



# **ESC Member National Cardiac Societies Guide**



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# Introduction

Our mission:

“To reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in Europe”



## INTRODUCTION

Despite many advances in diagnosis and treatment, cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of death in Europe with an estimated cost to the region's economy of almost €200 billion. It is clear that there is much left to do in the fight against CVD. A strong working relationship between the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and its 56 Member National Cardiac Societies (NCS) is fundamental to success in that fight.

The ESC mission is to '*reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in Europe*' and this goal shapes all of the ESC's work. That same goal, however expressed, is shared also by the NCS and it is therefore crucial to define how the ESC interacts with its member institutions and how together we can better leverage a European-wide perspective to advance in our shared mission.

In one sense, the roles of the ESC and the NCS could be considered broadly similar in that they both act as advocates for high quality care and the application of standards and Clinical Practice Guidelines. Both disseminate scientific knowledge and act in the interests of patients and both represent their shared community of cardiovascular professionals. Yet in practice there is actually little overlap and it is more important to consider instead how the ESC's operating model can benefit the NCS.

Each NCS has an intimate understanding of its own country's cardiovascular landscape, the challenges it faces, and how to best achieve its objectives. The ESC does not, and will not, operate in this dimension. Instead, it supports each NCS with appropriate activities and services drawn from across all member countries to make available the latest science, knowledge, best practice and insights.

Specifically, the advantages offered by the ESC include:

- Developing, publishing and distributing a series of ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines covering the major areas of cardiology practice as well as participating in the dissemination of their related derivative products (CME Questions, Web addenda, Pocket Guidelines, Essential Messages, Summary Cards, Slide-sets and more...)
- Managing a wide range of trials, registries and surveys across Europe to enhance knowledge which assesses the success of guideline implementation and education programmes
- Organising European-wide education, training and certification programmes to harmonise care and maintain professional standards
- Building a cohesive community of cardiovascular specialists that are able and willing to work together
- Editing and publishing a highly respected family of cardiovascular journals including the European Heart Journal
- Organising many events, meetings and congresses which attract participants not only from member countries, but from all over the world, to share their work and experiences
- Influencing European policy makers and establishing relations with patient groups, industry, global societies and other stakeholders who have a role to play in fighting CVD

The following pages of this document contain further information on the activities and services of the ESC and how they relate to the needs of National Cardiac Societies.





**ESC**

# **General Information**



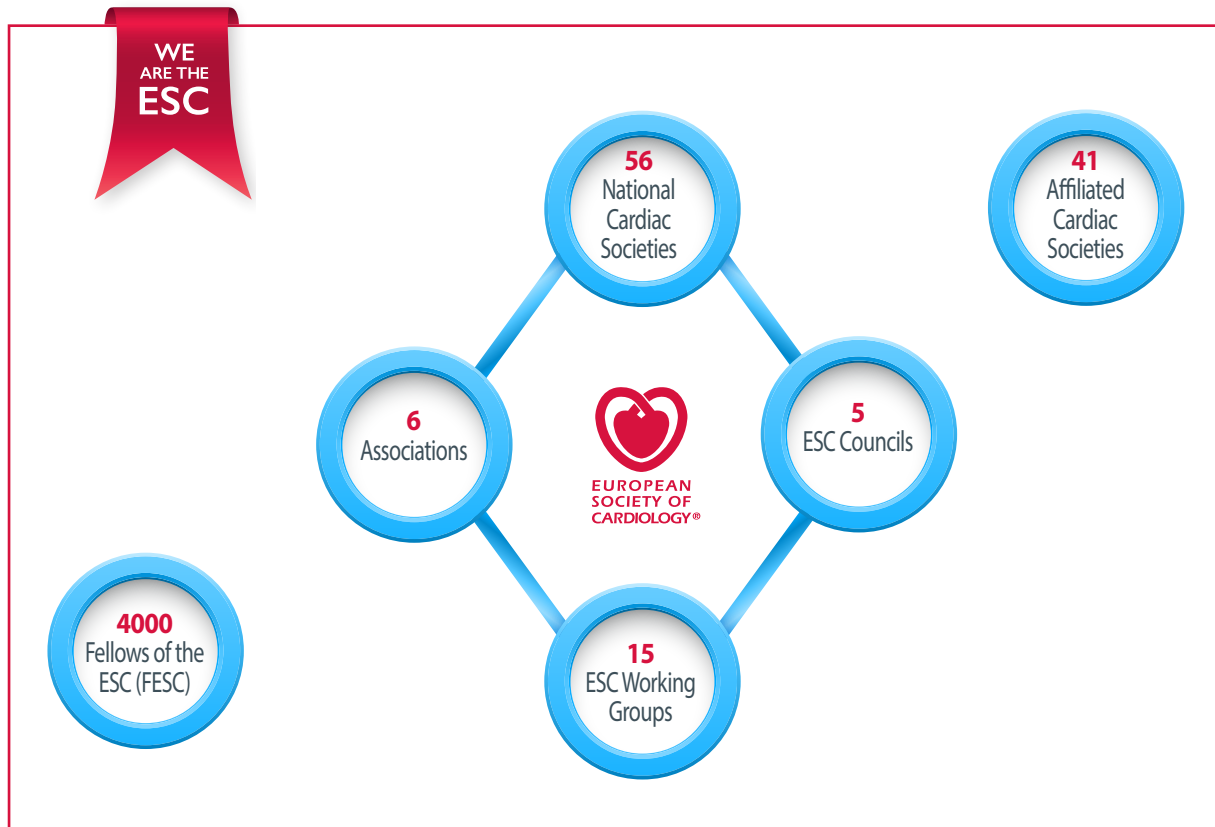
## WE ARE THE ESC

The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) represents over 95 000 cardiology professionals, of which 71 000 are members of the 56 Member National Cardiac Societies.

