

## SAFE Board Member Application Form

Please complete this form and return it to the SAFE Secretariat 28 April 2026

All fields must be completed. Please refer to the role description

Full name:	Maja Bozinovska Smiceska
Name of member stroke support organisation:	Association for a fight against stroke "Stroke"
Position held in member stroke support organisation:	President
Country of member stroke support organisation:	North Macedonia

What contribution do you hope to make to SAFE and the stroke patient community as a member of the board?

I am applying for a position on the Board of the Stroke Alliance for Europe because I am committed to improving stroke care and outcomes through both clinical excellence and system-level change. As a president of a stroke support organization in last 10 years and a neurologist in last 20 years, my ambition in contributing to Stroke Alliance for Europe is to bridge areas that are too often disconnected: patient experience, clinical care and policy action. I would work to strengthen the voice of patients and caregivers in shaping stroke systems of care. Across Europe, we still see major inequalities in access to timely treatment, rehabilitation, and long-term support. My contribution would focus on ensuring that lived experience is not just represented, but actively influence guidelines, national stroke strategies, and service design.

I would prioritize continuity of care beyond the hospital. I would advocate for integrated pathways that include community rehabilitation, psychological support, secondary prevention, and social reintegration—areas where patient organizations play a critical role.

I would bring a practical clinical perspective to the Board. I'm used to working with complex medical information, but also to explaining it clearly—to patients, families, colleagues and policy makers. Within SAFE, I would use that skill to help translate evidence into messages that are understandable, credible, and useful.

In addition I am motivated to contribute to strategic thinking, collaboration, and responsible governance. I value working across disciplines and countries, and I am committed to supporting SAFE in its role as a unifying voice for stroke communities in Europe.

I understand that being part of the Board of the Stroke Alliance for Europe is not only about setting direction, but also about making sure that strategy turns into real impact. I would actively contribute to overseeing the implementation of key initiatives.

I also recognize the importance of financial and organizational oversight in ensuring sustainability, and I would approach this responsibility with a sense of accountability and long-term thinking.

Please select any of the following where you have a specific expertise that would be useful to the board.

Accounting	
Communications	✓
Education and training	✓
Fundraising	
Governance	
Human resources	✓
Public affairs	
Research	✓
Strategy	✓
Other	

What personal expertise and professional strengths will you bring to SAFE and the stroke community? Mention any relevant experience.

Working in a transitional country, I bring hands-on experience from a healthcare system with limited resources—from raising stroke awareness and promoting volunteerism and fundraising, to advocacy across different settings. Through this, I understand the real inequalities patients face and can help ensure that the needs of countries like mine are better represented. I aim to contribute to more realistic and adaptable approaches for similar environments. I would aim to foster collaboration across countries. I would actively support cross-border learning and capacity-building, particularly for emerging stroke support organizations.

As a founder and president of SSO for more than 10 years, I have experience in decision-making, setting priorities, and guiding an organization.

I also have experience with collaborative cross-border projects in healthcare and social care, strengthening my ability to work across sectors and borders.

As a neurologist, I would bring my clinical experience into board discussions, contributing to informed decision-making. Within SAFE, I would use that skill to help translate evidence into messages that are understandable, credible, and useful. I am used to working with different professionals (rehabilitation teams, policymakers, patient groups), which is essential in a European, cross-country context.

Having previously served on the board of Stroke Alliance for Europe, I am familiar with its work and can contribute effectively from the outset.

How would your election to the SAFE board benefit your organisation?

It would significantly enhance our credibility and influence at the national level. Being part of the SAFE board signals that our organisation is aligned with European standards and priorities, also it would give our organisation direct access to European-level expertise and best practices. Through SAFE's network, we did in past and we would also in future strengthen our capacity.

I confirm that the information contained in this application is correct, and that neither me, or my organisation, have been subject to any financial/legal or other such investigations in the past 12 months.

**Upon election** to the SAFE board, I agree to immediately provide the SAFE Secretariat with a copy of the following documents, **ratified and stamped** by a legal authority

- the photo page in your passport

PLUS **one** of the following with your name and address (also **ratified and stamped**)

- a bill for water or electricity (mobile phone bill is not acceptable)
- an invoice of a subscription
- a certificate from the municipality
  
- a full biography, plus a 50-word biography for SAFE's website
- a headshot photograph

Signature: *MB*

Date: 20.04.2026

Once completed, the application form should be returned to the SAFE Secretariat, [info@safestroke.eu](mailto:info@safestroke.eu), along with:

- a letter from the board of your organisation supporting your nomination.
- a copy of your current curriculum vitae. This must not include any personal information, such as address and telephone numbers.

