



INTRODUCTION AND 2026 ACTION PLAN

March 2026

2026

WHO WE ARE

Our identity



EUPSF is an independent foundation, uniting experts and leading organisations to drive patient safety forward across Europe.

By involving stakeholders such as patients, healthcare professionals, healthcare managers and life sciences companies in all aspects of our work, including in our governance, we bring together complementary points of view to develop solutions tailored to the complexity of patient safety challenges.

PATIENTS

**EXPERTS
NATIONAL PS
ORGANISATIONS**

**HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS
HOSPITALS**

INDUSTRY

WHO WE ARE

Our vision

Continuous improvement of patient safety and quality of care is the top priority of European healthcare.



A broad understanding of patient safety

Patient safety needs to be approached holistically, considering all the direct and indirect factors that condition excellence in care, and linking it to the equity in care, the resilience and the sustainability of the healthcare systems.



A systemic vision of change

Approaches aiming at improving patient safety must embrace the complexity of healthcare systems, the interdependencies between processes, technologies and the human factor, and seek to produce a sustained positive impact.



A shared responsibility

Improving patient safety must involve all the stakeholders concerned - including patients, healthcare professionals, leadership-to combine different perspectives and develop solutions tailored to the challenges of patient safety and the growing technicity of care.

WHO WE ARE

Our mission



We promote improvement of patient safety and quality of care across Europe.

Empowering people

By ensuring European patients, healthcare professionals and providers are informed, trained and empowered in their roles to provide the safest and highest quality care possible.

Driving change

Through partnership with leading organisations and experts in the field of patient safety, developing initiatives and policy proposals that genuinely advance patient safety across Europe, making it a tangible reality for all patients.

Fostering collaboration

By connecting healthcare stakeholders across Europe, creating a united network who share knowledge, tools and recommendations for implementing innovative practices, to improve patient safety and outcomes.

EUPSF AFFILIATES

Organisations and individuals driving patient safety forward with us in 2026

NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS



INDUSTRY



INDIVIDUALS

- Dr. Patricia Burga (Italy)
- Mr. Frederik Meilwes (Germany)
- Dr. Arnt Suckow (Germany)
- Mrs. Panagiota Tsikala (Austria)
- Dr. med. Johannes Wacker, MPH (Switzerland)
- Dr. Angelika Werner (Germany)
- Dr. David Whitaker (UK)
- Dr. Nataliya Levchenko (UK)
- Mrs. Anna Modos (CZ)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our governance



Mrs. Penilla Gunther
EUPSF President
FOKUS Patient, Sweden



Mr. Pedro Vieira Dos Santos
EUPSF Vice-President
Medtronic, Portugal



Ms. Kira Tosgberg
EUPSF Treasurer
APS, Germany

According to the EUPSF by-laws, the Foundation is managed by a Board consisting of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) members.

Only Non-profit Organisation Affiliates and Industry Affiliates can be elected as Board member, a majority of which must be NPO Affiliates.



Mrs. Doina Carmen Mazilu
Board Member
OAMGMAMR, Romania



PD Dr. Michael Wagner
Board Member
MedUni Vienna, Austria



Mr. Jose Luis Gomez
Board Member
Becton Dickinson, Spain



Mr. Andrea Rappagliosi
Board Member
Edwards Lifesciences, Switzerland

ADVISORY BOARD

Bringing independent and critical view on our actions and strategic development



PD Dr. Sven Staender
Switzerland



Prof. Eberhard Kochs
Germany



Dr. Nancy Redfern
United Kingdom



Prof. Adrian Gelb
United States



Dr. David Borshoff
Australia



Mrs. Cecilia Edström
Sweden

SECRETARIAT

The EUPSF is based in Brussels, Belgium and the Secretariat is managed by a [TRASA](#).