### Our History

- **1946 and 1948:** Exchange amongst of several European cardiologists about possible creation of a European Society of Cardiology.
- **29 January 1949:** Preliminary meeting in Brussels with representatives from 14 countries and the appointment of a provisional Executive Committee.
- **2 September 1950:** Official starting point of the ESC, a constitution is drafted.
- **September 1952:** First European Congress of Cardiology in London.
- **1976:** Foundation of ESC Working Groups which represent different sub-specialties.
- **1993:** Inauguration of the European Heart House (EHH) as headquarters, educational and training centre.
- **2013:** Creation of the European Heart Agency, the ESC's office in Brussels

### Today the ESC comprises



## HOW THE ESC WORKS

**The administration of the ESC is undertaken by an elected Board, comprising volunteer cardiovascular experts:**

- **12 elected voting members** (all agreed at the General Assembly):
  - President
  - President-Elect
  - Three Vice-Presidents
  - Secretary/Treasurer
  - Six Councillors
- **Ex-officio voting members:**
  - Immediate Past President
  - Six Presidents of the ESC Associations, or six Presidents-Elect or six Past Presidents (voted by ESC Association Membership)
- Up to 12 non-voting members:
  - Chairpersons of Committees
  - Representative of the constituent bodies
  - Editors of official Society Journals
  - Two to four external independent advisors
- Non-voting members:
  - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
  - Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

**The ESC Management group advises the Board, prepares its agenda and oversees the implementation of the Board decisions:**

- The President
- The President-Elect
- The immediate Past President
- The three Vice-Presidents
- The Secretary/Treasurer
- Plus:
  - Two to four external non-voting independent advisors
  - In attendance, the CEO and the CFO

**The ESC Board delegates the running of ESC core activities to various ESC Committees.**

These include:

- Committee for Practice Guidelines
- Congress Programme Committee
- Credentials Committee (review of peer applications for Fellowship and Grants)
- e-Communication Committee
- Education Committee
- EORP Committee (for the organisation of surveys and registries)
- EU Affairs Committee
- Global Affairs Committee
- Publications Committee
- Press Committee

## WHAT WE DO

The ESC is a registered not-for-profit association in France governed by a law dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 1901. Statutes are voted by the constituent bodies at the ESC's General Assembly (GA). Associations are governed by their respective constitutions defined in respect of the ESC Statutes and ESC Board-approved policies to guarantee cohesion of the society as a whole. The ESC adheres to the Biomed Alliance Conduct to ensure both its objectivity and transparency.

### The ESC provides a wide array of scientific and educational activities including:

Development and continuous updating and publication of <b>ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines</b> and their derivative educational products.	
A wide range of <b>grants and fellowships</b> for both training and research within the 56 ESC National Cardiac Society member countries	
Conduct of <b>pan-European clinical surveys</b> on specific disease areas	
<b>Organisation of congresses:</b>	
• <b>ESC Congress</b> , the world's largest and most influential cardiovascular event	
• <b>Specialty congresses</b> in conjunction with constituent bodies including:	
Acute Cardiovascular Care	EuroPCR (externally organised)
EuroEcho-Imaging	Heart Failure
ICNC	EuroHeartCare
EuroCMR (externally organised)	Frontiers in Cardiovascular Biology (FCVB)
EuroPrevent	EHRA Europace-Cardiostim
Organisation of <b>Guidelines sessions at the ESC Congresses</b> and <b>joint sessions at NCS meetings and congresses.</b>	
<b>Publication of 13 of the world's leading journals on cardiology and a range of handbooks and textbooks:</b>	
European Heart Journal	European Heart Journal - Acute Cardiovascular Care
Cardiovascular Research	EuroIntervention Journal
European Journal of Heart Failure	EHJ - Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy
European Journal of Preventive Cardiology	EHJ - Quality of Care & Clinical Outcomes
EP Europace	EHJ - Supplements - The Heart of the Matter
European Heart Journal - Cardiovascular Imaging	ESC Heart Failure (online open access journal)
European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing	E-Journal of Cariology Practice (online open access)

In addition, the ESC reaches out to audiences outside the cardiology community. These audiences include the European Union (EU), policy makers, non-governmental organisations (NGO) and professional societies, the healthcare industry and patient organisations.

*For further information about the ESC, contact the National Cardiac Societies Department:*  
**[ncs@escardio.org](mailto:ncs@escardio.org)**  
**[www.escardio.org](http://www.escardio.org)**

## EUROPEAN HEART HOUSE (EHH) ORGANISATION AND SERVICES

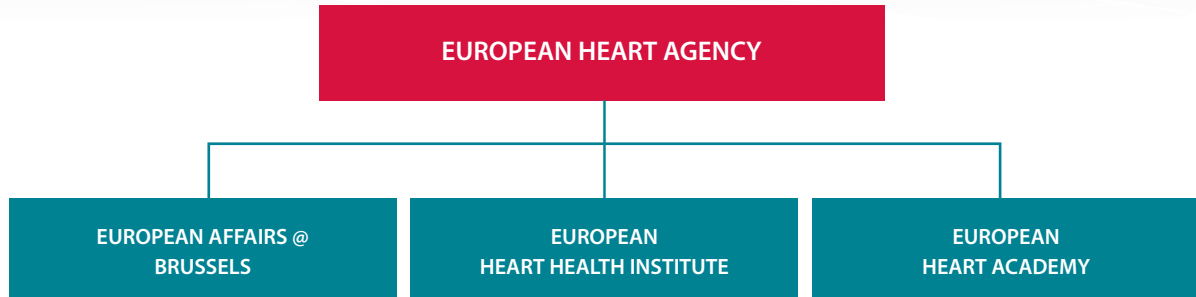
The European Heart House (EHH) is the administrative headquarters of the European Society of Cardiology and also serves as a meeting centre for educational courses and meetings.

Scientific Affairs	Congresses & Meetings	Specialty Centre	Advocacy and Representation
Clinical Practice Guidelines Journals / Book Publishing Education in Cardiology (Professional standards) Surveys / Registries	ESC Congress Associations / WG congresses Meetings in-house / Outside clients Industry Relations	Associations Working Groups Councils	National Cardiac Societies Cardiovascular Round Table Public Affairs (EU Affairs & Press) Global Affairs
Communications	Web / Communications	Marketing	Marketing / Customer Services / Fellows
IT	Finance & Administration	Human Resources	
Infrastructure Solution & Events Development & Integration	Finance Accounting Finance Control Procurement Office	HR Welcome Desk General Services	
General Management			



## EUROPEAN HEART AGENCY (EHA) ORGANISATION AND SERVICES

In February 2013, the ESC inaugurated the European Heart Agency (EHA) in Brussels in order to establish a permanent presence in Europe's political capital, close to the major EU institutions. In addition to efficient secretarial support to all members, the Brussels office can accommodate board meetings, scientific events, webinars and also meet a significant number of other needs.



### European Affairs

The role of European Affairs is to influence European health policies with relevant stakeholders in Europe, including European and national policymakers, European Advocacy group as well as other professional medical associations.

### European Heart Health Institute

The institute is a gateway to new ESC activities such as healthcare economics, patient engagement, clinical trials and medical innovation.

### European Heart Academy

Aims to train future leaders in cardiovascular medicine in collaboration with selected universities in Europe.







**ESC Member  
National Cardiac  
Societies**



## LIST OF THE 56 ESC MEMBER NATIONAL CARDIAC SOCIETIES

The Member National Cardiac Societies are the principal constituent bodies of the ESC and its historic foundations.