Your application form, CV and nomination letter will be sent to members as part of the election process.

**THESE DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT/MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE ORGANISATION, NOT BY THE APPLICANT.**

Completed applications must be received by 28 April 2026

Dear SAFE members.

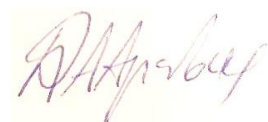
On behalf of the Board of Association for a fight against stroke “Stroke” from North Macedonia , we are pleased to formally support the nomination of Maja Bozinovska Smicheska for a position on the Board of the Stroke Alliance for Europe (SAFE).

As Founder and President of our organisation, Maja has demonstrated strong leadership, commitment, and a clear vision for improving the lives of stroke survivors and their families. Her work has been instrumental in developing our organisation, strengthening patient support, and raising awareness of stroke care needs within our community.

We have full confidence in her ability to contribute meaningfully at a European level, particularly in supporting SAFE’s mission .

The Board fully endorses this nomination and strongly supports the candidacy of Maja B. Smicheska, as unanimously agreed at the meeting held on 20.04.2026.

Sincerely,  
prof.Anita Arsovska

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'A. Arsovska', is placed over a light yellow rectangular background.

On behalf of the Board of Association for a fight against stroke “Stroke”

20.04.2026



**Bozinovska Smicheska Maja, MD, neurologist**  
**President of Association for a fight against stroke “Stroke”**

Chief of Neurology department  
Specialist in neurology and neurophysiology  
**Special hospital for orthopedic surgery and traumatology “Sv Erazmo”, Ohrid, N.Macedonia**  
Adr. Goce Delcev b.b.  
6000 Ohrid, R.Macedonia.  
email: [traortoh@t.mk](mailto:traortoh@t.mk)  
<https://www.traortoh.com.mk/>

President and founder of  
**Association for a fight against stroke “Stroke” Ohrid, N.Macedonia**  
Adr. Partizanska 55,  
6000 Ohrid, R.Macedonia  
email: [strokemk@gmail.com](mailto:strokemk@gmail.com)  
<https://www.mozocenudar.mk/>

***CURRICULUM VITAE***

**Education**

University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” Faculty of Medicine, Skopje, N.Macedonia  
Doctor of general practice, MD, 1999/2005  
GA 9.2 out of 10.00

15.05.2006-15.05.2010, resident in neurology, University Clinic of Neurology University “Ss Cyril and Methodius“, Faculty of Medicine-Skopje, N Macedonia.

15.09.2010 –present, Board certificated neurologist.

01.04.2008 -01.07.2008 -Educational stay in Institute of Traditional Chinese medicine TCM Beijing, People’s Republic of China, as a winner of a grant for educational course on Complementary medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine, sponsored by People’s Republic of China Ministry of Economy.

2010 and 2011- Three months educational stay in Institute of Neurophysiology, University center Ljubljana, Slovenia. Education in field of electromyography, nerve conduction studies and electroencephalography as a winner of a grant “Department to Department cooperation program” by European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS).

**Languages:** *English*, excellent in speaking and writing; *Serbo-Croatian*, excellent in speaking and writing; Slovenian and Albanian, basic.

**Computers:** general skills: Microsoft Office, Internet, Outlook.

**Working experience:**

15.09.2010- till present – Chief of neurology clinic, specialist in neurology in Department of neurology and rehabilitation, Neurology clinic and Neurophysiology laboratory (EMG/NCS, EEG); Special hospital for orthopedic surgery and traumatology “St. Erazmo” Ohrid, Macedonia

Special interests- Stroke, neuro-rehabilitation, public health, pain treatment, neuromuscular diseases, neurophysiology.

01.04.2018-31.12.2021 Project Coordinator of Quality Health InterReg IPA CBC project “Improving quality and accessibility of health care and social services in cross-border region” N Macedonia-Greece.

