History:
ATLS® is a Trauma course for doctors that has been developed by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). It started in 1978 as a combined educational format of lectures, associated with life-saving skill demonstrations and practical laboratory experiences. The ATLS Course was run nationally in the United States for the first time in 1978 and disseminated worldwide since then. It is now a very well known program and has established itself as the gold standard of Initial Trauma Care. It is available in more than 80 countries around the world including 25 ATLS Europe/region XV countries.

Founding Year and Founding Members:
In 2005, on the occasion of their 10th anniversary for the introduction of ATLS, the Netherlands invited all European countries offering an ATLS course to gather in Amsterdam. This meeting was the foundation for the creation of ATLS-Europe one year later in 2006 in Torino – Italy. Fourteen countries were represented by their National Directors, Educators and Coordinators.

ATLS® Europe aims to:
- share scientific ideas and knowledge across countries where an ATLS® Programme is offered;
- actively co-operate with those organisations in European countries which oversee the ATLS® Programme;
- discuss and recommend changes to the educational format of the ATLS® Programme in accordance with European experience;
- actively co-operate with those organisations who wish to introduce ATLS® to countries which do not currently organise ATLS® Programmes;
- obtain the recognition of ACS and influence the future developments of the ATLS® Programme;
- organize regular meetings of ATLS® Europe and participate in the organization of international meetings and conventions on trauma management.

Members:
Full Members are countries within or around Europe where ATLS® exists or is actively being developed as recognized by the ACS. ATLS Europe /region XV currently (April 2018) counts 25 countries as members:
United Kingdom, Ireland, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Norway, Lithuania, Hungary, Israel, South Africa, Germany, France, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Georgia, Estonia, Kenya, Moldova, Ghana

Milestones of the society:
2009: Contribution to the 8th edition of the ATLS Handbook
2010: Member of the ATLS® Subcommittee of the Committee on Trauma of the ACS
2010: Institutional member of the ESTES

Yearly reiterating activities:
Annual ATLS® Europe meeting
Annual ATLS® International Meeting in the USA.

Website:
www.atls-europe.eu

Institutional member delegate:
Jørgen Joakim Jørgensen, joakim.jorgensen@online.no

Institutional member of the European Society for Trauma & Emergency Surgery