Mrs. Mirka Čikkelová
General Secretary
Belgium



Mr. Stéphane Boulanger
Policy Advisor
Belgium

WORKING THEMES



PATIENT INVOLVEMENT



SAFETY AND CULTURE



LEADERSHIP, TEAM AND ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE



CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION



WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF THE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

2026 ACTION PLAN

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

2026 ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW



STRENGTHENING THE PS COMMUNITY



Bringing together leading experts and organisations



[EUROPEAN PATIENT SAFETY STRATEGY](#)



[EUROPEAN PATIENT SAFETY CONFERENCE 2026](#)



INFORMAL & FORMAL AFFILIATE MEETINGS

Councils of Affiliates, Tailor-made exclusive update meetings



[EXCLUSIVE WEBINARS AND EVENTS](#)

A2A webinars, Conference side-event



DIRECT MAILING TO THE PATIENT SAFETY COMMUNITY

Newsletters, Webinars, Conference information

DRIVING CHANGE



Sharing and up-scaling innovative practices



[FIGHTING FATIGUE TOGETHER](#)

Resource Pack for hospital management; EU Policy engagement; national campaigns



BUTTERFLY IMPACT AWARD 2026



DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TO PATIENT SAFETY INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

Second victim phenomenon – RESCUE; #AISafeCare, # SafeSustainability, Mental Health (MeSu), Fasting procedures, Patient Blood Management



WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY 2026

Celebrating the day together with our affiliates

PATIENT SAFETY ADVOCACY



Raising the visibility and discussion of patient safety issues



[PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ALLIANCES, AND EU PROJECTS](#)



PROMOTION OF PATIENT SAFETY AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



PROACTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OR REGULATORY PROPOSALS TO EU POLICYMAKERS



SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

EUPSF STRATEGY FOR SAFE AND RESILIENT HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS IN EUROPE

EUROPEAN PATIENT SAFETY STRATEGY

STRATEGIC GOAL

To develop a collaborative **European Strategy for Safe and Resilient Healthcare Systems**, that drives improvement across Europe and encourages stronger, coordinated efforts at the EU and national level.

SCOPE

Shift from a narrow focus (medical errors, surgical checklists and incident reporting) towards a broader, system-based understanding of patient safety: preventable harm is shaped not only by individual clinical acts, but by workforce wellbeing, digital reliability, organisational culture and system resilience.

STORYTELLING

Over the four last years, our conferences across Europe, enabling multi-stakeholders dialogue, have revealed a clear pattern: regardless of national context, healthcare systems face shared vulnerabilities that directly impact patient safety. In Brussels, we bring these insights together, through a bottom-up, collaboratively developed and actionable European strategy. Built with our affiliates and partners, this strategy focuses on the key systemic risk factors they identify in daily practice, ensuring that patient safety evolves from isolated initiatives to a coherent framework promoting a proactive attitude for safer and more resilient healthcare systems.



EUROPEAN PATIENT SAFETY STRATEGY

KEY TOPICS :

- **The reasons safety matters** : key global statistics on preventable harm (if possible : detailed by areas or type of risks), the economic burden of medical errors, links between safety and workforce retention, between the context of crisis/safety/preparedness
- **Positioning of the strategy** : alignment with WHO guidelines, explanation of the scope and development process, to be followed by an implementation guide (evidence-based practices)
- **Governance (policy level)** : support of national patient safety platforms, strategies, reporting and analysing tools (or bodies) and indicators
- **Governance (institution level)**: leadership, organisational performance and learning culture
- **Innovation**: conditions to achieve the potential of technology, AI and safety, quality of data, guidance for implementation,...
- **HCP's wellbeing and safety** : fatigue, second-victim phenomenon, mental health
- **HCP's empowerment** : patient safety, team work and communication skills in initial and continuous curricula, the benefit of simulation-based approaches to train, design new process,..
- **Involvement of the patients** (and families) in a patient-centered care



EUROPEAN PATIENT SAFETY CONFERENCE 2026

4 DECEMBER 2026

EUROPEAN PATIENT SAFETY CONFERENCE **2026**

**Towards Safe and Resilient Healthcare
Systems in Europe : From Strategy to Implementation**



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

2026 PATIENT SAFETY CONFERENCE



Towards Safe and Resilient Healthcare Systems in Europe : From Strategy to Implementation

Across Europe, healthcare systems are facing shared and growing vulnerabilities – including workforce fatigue and shortages, gaps in crisis preparedness, financial pressure and increasing complexity of care. These systemic pressures directly affect patient safety and clinical outcomes.

