

Media Release

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

11.11.2020 Basel – The European Stroke Organisation (ESO) and Stroke Alliance for Europe (SAFE) called for the first online working session to implement the Stroke Action Plan for Europe 2018-2030. Over 80 representatives from 52 participating countries were introduced to the roadmap of actions for the upcoming year of 2021.

Six speakers of international renown set the framework for the meeting, reporting on tools related to the Stroke Action Plan Europe that are already successfully implemented on a national level, such as the Danish Stroke Registry and the Swiss Certification Process. Valeria Caso from Italy gave an overview of aspects to consider when involving governmental bodies. “A strong alliance between physicians and the national patient organisations is key when approaching politicians. It helps to underline the fact that stroke and stroke care are issues affecting the whole population and ultimately will lead to long-term improvements in the health care system”, she highlighted.

National coordinators worked in four different groups to define future tasks and vividly discussed how to involve health authorities as well as patients on a local level.

The next implementation milestone for this major pan-European initiative will be the finalization of the official Stroke Action Plan Europe Declaration to manifest the commitment of each country and institution involved. By signing the Declaration, the national representatives and authorities underline their determination to achieve improvement throughout the entire chain of care in stroke, including primary prevention, organised stroke services, management of acute stroke, secondary prevention, rehabilitation, evaluation of outcomes and quality improvement, as well as life after stroke.

“As an official document, the declaration will strongly support the cause and lead the way for the national coordinators and Stroke Support Organisations to approach the national health authorities in a joint effort”, Hanne Christensen, Chair of the SAP-E Steering Committee emphasised.

To monitor and facilitate change, twelve measurable key performance indicators were defined which reflect each domain of the chain of care. Results will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The first implementation phase includes two further working sessions, scheduled for December and January.

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 2007. The aim of 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

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