Reporting Secretary