21.12.2005- 15.09.2010- Department doctor working at department of neurology, neurology clinic and neurophysiology unit, Special hospital for orthopedic surgery and traumatology “St. Erazmo” Ohrid, Macedonia

15.05.2006-15.05.2010- Resident in neurology –University clinic of neurology, University “Ss Cyril and Methodius“, Faculty of Medicine-Skopje Macedonia, working on department of neurology, neurology clinic and neurophysiology laboratory (EMG/NCS, EEG).

**Public and voluntary work:** Red cross activist since 1995, founder and president of first Macedonian Stroke NGO, Association for a fight against stroke “Stroke” active since May 2014.

**Memberships:**

Macedonian neurology association, Macedonian Stroke Association, European Academy of neurology, World stroke organization, Stroke Alliance for Europe.

**Organisational Activities**

- Co-organiser of the focused workshop “**Rare Causes of Stroke**”, European Stroke Organisation (ESO), Struga, North Macedonia, 12–15 April 2024
- Organiser of the **National Stroke Awareness Campaign**
- National Coordinator for the implementation of the **Stroke Action Plan**

**Registry work**

Co- author of Registry of Rare Diseases in South-Western N.Macedonia 2023,2024,2025

Stroke Risk awareness and categorization in South-Western N.Macedonia

[https://www.mozocenudar.mk/riskometar/ReportQualityHealth\\_English20210609.pdf](https://www.mozocenudar.mk/riskometar/ReportQualityHealth_English20210609.pdf)

**Congresses, seminars, courses and schools:**

- Continuing educational program, Clinic of Neurology Macedonian neurology association 28. 03-02.12.2007.
- Neurosonology Conference 25-29.05.2007 Budapest.
- 12th meeting of European Society of Neurosonology and Cerebral hemodynamics and tutorial organized by the European Society Of Neurosonolgy And Cerebral Hemodynamics and the Neurosonology Research Group Of the World Federation Of neurology. Budapest, Hungary 26-29.05.2007.
- 1st International symposium for Epilepsy and Neurophysiology, Ohrid, Macedonia 20-23.09.2007.
- The second congress of Albania Association of Orthopedic surgery and traumatology, Tirana, Albania 12-13.10.2007.
- Seminar in Electromyography , Neurology Clinic, Skopje Macedonia 20.04-04.05. 2007.

- Educational stay as a winner of scholarship for educational course on Traditional Chinese Medicine, Institute of TCM. Beijing, 01.04-01.07 2008.
- 4 th Congress of neurologists of Macedonia with international participation 03-7.09.2008.
- Educational Course „ Current trends in diagnosis and treatment of epilepsies/special issues,, Ohrid, Macedonia 3.09.2009.
- 9 th Clinical Neurophysiology Congress of Serbia and Montenegro with international participation, Belgrade, Serbia 15-17.10.2009.
- Regional course in EEG, technology, maturation, clinical practice. (International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology European Chapter), Belgrade, Serbia 15-16.10.2009.
- 13 th Congress of European Federation of Neurological Societies 12-15. 09. 2009 Florence. Teaching courses: Movement disorders, basic clinical knowledge; Movement disorders, advanced; Hands on course on clinical neurophysiology, EMG; Hands on course on clinical neurophysiology, nerve conduction.
- Educational visit of Neurophysiology Clinic in Ljubljana education on Electromyography/nerve conduction studies, EFNS Department to Department cooperation program grant 10.01-18.02. 2010.
- Education in electroencephalography , Neurophysiology Clinic in Ljubljana, EFNS Department to Department cooperation program grant 01.02.2011-01.04.2011.
- Medical meeting Insights into continuous Dopaminergic Intra Duodenal Stimulation, department of Neurology, Ljubljana 19.03. 2010.
- Symposium of clinical neurophysiology, Belgrade 8.10.-9.10. 2010.
- Salzburg medical seminar, Neurology AAF Salzburgs,Austria 11-16.02.2013.
- Joint Congress of European Neurology, Istanbul, Turkey, 31.05-3.06 2014.
- 1st Congress of the European Academy of Neurology, Berlin 20-23.06. 2015.
- From 2010- 2016 active participant on all annual general assemblies and meetings as well as regional seminars of Stroke Alliance for Europe ( Ljubljana, Helsinki, Warsaw, Bled, Belgrade, Barcelona).
- European Stroke Organization Summer School, 18-22 Jul 2016, La Paz University - Madrid, Spain.
- Movement disorder society Summer school Jul 21-23 2018, Marburg, Germany.
- Stroke Alliance for Europe members virtual meeting 23 Sept.2020
- „Symposium Novelties in neurology, Covid and post-Covid pandemic period, consequences and assessment of neurological implications,, 5-7 Nov 2021Online
- 7<sup>th</sup> European Stroke Conference 1-3 Sept.2021 Virtual
- European Life After Stroke Forum Barcelona 10 March 2023
- 16 th World Congress on Controversies in neurology (CONy) March 24-27,2022 Virtual
- 17 th World Congress on Controversies in neurology (CONy) March 23-25,2023 Dubrovnik, Croatia
- Interational Symposia on rare diseases Diagnostic challenge and terapeutical approach October 12-13 2023