In the ESC Statutes, a National Cardiac Society is defined as:

*“Any National Society of Cardiology of a European (European as defined by the World Health Organisation) or Mediterranean country may join the ESC. Applications must be addressed to the Secretary/Treasurer who will transmit these to the Board which will make a provisional decision that will be confirmed by the next Ordinary General Assembly.”*

As of March 2016, the ESC counts 56 National Cardiac Societies as members.

COUNTRY	SOCIETY	COUNTRY	SOCIETY
Albania	Albanian Society of Cardiology	Latvia	Latvian Society of Cardiology
Algeria	Algerian Society of Cardiology	Lebanon	Lebanese Society of Cardiology
Armenia	Armenian Cardiologists Association	Libya	Libyan Cardiac Society
Austria	Austrian Society of Cardiology	Lithuania	Lithuanian Society of Cardiology
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan Society of Cardiology	Luxembourg	Luxembourg Society of Cardiology
Belarus	Belorussian Scientific Society of Cardiologists	Macedonia, F.Y.R.	Macedonian FYR Society of Cardiology
Belgium	Belgian Society of Cardiology	Malta	Maltese Cardiac Society
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Association of Cardiologists of Bosnia & Herzegovina	Moldova	Moldavian Society of Cardiology
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Society of Cardiology	Montenegro	Cardiological Society of Montenegro
Croatia	Croatian Cardiac Society	Morocco	Moroccan Society of Cardiology
Cyprus	Cyprus Society of Cardiology	Netherlands	Netherlands Society of Cardiology
Czech Republic	Czech Society of Cardiology	Norway	Norwegian Society of Cardiology
Denmark	Danish Society of Cardiology	Poland	Polish Cardiac Society
Egypt	Egyptian Society of Cardiology	Portugal	Portuguese Society of Cardiology
Estonia	Estonian Society of Cardiology	Romania	Romanian Society of Cardiology
Finland	Finnish Cardiac Society	Russia	Russian Society of Cardiology
France	French Society of Cardiology	San Marino	San Marino Society of Cardiology
Georgia	Georgian Society of Cardiology	Serbia	Cardiology Society of Serbia
Germany	German Cardiac Society	Slovakia	Slovak Society of Cardiology
Greece	Hellenic Cardiological Society	Slovenia	Slovenian Society of Cardiology
Hungary	Hungarian Society of Cardiology	Spain	Spanish Society of Cardiology
Iceland	Icelandic Society of Cardiology	Sweden	Swedish Society of Cardiology
Ireland	Irish Cardiac Society	Switzerland	Swiss Society of Cardiology
Israel	Israel Heart Society	Syria	Syrian Cardiovascular Association
Italy	Italian Federation of Cardiology	Tunisia	Tunisian Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery
Kazakhstan	Association of Cardiologists of Kazakhstan	Turkey	Turkish Society of Cardiology
Kosovo	Kosovo Society of Cardiology	Ukraine	Ukrainian Association of Cardiology
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz Society of Cardiology	United Kingdom	British Cardiovascular Society

## NATIONAL CARDIAC SOCIETIES' MEMBERS

Individual Members of National Cardiac Societies automatically become ESC Members and are entitled to a range of benefits and privileges.

## NATIONAL CARDIAC SOCIETIES' RIGHTS AND DUTIES

### Voting rights at General Assemblies

As constituent bodies, National Cardiac Societies have voting rights that enable them to take part in and influence decisions which shape the future of cardiology and drive the evolution of the ESC.

General Assemblies are attended by the current ESC Board and by delegates from the ESC constituent bodies which include all 56 National Cardiac Societies. The names of the voting delegates have to be received by the ESC Secretary/Treasurer at least two weeks before the General Assembly.

The number of delegates from each Member National Cardiac Society is related to its total membership and ranges from a minimum of two to a maximum of 12<sup>1</sup>. All delegates have the right to vote. Votes must be cast in person and cannot be transferred through other persons, except within a constituent body's own delegation.

*1- <100 members = two delegates; 101-500 members = three delegates; 501-1000 = four delegates; then an extra delegate per 1000 members up to a maximum of 12.*

### Membership fees

National Cardiac Societies reconfirm their ongoing status as active Members of the European Society of Cardiology by paying the appropriate annual fees. Each year, they provide an updated membership list to the ESC from which its individual Members are also confirmed as Members of the ESC. The number of Members submitted will determine the fees to be paid by the National Cardiac Society. As of January 2016, the fee is calculated at €2.90 per Member.

As stated in the ESC Statutes, a National Cardiac Society which has not paid the annual fees for two years will lose its voting rights at the General Assembly. If the annual fees remain unpaid for five years, the National Cardiac Society will be considered for expulsion from the ESC.

### Membership revenues

The new ESC Membership scheme, to be launched in 2016, offers different levels of membership.

As part of the new ESC Membership scheme, if a NCS Member upgrades his/her ESC Membership to the Professional or Professional Plus level, a « win-win » profit sharing mechanism between the ESC and the NCS is proposed:

- 5% on first year paid new ESC Membership
- 2,5% for the next 5 years

### Membership cards



The ESC updates its membership database annually and produces Membership Cards for all individual Members. It therefore requests email addresses; the use of these details complies with all current data protection legislation. Cards are invoiced at €2.50 each and carry the logo of both the ESC and the appropriate National Cardiac Society. National Cardiac Societies receive their Membership Cards at ESC Congress and are responsible for distributing them to their Members. If a National Cardiac Society cannot attend ESC Congress, the cards are sent directly to the National Cardiac Society's office.

### Communication contact person

National Cardiac Societies should nominate a contact person to be responsible for liaison with the ESC and to exchange communications information related to, for instance, web content, links, use of logos and other aspects.

**Collaboration  
between the ESC  
& Member  
National Cardiac  
Societies**



## ESC CARDIOLOGISTS OF TOMORROW



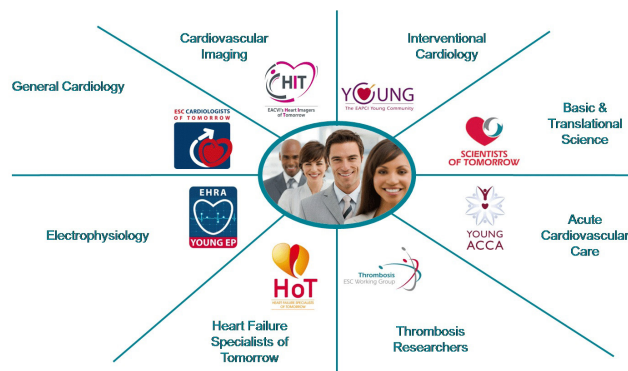
The ESC Cardiologists of Tomorrow (CoT) initiative is dedicated to young cardiologists who want to network with their peers and participate in events and activities for the next generation of cardiologists. 34 ESC National Cardiac Societies have a young national organisation and all the leaders are invited to network with their peers at ESC Congress. The CoT national groups are represented by a Nucleus of 7 members from National Cardiac Societies.

