

Media Release

ANNUAL STATUS REPORT REVEALS BIG STRIDES FOR STROKE IN 2022

26.08.2022 Basel – The [European Stroke Organisation \(ESO\)](#) and [Stroke Alliance for Europe \(SAFE\)](#) have published the 2022 status report highlighting progress made in the past year for the [Stroke Action Plan for Europe \(SAP-E\)](#).

The SAP-E project is centred around two important established facts: stroke is highly preventable and stroke is highly treatable – possibly more so than any other non-communicable disease.

One major achievement in the first half of 2022 has been the inclusion of stroke as a priority in the recent EU Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative – Healthier Together. SAFE and ESO worked closely with DG Sante, the EU Commission department responsible for their policies on health and food safety, in the co-creation process for the [EU NCD initiative](#).

Harriet Priois, SAFE President commented:

“We are delighted that stroke is drawn out as a priority area and that the Stroke Action Plan must be implemented across Europe. This initiative gives us a strong opportunity to raise the profile of stroke within our countries and we hope it will contribute to reducing the stroke burden, and improve the quality of life of those living with stroke in Europe.”

With this important collaboration, the SAP-E Steering Committee continues to build on its achievements from the current year:

- Establishment of a network of over 90 [National Coordinators](#)
- Translation of the [Stroke Action Plan for Europe](#) document in 12 languages
- Launch of the [Declaration for Action on Stroke](#), with 8 countries currently signed
- Publication of the [Essentials of Stroke Care](#) guidelines
- Development of a [National Stroke Plan Template](#)
- Initiation of the yearly [Stroke Service Tracker \(SST\)](#) survey among 52 countries

Project plans for the second half of 2022 include further advocacy on the EU level, continued support in preparing actionable tools for National Coordinators, consolidation and publishing of the data from the 2020 SST, and awareness campaigns for stroke physicians, stroke survivors, and the general public.

View the full status report [here](#) and visit <https://actionplan.eso-stroke.org/> for further details on the project.

For more information, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

The Stroke Action Plan for Europe

To reduce the burden of stroke and address its long-term consequences, the European Stroke Organisation (ESO) and the Stroke Alliance for Europe (SAFE) published the [Stroke Action Plan for Europe \(SAP-E\) 2018-2030](#). In consultation with 70 experts who reviewed the best practice evidence and current state of stroke care, the resulting plan sets out targets and recommendations across the whole care pathway that countries and healthcare systems across Europe can implement by 2030.

The SAP-E focuses on seven domains: primary prevention, organisation of stroke care; acute stroke care; secondary prevention, rehabilitation, evaluation of outcomes and life after stroke.

The SAP-E is a framework to drive healthcare policy, patient-focused care local stroke management and research priorities.

The SAP-E includes four targets for 2030:

1. To reduce the number of strokes in Europe by 10%
2. To treat 90% or more of all patients with stroke in Europe in a dedicated stroke unit as the first level of care
3. To have national plans for stroke incorporating the whole chain of care from primary prevention through to life after stroke
4. To fully implement national strategies for multisector public health interventions to promote and facilitate a healthy lifestyle and reduce environmental, socio-economic and educational factors that

increase the risk of stroke.

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.

For more information about ESO, please visit www.eso-stroke.org.

About SAFE

The Stroke Alliance for Europe (SAFE) an international non-profit-making organisation formed in 2004 in Brussels, Belgium. It is the voice of stroke 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.