- 10<sup>th</sup> European Stroke Organization conference ESOC15-17 May 2024 Basel Switzerland
- 18 th World Congress on Controversies in neurology (CONy) March 23-25,2025 Krakow, Poland
- “Rare Causes of Stroke” Focused workshop ESO Striga N.Macedonia 12-15 April 2024
- 46th International Medical Scientific Congress (IMSC), May 23-26, 2025, Ohrid
- VIII Congress of the Macedonian Neurological Society 9-12.10.2025
- 18 th World Congress on Controversies in neurology (CONy) March23-25, 2025 Prague
- European Life After Stroke Forum 2023,2024,2025,2026

#### List of works and presentations:

- **Friedreich ataxia workshop**  
Maja Bozinovska Smicheska, Workshop Rare disease organization 21.02.2026,Ohrid
- **Post-stroke spasticity patient experience journey map (PSS-PEJM): bridging clinical care and lived experience**  
Maja Bozinovska Smiceska, VIII Congress of the Macedonian Neurological Society 9-12.10.2025
- **Spinal muscular atrophy phenotypic variability and treatment**  
Bozhinovska Smiceska Maja, Barbov Ivan , Nonkulovski Danilo  
VIII Congress of the Macedonian Neurological Society 9-12.10.2025
- **SMA shaping the future,**  
Maja Bozinovska Smiceska 46th International Medical Scientific Congress (IMSC), May 23-26, 2025, Ohrid
- **Spontaneous intracranial hypotension**  
Maja Bozinovska  
18 th World Congress on Controversies in neurology (CONy) March23-25, 2025 Prague
- **Spinal muscular atrophy diagnostic challenge and treatment**  
International Symposia on rare diseases Diagnostic challenge and therapeutic approach  
October 12-13 2023
- **Myasthenia gravis and Hashimoto thyroiditis in a patient with Charcot Marie Tooth disease 4C (SH3TC2-HMSN)**  
Maja Bozinovska Smicheska<sup>1</sup>, Lodi Gogovska<sup>2</sup>  
17 th World Congress on Controversies in neurology (CONy) March 23-25, 2023 Dubrovnik, Croatia
  - **Cognitive impairment after stroke**  
Prof. Anita Arsovska<sup>1,2</sup>, Dr Maja Bozhinovska-Smicheska<sup>3,4</sup>  
European Life After Stroke Forum, Barcelona 10 March 2023
  - **NGO influence on Health Care and Social Services Project Quality Health**  
Dr. Maja Bozinovska Smicheska<sup>1,2</sup>, Assistant Professor Ljupcho Efremov<sup>3</sup> , Prof. Anita Arsovska<sup>4,5</sup>

European Life After Stroke Forum, Barcelona 10 March 2023

- **Bilateral lumbosacral plexopathy due to retroperitoneal hematomas in COVID-19 patients**

Maja Bozinovska Smiceska 1 , Elena Kovaceska Bashuroska 2 , Slavco Ivanoski 3 ,  
„Symposium Novelty in neurology, covid and post-covid pandemic period, consequences and assessment of neurological implications,, 5-7 Nov 2021 Online

- **Awareness of stroke, knowledge of stroke risk factors and their prevalence among the population of 18+ in the southwestern region of north Macedonia**

Danijela V. Samoilovska, Maja B. Smicheska, Anita Arsovska

Journal of Morphological Science JMS 2022; Vol5 (3):91-97. DOI10.55302/JMS2253091vs

- **Diabetes and stroke,**

Maja B. Smicheska Stroke Alliance for Europe members virtual meeting  
23 Sept. 2020