The ESC gives young cardiologists the structure needed to communicate, be recognised and help each other thrive in practice and research.

### The ESC Young Community

In addition to the Cardiologists of Tomorrow group, seven sub-specialty groups exist dedicated to young healthcare professionals.

- EAPCI Young
- Heart Imagers of Tomorrow (HIT)
- Scientists of Tomorrow (SoT)
- Young ACCA
- Young EP
- Heart Failure Specialists of Tomorrow (HoT)
- Young Thrombosis Researchers group



### Supporting Young Community at ESC Congress

- The ESC offers to all National Cardiac Societies 25 free registrations for their young cardiologists to attend ESC Congress. Each NCS selects candidates according to specific criteria
- Every year, CoT Nucleus members are involved in the ESC Congress Programme Committee to organise scientific sessions with live streaming videos: 'Cardiologists of Tomorrow Tracks'
- Young clinicians have the opportunity to present their cases during Clinical Cases sessions in the Poster Area
- During Challenging Cases sessions, 4 Best cases are selected by the CoT Nucleus with prize for winner
- Exclusive interviews are available on ESC TV
- Young Cardiologists have the opportunity to network and promote their activities on the Young Community corner of the ESC stand
- ESC Cardiologists of Tomorrow meetings gather young cardiologists attending ESC Congress
- The ESC Congress News offers visibility to the Young Communities researches

### Communication channels and tools

Dedicated webpages are hosted on the ESC website which lists all the opportunities for young cardiologists such as ESC grants, special education offers including online learning courses and webinars, congresses and events with special joint sessions. A newsletter is sent to all young cardiologists under 36 having a 'My ESC' account, and a LinkedIn group with more than 2 000 members (as of March 2016) facilitates interactive discussions.

Contact the ESC CoT office at [cot@escardio.org](mailto:cot@escardio.org).

## ESC CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

With over 30 000 participants from more than 150 countries, ESC Congress is the world's largest and most influential cardiovascular event. Each year, National Cardiac Societies are invited to ensure that their country's scientific expertise and interests are represented at the following year's congress and to submit their proposals for sessions. This contribution is key to the development of a truly international programme which reflects the most important issues across the world of cardiology.

The deadline for the call of proposals is the same every year: 30 September.

The ESC hopes that all NCS support this unique event of which they are an integral part. Support comes in the form of scientific contributions and from promotion to its membership. Dedicated resources are made available by the ESC for NCS websites allowing them to highlight the event itself through banners and adverts, and remind members of the key dates for abstract submission, registration and other details.

### ESC Congress 365

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ESC Congress 365 is a tool which gives to your National Cardiac Society and its Members free access to ESC Congress scientific content all year long.

- Allows access to thousands of slides, abstracts videos and reports
- Available online anytime through a free 'My ESC' account
- National Cardiac Societies can use any of these resources in their national meetings



ESC Congress resources are freely available for National Cardiac Societies Members to access online.

**National Cardiac Societies are invited to spread the word and include links on their website and in their newsletters.**



## EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

The European Society of Cardiology is engaged in a constant dialogue with health stakeholders in Europe, including EU and national policymakers, European advocacy groups as well as other professional medical associations and sister societies to secure a European environment favorable to reduce the burden of CVD.

Overall, the objectives of the ESC European Affairs activities are to:

- Identify together with ESC constituent bodies those issues that need to be addressed at national and EU level
- Develop positions and possible solutions to be adopted by decision makers
- Coordinate EU activities of the ESC and its constituent bodies
- 'Channel' access to policy-making
- Exchange and monitor information

### The EU initiatives include

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#### Cardiopolicy

In 2013, the ESC set up a cardiopolicy pilot group comprised of seven volunteer National Cardiac Societies. This initiative is aimed at improving collaboration and coordination to optimise the impact of the cardiology community and influence strategies at both European and national levels.

#### ESC Representation

- **Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (Biomed Alliance)**

The ESC is a founding member of the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe. This body was created in 2010 to promote the best interests and values of research across all medical disciplines in Europe, especially in those general areas in which common interest is identified. It speaks as the voice of all its members in seeking to facilitate and improve biomedical research in Europe.

Through its actions, the Alliance intends to promote excellence in European biomedical research and thereby improve the health and wellbeing of all European citizens. In particular, the Alliance was successful in promoting the creation at EU level of a scientific-led strategic body that can steer research and innovation across the entire health spectrum: a Scientific Panel for Health was set up by the European Commission in June 2014.

- **European Chronic Diseases Alliance (ECDA)**

The ESC is a founding member of the European Chronic Diseases Alliance, an unprecedented alliance of 11 not-for-profit European organisations representing specialty areas including cardiovascular diseases and diseases of the kidney, liver and lungs, as well as hypertension, diabetes and cancer. ECDA has established strong relations with the European Commission. The ESC was elected by the ECDA members to hold the Secretariat of the Alliance in 2015 & 2016.

- **Members of the European Parliament (MEP) Heart Group**

The Members of the European Parliament Heart Group is a discussion forum aimed at promoting measures that will help reducing the burden of CVD in the European Union and raise CVD as a priority on the EU political agenda. The secretariat of the MEP Heart Group is run jointly by the European Society of Cardiology and the European Heart Network. The MEP Heart Group organises policy meetings, where expert advice is presented to guide policy decisions as well as raising awareness events such as the Valentine's Day Twitter campaign every year. Information on the Group's activities is available on the Group's website [www.mepheartgroup.eu](http://www.mepheartgroup.eu) published in 2015.

#### Regulatory affairs

The availability and safety of drugs, devices or diagnostic tools has been enhanced by the contributions of our 95 000 - strong patient - focused cardiology community. By providing evidence-based recommendations to policy makers, the ESC has helped to guide their choices and inform their decisions.

