

# Report of the

**Stroke Alliance for Europe**

# MEMBERS' MEETING

**6 - 7 October 2022  
Thessaloniki**

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## Members' Meeting

56 representatives from stroke support organisations in 30 countries came together for the second time this year.



Harriet Proios, our President and Vice President of the Hellenic Alliance for Stroke (second from right), introduced our special guests, Professor Georgios Tsivgoulis, Vice President of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO) (far right), Professor Konstantinos Vadikolias and Dr AnnaTsiakiri, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Hellenic Alliance for Stroke (far left).

They welcomed delegates and opened our members' meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece and spoke about the Hellenic Alliance for Stroke's activities, including online support groups and scientific collaborations with other organisations.

The Hellenic Alliance for Stroke issued a press release ahead of the meeting and Harriet was interviewed and covered in the following media outlets:

- DION tv <https://youtu.be/AoLDjvayTv0>
- [Η αναπληρώτρια καθηγήτρια του ΠΑΜΑΚ, λογοπαθολόγος, ψυχολόγος, ειδικός σε νευροδιαγνωστικές διαταραχές και αποκατάσταση, Χαρίκλεια Πρώιου στον 102FM | «Φωνές πίσω από τη μάσκα» | 10.10.2022 – EPTEcho \(ertecho.gr\)](https://www.diontv.gr/synedrio-tis-safe-sti-thessaloniki/)
- <https://www.diontv.gr/synedrio-tis-safe-sti-thessaloniki/>

Director General, Arlene Wilkie updated delegates on [Healthier Together, the EU Non-Communicable Disease initiative](#), why we are excited about this plan and its importance for stroke and the funding opportunities available for member states.



- **Stroke is mentioned 92 times**
- SAFE and ESO are referred to as key contributors
- **The Stroke Action Plan for Europe (SAP-E) is considered a best example** of action to be considered by Member States
- **Mental health and neurological disorders** chapters - stroke and dementia - only two neurological conditions that have specific priorities identified
- **Stroke prevention is specifically drawn out in the CVD section.**

This is good news for all our members as stroke is at the **top of Europe's NCD health policy agenda**. And a great opportunity for **more effective stakeholder participation** and collaboration.

At the EU level there will be a drive for policy action focused on disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care that will **both improve patient outcomes and protect healthcare system sustainability**.

The meeting gave our members the opportunity to discuss how we could help them drive forward the implementation of the SAP-E in their country and what tactics they could employ to achieve success.

The feedback fell in to three key areas:

### **1. Provide learning resources on advocacy and public affairs**

Develop online resources such as toolkits, e-learning, toolkits including:

- Steps to implement SAP-E/ a national stroke plan
  - Goals of the SAP-E/ a national stroke plan
  - Briefing sheets on different key topics
  - Guidance/recommendations for each topic (including developing post-discharge pathway (model development by SAFE and ESO))

- How to work with stakeholders such as the government and other key stakeholders
- Case studies of successful tactics, projects, campaigns, good practice, impact
- Guidance for specific tactics such as how to do an event, launch campaigns, use communications, do marketing eg how to sell your 'product'
- Supporting templates such as letter to minister, press releases
- How to access resources

## **2. Provide evidence and data on the burden and impact of stroke**

- Statistic data on EU/ European level
  - From the SAP-E services stroke tracker
  - SAFE (and ESO joint) research and reports
  - Agreed set of annual statistics with ESO
- Research of needs (national situation) such as existing policy, legal framework, services, analysing the gaps/ barriers at local level
- Data on patients' outcome measurement (Life After Stroke) such as satisfaction with care, patient-reported experiences, KPIs

## **3. Provide networking, mentoring, coaching, training opportunities**

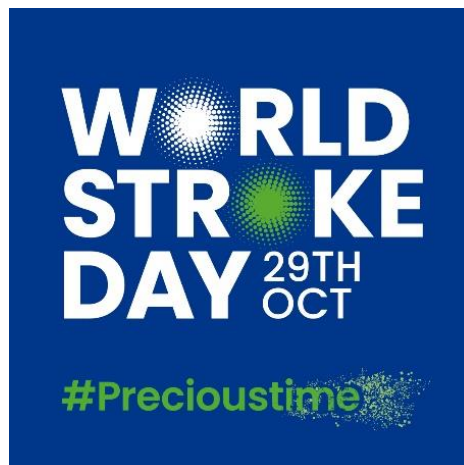
- Provide opportunities for SAFE members to meet and share successes, challenges, solutions
- Provide opportunities for the online resources and data to be shared with SAFE members
- These opportunities include in person meetings, webinars, joint meetings with ESO
- Provide one to one high level support for organisations interested in progressing the work in the toolkits provided including email and phone support, support in organising a meeting for local stakeholders ESO/SAFE/WSO/ expert groups





After our SAP-E discussions we then had an 'About Stroke' session – where we focused on prevention, awareness and risk factors.

Members heard about plans for #WorldStrokeDay on 29 October from Sarah Belson from the World Stroke Organisation. The focus this year is on raising awareness of the symptoms of stroke, how to save #PreciousTime and what our members could do to actively participate in the initiative. More details at [www.worldstrokecampaign.org](http://www.worldstrokecampaign.org)





Vice-President Anita Arsovska gave an interesting talk on Elevated Lipoprotein (a) as a risk factor for stroke – what it is, who is at risk and what can be done to prevent /reduce your risk [www.fheurope.org](http://www.fheurope.org)

After lunch, the meeting divided into four groups to discuss priorities and challenges. This was an opportunity to discuss and share the issues facing our members. The key challenges to emerge for many were:

- Gaining political support
- Resources – having enough financial support/ having enough funding to enable long-term stability.

Harriet then closed the meeting with a reminder to the members about our first face-to-face European Life After Stroke Forum in Barcelona on 10 March 2023. These events are for health professionals with an interest in stroke including allied health professionals, researchers and students, along with stroke survivors, their families and carers.



[www.elasf.org](http://www.elasf.org) / #lifeafterstroke





Thank you!

And we hope to see you in spring in Barcelona and at our next meeting in October in Rome.