

## Media Release

### *ESO and SAFE kick-off the implementation of the Stroke Action Plan for Europe (SAP-E) – a major initiative to reduce the burden of stroke in Europe*

10.09.2020 Basel – European Stroke Organisation (ESO) and Stroke Alliance for Europe (SAFE) initiated the implementation phase of the Stroke Action Plan for Europe 2018-2030, with a virtual meeting of over 80 experts from 52 countries, each involved within their national scientific societies or stroke support organisations.

The Stroke Action Plan sets targets for 2030 that include a major reduction in new strokes, stroke unit care as first level of care, and national plans for stroke services. At present, less than half of all patients with stroke in Europe receive appropriate care, with large inequalities between and within countries. By adopting evidence based principles of prevention and care, the burden of stroke in Europe can be substantially reduced with large cost savings for the society.

In his introduction, ESO President Prof. Martin Dichgans, Munich reinforced the initiative's overall goal of creating a framework that will assist countries to improve stroke care across Europe. It is "only with the involvement, collaboration and joint effort of you, the representatives of national scientific societies and patient organisations, that this aim can be achieved", he said.

The SAP-E Steering Committee presented detailed insights regarding the preparation work and achievements to date as well as an outlook for the upcoming years.

Arlene Wilkie, SAFE Director General, identified the major unmet needs from the perspective of patients and carers in the different regions of Europe. Prof. Hanne Christensen, Copenhagen outlined how the Stroke Action Plan shall be implemented on a national level: "By signing a SAP-E declaration, Ministries of Health, Stroke Support Organisations and Stroke Scientific Societies commit to support and act proactively within the plan in their countries to reach the targets of SAP-E".

Components of the plan include prevention, care, surveillance, and monitoring of key performance indicators across Europe. As a pan-European initiative, SAP-E will convene authorities, health care providers and patients together to reduce the burden of stroke by a collaborative and systematic effort. The SAP-E is the largest stroke project ever undertaken in Europe.

The official Stroke Action Plan for Europe publication and further detailed information can be found on the Action Plan Website. <https://actionplan.eso-stroke.org/>

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#### About ESO

The European Stroke Organisation (ESO) is a pan-European society of stroke researchers and physicians, national and regional stroke societies and lay organisations founded in the 2007. The aim of the ESO is to reduce the burden of stroke by changing the way that stroke is viewed and treated. This can only be achieved by professional and public education, and by making institutional changes. ESO serves as the voice of stroke in Europe, taking action to reduce the burden of stroke regionally and globally. [www.eso-stroke.org](http://www.eso-stroke.org)

#### About SAFE

The Stroke Alliance for Europe (SAFE) is an international non-profit-making organisation formed in 2004 in Brussels, Belgium. It is the voice of stroke for patients in Europe, representing a range of stroke support organisations from more than 30 European countries. SAFE's goal is to decrease the number of strokes in Europe by advocating for better prevention, access to adequate treatment, post-stroke care and rehabilitation. For more information about SAFE, please visit [www.safestroke.eu](http://www.safestroke.eu)