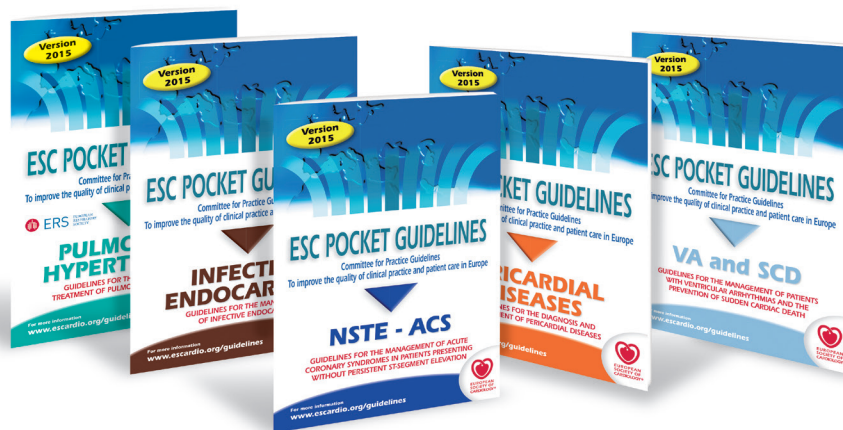
In addition, the ESC is regularly invited to share expertise with European Commission Committees, such as the Medical Devices Expert Group (MDEG), its Working Group on Clinical Investigation and Evaluation (CIE), and the Vigilance Working Group. A Task Force on Coronary Stents was set up with experts from the European Association of Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (EAPCI) to perform a systematic review of all CE-marked coronary stents to help the CIE revise their guidance documents, published in 2015.

## ESC CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Supporting the distribution of knowledge on prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases is a major responsibility of the European Society of Cardiology. An invaluable tool for cardiologists across Europe, the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines aim to present all the relevant evidence on a particular clinical issue in order to help physicians weigh the benefits and risks of a particular diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.

**In short, ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines are a key reference to improve everyday clinical medical decision-making.**

The ESC also develops a wide range of derivative educational products (CME Questions, Pocket Guidelines, Summary Cards, Essential Messages, Slide-sets...).



All are available on the ESC website at [www.escardio.org/guidelines](http://www.escardio.org/guidelines)

### Exclusivity for National Cardiac Societies

ESC National Cardiac Societies have the exclusive rights to translate and disseminate ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines for the first six months after their publication and after official endorsement of these guidelines by the National Cardiac Society. Other rules apply in the case of joint guidelines. The detailed rules can be found on the ESC website.

### Why ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines?

Respected and used across the globe, ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines are developed following a well-established process, ensuring their validity and quality. This process is outlined in the 'Recommendations for Guidelines Production' written for all involved in the production and updating of ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines.

### Implementation

ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines are supported by implementation programmes, webinars and derivative educational products to serve the profession, whether for a teacher setting exams or a student revising for one, a physician needing quick access to the best clinical decision or a research centre looking for the best project to advance science to the next level.

### National Guidelines Coordinators

National Guidelines Coordinators (NGC) are appointed by the NCS. Their role is to coordinate, liaise and communicate between the NCS and the ESC Committee for Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) and to oversee the endorsement, possible translation, dissemination and implementation of the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines. It is essential that they participate in the annual ESC CPG meeting and help with the selection of national experts to be involved in the review process of future ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines.

## Responsibilities of National Cardiac Societies

The following list defines the actions to be carried out in support of adopting ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines:

- Officially endorse and publish the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines (in NCS journals and/or with a link to the dedicated page on the ESC website)
- Possibly translate the full text and/or Pocket Guidelines and other derivative educational products
- Ensure timely dissemination and implementation of ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Appoint a dedicated National Guidelines Coordinator who fulfils the requirements of the role
- Appoint national experts for the review processes of ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Share the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines and derivative products, including Guidelines into Practice tracks, with members and the national medical community
- Include dedicated sessions at national meetings
- Invite international speakers from the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee
- Involve national journal(s) for dissemination of ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Attend ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines sessions at ESC Congress to learn about the latest publications and how to implement them
- Attend the annual National Guidelines Coordinator meeting
- Promote the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines and derivative products on their website, with a link to the dedicated pages on the ESC website

### Further information?

Go to [www.escardio.org/guidelines](http://www.escardio.org/guidelines) to get more information including the list of available ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines, recommendations for developing them, derivative educational products and the role of National Guidelines Coordinators.

## EUROBSERVATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

In medicine, little knowledge is derived from randomised controlled trials. Much originates from physio-pathological and observational research. The ESC recognises the importance of gaining information on medical practice from across the 56 ESC member countries and manages a complete EURObservational Research Programme (EORP).



Ensuring that the data collected is representative, is a major goal of the EORP. Countries have different profiles in terms of both cardiovascular risk factors and CVD prevalence and treatment. To be representative requires a balanced mix of countries with different characteristics and networks of centres in each country that reflect the local reality. To ensure the success of the EORP, the enthusiastic participation of the National Cardiac Societies and other ESC constituent bodies including Associations, Councils and Working Groups is essential.

**Participation in the EORP represents a unique opportunity to increase the collaboration between National Cardiac Societies and the ESC with the aim of collecting valuable 'real life' data at national and European levels.**

National Cardiac Societies can profit from valuable benefits.

In particular, the EORP database can be exploited for:

- Reference at a national level
- National publications
- Benchmarking country results versus the entire registry data
- Comparing results versus guideline recommendations

Certain restrictions apply to:

Publications

- National Coordinators to be recognised in all main and sub-papers
- National Coordinators to approve sub-analyses on sub-populations or on specific topics
- Primary authorship to be defined
- Duplication of main registry analyses with country data

Participating sites

- Sites and/or investigators to be recognised in all main and sub-papers
- Control over access and transfer of site cleaned data
- Overview of patient management at site level
- Proposal for sub analyses and primary authorship