- **Low Public Knowledge of Major Stroke Risk Factors and Symptoms in Macedonia**

Maja Bozinovska Smiceska, Lulzim Jahoja, Danijela Vojtkiv

Samoilovska, Elena Lickova, Vasko Danilovski

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES –  
Tetovo Macedonia, 13-14 Oct. 2017

- **Case report Myoclonus distonia**

Maja B. Smicheska

Movement disorder society Summer school Jul 21-23, Marburg, Germany

- **Accuracy of high-resolution ultrasound in carpal tunnel syndrome** S

**Ivanoski<sup>1</sup>, M Bozinovska Smiceska<sup>2</sup>, V Vasilevska Nikodinovska<sup>3</sup>**<sup>1</sup>St. Erasmo Hospital for Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology, Radiology, Ohrid, Macedonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>2</sup>St. Erasmo Hospital for Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology, Neurology, Ohrid, Macedonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>3</sup>University Surgical Clinic "St. Naum Ohridski". University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius", Skopje, Radiology, Skopje, Macedonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; published in *Ultraschall Med* 2016; 37 - SL4\_3 DOI: 10.1055/s-0036-1587731

- **Diagnostic challenge and clinical diversity in 14 family members with Myotonic Dystrophy type I Steinert**

Bozinovska Smiceska Maja, Bojadzi M., Lickova E., Danilovski V., Skenderoska Mitreska I.

Special hospital for orthopedic surgery and traumatology „Sv. Erazmo,, Ohrid, R. Macedonia  
University hospital, Stip, R. Macedonia , PZO Era Medika, Kicevo

6<sup>th</sup> Macedonian neurological congress with international participation, Ohrid 23-26.09.2016.

- **Axonal polyneuropathy as complication of combination of B12 and iron deficiency anemia.**

Bozinovska Smiceska M., Gashoska M., Bogoevski A., Filkoska K.

Special hospital for orthopedic surgery and traumatology ,, Sv.Erazmo,, Ohrid, R.Macedonia;(3) PZU,, Dr. Bogoevski,, Bitola; (4) General hospital, Kavadarci

6<sup>th</sup> Macedonian neurological congress with international participation, Ohrid 23-26.09.2016.

- **Electromyography and neurography of upper limb, concordance between referral diagnosis and neurophysiologic findings and impact on therapy choice.**

M. Bozinovska, P. Ivanovski

Special hospital for orthopedic surgery and traumatology ,,Sv Erazmo,, Ohrid, Macedonia

Second Congress of the Physiatrists of R.Macedonia with international participation, 15-18.09.2010.

- **Legal drug abuse- Tramadol. Management of neurological complications.**

M.Bozinovska, L.Ignjatova, L.Ilievska, G.Kuzmanovska, D.Ristik, E.Georgieva

Special hospital" Sv. Erazmo" Ohrid, Psychiatric hospital-Skopje, University Clinic of Neurology Skopje

4 th Macedonian Psychiatric Congress and International Meeting, Ohrid , 27-31.05. 2009.

- **Mild Cognitive Impairment in patients with vascular brain injury.**

Liljana Ilievska, E.Georgieva, D.Ristik, G.Kuzmanovska, M.Bozinovska

University Clinic of Neurology Skopje, Special hospital "Sv.Erazmo" Ohrid

4 th Macedonian Psychiatric Congress and International Meeting, Ohrid ,27-31 May 2009.

- **Vascular dementia.**

Daniela Ristik, G.Kuzmanovska, M.Bozinovska, E.Georgieva

University Clinic of Neurology Skopje, Special hospital" Sv.Erazmo" Ohrid

4 th Macedonian Psychiatric Congress and International Meeting, Ohrid ,27-31 May 2009.

- **Autonomic dysreflexia.**

Bozinovska Maja , Sesovski Ognen, Smicevski Jordan.

Special hospital for orthopedic surgery and traumatology "Sv.Erazmo" Ohrid, Macedonia

First congress of Serbia trauma association with international participation, Subotica,23-19.09.2009.

## **12. Recurrent Dysphasia as the Sole Manifestation of Cerebral Neoplasm.**

V.Danilovski, M.Bozinovska , A.Hadzi-Naumov

Special hospital ,,Sv Erazmo,, Ohrid.

4 th Macedonian neurological congress with international participation

7.09.2008.

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