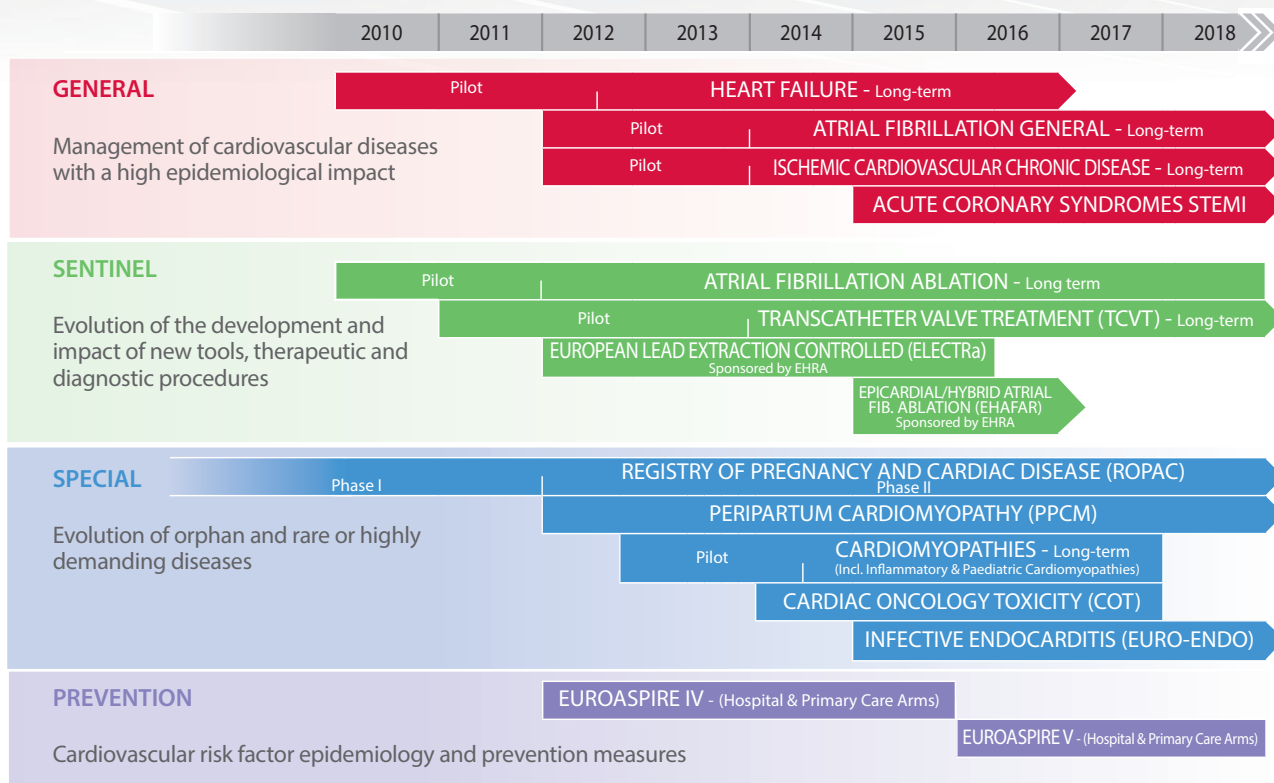
Furthermore, National Cardiac Societies have the opportunity to use the ESC databases for national registries, including a number of centres that they consider to be appropriate. The EORP is coordinated by an Oversight Committee composed of Present, Past and Elected ESC Presidents as well as representatives of the ESC Associations.

### Key figures since 2009:

- ~70 Participating countries (at least one study)
- +1 400 Number of centres
- ~100 000 Number of patients
- +40 Publications have referenced the clinical programme with many more expected in 2016<sup>2</sup>

2 - An exhaustive list of publications can be found at [www.escardio.org/EORP-publications](http://www.escardio.org/EORP-publications)

The coming years are critical to enlarge the number and size of the cardiovascular areas covered, to improve the operating networks and the methodological approach, to increase the efficiency of the EORP team at the ESC Heart House and to increase confidence of programme sponsors. In parallel with this effort, the ESC has strengthened its relationship with relevant EU Committees in Brussels and other institutions including the EU and the OECD so that the European data collected through its registries can be of great value.



Note: The registry durations shown include the follow-up phases.

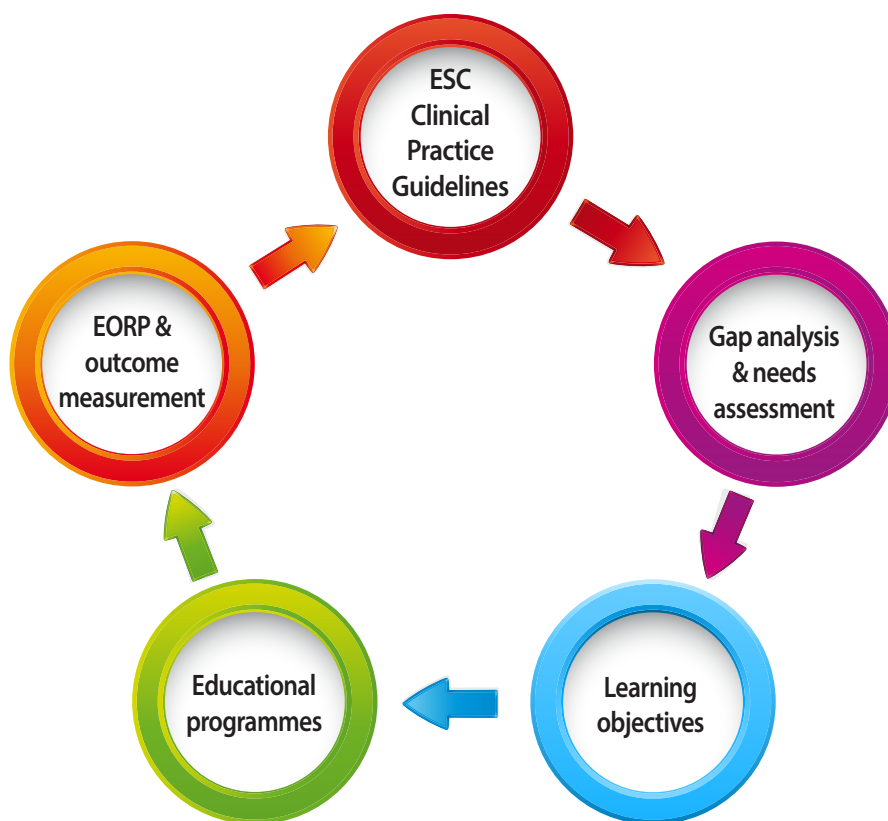
## EDUCATION

The ESC Education Committee together with the ESC Associations, Working Groups and Councils collaborate to develop a portfolio of educational activities. Importantly, the ESC has set as a strategic objective to engage increasingly in measurable, needs-driven, evidence-based educational initiatives that are relevant to its members. National Cardiac Societies are key partners in the dissemination of the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines and subsequent educational activities.

### Rationale and structure

All educational activities are mapped on the ESC Core Curriculum. The ESC Core Curriculum for the general cardiologist is a framework for training and lifelong learning in cardiology. It is the umbrella from which stems the sub-specialty curricula, thus ensuring cohesion and coherence in the specialty of cardiology.

Moreover, as defined by Maarten Simoons (2000), the educational strategic imperative at ESC is that the educational activities refer back to the recently published ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines, to ensure dissemination and engagement with those Guidelines.



Finally, robust educational methodology is integral to all ESC educational activities to ensure they are impactful and engaging for trainees, teachers and all healthcare professionals keeping up with their lifelong learning obligations.

The ESC Educational offer encompasses the following types of activities:



## ESC Education Conference

Each year, the ESC Education Committee meets with the National Directors of Training from every National Cardiac Society. This is an important role responsible for maintaining collaborative dialogue with the ESC to ensure that the overall education offering meets the needs of National Cardiac Societies. The main objective of the meeting is to provide the opportunity to jointly develop educational themes, to allow National Cardiac Societies to express their requirements and challenges in education and to allow National Directors to network with peers and discuss current issues in training, education, needs assessment and outcome measurement. The National Directors of Training will be prompted throughout the year to build upon this productive dialogue and it is therefore important that they are fully apprised of national requirements.

## Live courses

The ESC offers a variety of interactive, live courses in cooperation with a single National Cardiac Society or a group of National Cardiac Societies in a region. Usually based around one or two recently published ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines, the scientific programme is developed jointly with national experts and key opinion leaders. Presentations are strictly case-based in order to trigger discussions and contextualisation of recommendations. More information is available at the ESC website.

## eLearning

The ESC eLearning portfolio has grown in recent years and includes a number of initiatives which offer National Cardiac Societies the opportunity to engage with and localise specific programmes:

### • ESC webinar series

A live interactive session delivering case-based presentations by key opinion leaders from the ESC TV studio. A yearly programme runs from September to June and offers webinars on a range of topics including recently published ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines. ESC webinars are an effective means to engage collectively at national level with peers and/or trainees. Participants can access tools for polling and self-assessment questions and to chat with the speakers. Webinars are also made available online and, soon, with sub-title translation. National Cardiac Societies are invited to use the TV studio in Sophia Antipolis to record live sessions in national language. Check with the Education Team for financial details.

### • ESC eLearning platform

The ESC eLearning platform is an educational platform with a variety of training programmes and course catalogues in the following areas of study:

- General cardiology
- Acute cardiovascular care
- Heart Rhythm
- Cardiovascular Imaging
- Prevention and Rehabilitation
- Heart Failure
- Percutaneous Interventions

There are many opportunities for National Cardiac Societies to be better engaged with the PCI programme and they are encouraged to appoint a National Administrator and contact the EAPCI office to enroll. The general cardiology programme was launched at ESC Congress 2015 with over 80 courses, covering 10 topics of the ESC core curriculum.

The launch of the comprehensive Learning Programme in general cardiology, populated with all 28 topics of the curriculum will take place in 2016. National Cardiac Societies have a key role in the deployment of this programme as a pilot phase will take place with selected National Cardiac Societies. All other programmes are linked to respective ESC Associations membership benefits.

### **Other eLearning activities**

Other eLearning activities are available and National Cardiac Societies are urged to promote them to members. Examples include:

- ESC Clinical Case Gallery: training and teaching material that delivers step-wise cases ensuring proficiency based progression, self-assessment and development of critical engagement with the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines recommendations.
- Guidelines into practice tracks: key opinion leaders selected to bring the best presentations and sessions at each ESC Congress on recently published ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines...

### **Knowledge assessment and quality assurance**

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To ensure the breadth of knowledge has been retained, and at times as part of full certification of excellence programmes, the ESC has been developing knowledge assessment initiatives in the following areas:

- General cardiology
- Imaging and other modalities
- Arrhythmias
- Acute cardiovascular care

### **European Examination in General Cardiology (EEGC)**

This initiative is an opt-in programme which the ESC is making available to National Cardiac Societies, in cooperation with UEMS Cardiology Section, Pearson Vue (a network of testing centres), and the University of Cologne (psychometrics analysis expertise). Commitments include appointing question writers, a question selector, a standard setter, a representative at the EEGC Board, as well as putting forward a number of candidates each year for the examination which is held every June. For more details on opting-in, contact [education@escardio.org](mailto:education@escardio.org)

### **Knowledge assessment and certification of excellence in sub-specialties in cardiology**

These activities are accessible without commitment from the National Cardiac Societies.



# Meeting and Networking opportunities



## SPRING SUMMIT

The Spring Summit is a unique occasion each year for the ESC leadership to meet with its constituent bodies including the National Cardiac Societies, ESC Associations, Working Groups, Councils and the ESC Board. The objective is to bring everyone together to discuss the future tasks and evolution of the ESC, as well as to exchange views, analyse and discuss the achievements of the previous year.

The Spring Summit is held at the European Heart House (EHH), usually early in March. Three representatives from every National Cardiac Society are invited (the President or his substitute, one Permanent Staff and the Editor-in-chief of the national cardiology journal). The ESC covers the local accommodation expenses, transportation from and to the airport and food.



## ESC CONGRESS

As privileged guests, the Presidents and Secretaries of every National Cardiac Society benefit from free registration at ESC Congress. Details are distributed through the National Cardiac Societies Presidents' letter each year. During the congress, current initiatives and projects are discussed at a dedicated National Cardiac Societies Presidents' meeting. There is an additional opportunity to network at the ESC dinner to which all Presidents are invited.

### Major meetings at ESC Congress

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- The ESC annual report of activities is presented at the constituent bodies meeting
- The National Cardiac Societies Presidents' meeting is a follow-up of the previous Spring Summit and presents the progress on action items
- The National Cardiac Societies Permanent Staff meeting is dedicated to the further development of our collaboration
- The General Assembly is organised during ESC Congress and gives the opportunity to members to be updated on the activities of all constituent bodies and to meet with the leaders

### ESC stand

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The ESC stand is located in the ESC Plaza surrounded by National Cardiac Societies' stands.

All information about ESC products, services and initiatives are provided to delegates.



### National cardiac societies' stands

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At ESC Congress, each National Cardiac Society is offered a 9m<sup>2</sup> complimentary stand space with a fully serviced package including signage, electricity, furniture, lighting, storage room, and daily cleaning. Each National Cardiac Society stand is entitled to apply for five free general exhibitor badges and five free scientific exhibitor badges.

## NATIONAL CARDIAC SOCIETIES' ANNUAL CONGRESS

The ESC supports National Cardiac Societies in promoting their annual congress on the ESC website in the respective National Cardiac Societies dedicated pages and in the World Cardio Agenda. Twice a year, in July and January, a free advert in the European Heart Journal displays the dates and the venue of National Cardiac Societies' annual congresses. Every year the ESC actively participates in National Cardiac Societies' annual congresses with joint scientific sessions and a leadership meeting. A stand to raise membership awareness among National Cardiac Societies' Members is also set up in numerous countries.

### Joint stand

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The ESC attends the congresses of as many National Cardiac Societies as possible each year. It is part of the bilateral agreement that, in return for providing free space at ESC Congress, space is provided for the ESC at each National Cardiac Society's congress. The ESC will contact the Board of the National Cardiac Societies where the ESC is able to attend for the coming year. If agreed, the ESC will require information on the venue and other organisational details.

The joint stand demonstrates collaboration and shared initiatives and increases awareness that Members of National Cardiac Societies are also Members of the ESC and can access all ESC Membership benefits. The ESC brings complimentary ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines, free or discounted educational products and other promotional materials. It includes information on educational opportunities and services that the ESC offers to healthcare professionals to support their ongoing medical development. A dedicated ESC Staff Member represents the ESC on this joint stand.

### Joint sessions

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#### Goals

- To increase scientific exchange with National Cardiac Societies (NCS)
- To enhance implementation of ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines and encourage their dissemination
- To demonstrate ESC's commitment to NCS
- To contribute to the scientific programme of NCS annual congresses through the presence of ESC international experts

#### Format of the Joint Session

One to two ESC representatives (English spoken) + two local representatives

#### Financial aspect

Travel and local accommodation expenses covered by the ESC for National Cardiac Societies' annual congresses only

#### Topics

Since 2011, the selection of topics concerns the ESC Clinical Practice Guidelines (mostly new Guidelines of the year)

#### Timelines

Request for joint session to be sent by NCS to ESC four months in advance



# Communication Tools





## ESC WEBSITE

The ESC website can be found at [www.escardio.org](http://www.escardio.org)

## NATIONAL CARDIAC SOCIETIES' WEB PAGES

Each National Cardiac Society has dedicated web pages on the ESC website, highlighting its national journal and annual meeting dates, as well as activities it shares with the ESC.

## NATIONAL CARDIAC SOCIETIES PRESIDENTS' LETTER

A regular newsletter is distributed to the President of each National Cardiac Society and its permanent staff. In this letter, the ESC provides general updates on its progress and its activities and offers the opportunity to share information between National Cardiac Societies.

## NATIONAL CARDIAC SOCIETIES' PORTAL

This is a dedicated, secure portal at which is stored an archive of useful information:

- Previous issues of the National Cardiac Societies Presidents' Letters
- Slides from National Cardiac Societies' meetings at ESC Congress and Spring Summit
- Posters, banners, and links for promotion of ESC Congress
- Meeting minutes
- EU Affairs Newsletters (EU NewsFlash)

Your login: [ncs@escardio.org](mailto:ncs@escardio.org)

Password: **society**

Web link: available in every National Cardiac Societies Presidents' letter



**For Members**



## YOUR MEMBERS ARE ESC MEMBERS

A Member of a National Cardiac Society is a Member of the ESC.

A cardiologist or healthcare professional working in an ESC member country wishing to become an ESC Professional or Professional Plus Member should be a Member of his/her National Cardiac Society.

Each Member will have the ability to choose from different levels of belonging including the offers from the sub-specialty groups.



All ESC Members are eligible for election to positions on the ESC Board.

In addition to ESC Membership, healthcare professionals can also apply to be awarded the title of 'Fellow of the ESC' - a symbol of excellence.

## MY ESC NEWSLETTERS

Multiple newsletters exist at the ESC on different topics.

Subscriptions can be managed through your 'My ESC' Account.

## MY ESC ACCOUNT

The 'My ESC' account is a free and personalised account that enables individuals to:

- Submit abstracts and register for all ESC Congresses
- Access a range of ESC products, including the ESC Pocket Guidelines App, ESC Congress 365...
- Become a Member of an ESC sub-specialty group
- Apply to become a Fellow of the ESC
- Request letters of invitation for visa applications
- Subscribe to My ESC Newsletters

Note: A My ESC account does not automatically imply membership of the ESC.



# **Coordinators Important dates and Contact details**





## YOUR DIFFERENT COORDINATORS TO BE APPOINTED

- National Guidelines Coordinator (see Guidelines section)
- ESC e-Learning Platforms Coordinators (see Education section)
- National Director of training (see Education section)
- National CVD Prevention Coordinators

National Cardiac Societies have the opportunity to appoint National CVD Prevention Coordinators, who are responsible for implementing a CVD prevention strategy in their country and act as the main liaison with the European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation (EACPR).

National CVD Prevention Coordinators also work closely with ESC National Guidelines Coordinators, and their National Cardiac Society, for the implementation of the European Guidelines on CVD Prevention in Clinical Practice.

More information available in the EACPR section of [www.escardio.org](http://www.escardio.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

### FOR YOUR INSTITUTION

Stands application for ESC Congress	7 January
Membership List	30 November
National Cardiac Societies Fees payment	31 March
National Cardiac Society annual congress in the EHJ	1 May/1 November
ESC Congress pre-arranged sessions proposals	30 September

### FOR YOUR MEMBERS

CCNAP Post-Doctoral Mentorship Award	4 January
EAPCI Interventional Cardiology Grants	30 January
Training Fellowship Programme in Electrophysiology	31 January
Training Fellowship Programme in Arrhythmias and Cardiac Pacing	31 January
EHRA International Training Fellowship	31 January
EHRA Academic Research Fellowship Programme	31 January
ESC Congress Abstract submission	14 February
ESC Research and Training and Grants	28 February
ESC Congress Clinical Case submission	1 March
EACVI Grants	31 March
Research Fellowship in Heart Failure	14 April
Hot Line / Clinical Trial Update	1 May
ESC First Contact Initiative Grant	6 May
ESC Congress Early Fee registration	31 May
ESC Congress Late Fee registration	31 July
ESC Fellowship application	30 September
Echocardiography Research Grant	30 September
Nurse Training Fellowship	October
ESC Basic Research Fellowship	1 December
ESC Fellowship Fees Payment	31 December

## CONTACT DETAILS

European Society of Cardiology  
The European Heart House  
2035, Route des Colles  
Les Templiers  
CS 80179 BIOT  
06903 Sophia Antipolis  
France

[www.escardio.org](http://www.escardio.org)

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# Glossary



CCNAP:	Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions
CIE:	Clinical Investigation and Evaluation
CPG:	Committee for Practice Guidelines
CoT:	Cardiologists of Tomorrow
CRT:	Cardiovascular Round Table
CV:	CardioVascular
CVD:	CardioVascular Disease
EACPR:	European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation
EACVI:	European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging
EAPCI:	European Association of Percutaneous Coronary Interventions
ECDA:	European Chronic Diseases Alliance
EEGC:	European Examination in General Cardiology
EHH:	European Heart House
EHN:	European Heart Network
EHRA:	European Heart Rhythm Association
EORP:	EURObservational Research Programme
EU:	European Union
ESC / SEC:	European Society of Cardiology / Société Européenne de Cardiologie
FESC:	Fellow of the ESC/ESC Fellowship
FP7:	European Union Seventh Framework Programme for Research
GA:	General Assembly
IS:	Information System
MDEG:	Medical Devices Expert Group
MEP:	Members of the European Parliament
NCS:	National Cardiac Society
NGC:	National Guidelines Coordinator
NGOs:	Non Governmental Organisations
NCSPL:	National Cardiac Societies Presidents Letter
OECD:	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PCI:	Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions
UEMS:	European Union of Medical Specialists
WHO:	World Health Organization