Over the past five years, through conferences and multi-stakeholder dialogue organised across Europe by the European Patient Safety Foundation, a clear pattern has emerged: preventable harm is rarely the result of isolated clinical errors alone. It is shaped by governance structures, workforce wellbeing, leadership culture, digital reliability and the overall resilience of healthcare systems.

In response, the EUPSF and its affiliates have initiated a collaborative development of a **European Strategy for Safe and Resilient Healthcare Systems**. Built on practical experience and cross-country exchange, the strategy moves beyond fragmented safety initiatives towards a coherent, system-based framework addressing the structural risk factors that influence daily practice.

This conference marks the transition from strategy to implementation and practice. Through structured panels, peer dialogue and contributions from affiliated organisations and invited experts, participants will examine how the strategy's key pillars – governance, workforce wellbeing and empowerment, innovation design and implementation, learning culture and leadership, and patient involvement – can be translated into concrete actions at institutional, national and European level.

By bringing together healthcare professionals, hospital leaders, policymakers, researchers, insurers, industry representatives and national patient safety platforms, the conference aims to foster alignment, strengthen coordinated efforts and support a more proactive and resilient approach to patient safety across Europe.

Date: **4 December 2026**
Place: **Brussels, Belgium**



CONFERENCE VENUE

Résidence Palace - International Press Centre

This sumptuous 1920s Art Deco building is situated a stone's throw from Rond-point Schuman in the heart of Brussels' European quarter.



Event Spaces:

Conference Sessions: Polak Room

Networking and Exhibition area: Polio



Address: 155 Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Virtual Tour: <https://virtualltour.residencepalace.be/>
Website: <https://residencepalace.be/en>

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

PRE-CONFERENCE DAY - 3 December 2026

14.00 – 15:30 : Advocacy event at the EU Parliament

- Presentation and discussion of the EU PS Strategy
- One representative per affiliate

17:00 – 19:00 : Council of Affiliate (informal)

- Exclusive dialogue around a high-level speaker addressing a strategic issue in patient safety (preparedness, system resilience, emerging risks...)

19:30 – 21:30 : Affiliate dinner

- Presence of selected invited guests (MP's, Keynote speaker, Board members,...)

CONFERENCE DAY - 4 December 2026

PLENARY SESSIONS:

- Presentation of the EUPSF Strategy by the affiliates (one panel-style session by section + presentation)
- Discussion about how to move from strategy to implementation
- Presentation of scalable practices/initiatives

BUTTERFLY IMPACT AWARD CEREMONY

EXHIBITION AND REFLECTION CORNERS FOR SPONSORS

LONGER BREAKS TO ENABLE NETWORKING

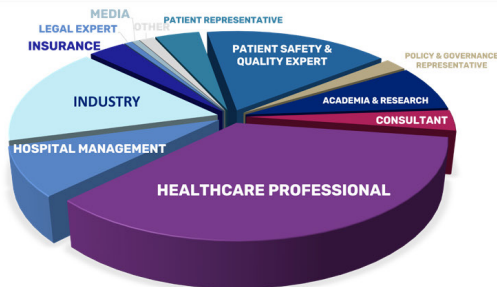
ATTENDANCE STRUCTURE

On site delegates:

143 seats (max 200)

Virtual participation:

min 300 expected
(Subject to sponsorship confirmation)



Communication infrastructure :

www.eupsf.org (3,400 page views, 1,775 sessions in 2025);

<https://conference.eupsf.org> (11,243+ page views 2025);

Direct mailing (3,700+ recipients); LinkedIn (2,500+ followers)

Network Partnerships:

40+ affiliates spanning NPOs, industry, academia, individual experts, among others World Patient Alliance (730+ orgs), OAMGMAMR (190k+ nurses). **Estimated reach:** 350,000+ healthcare professionals and patient advocates across Europe

AFFILIATES EVENTS

2026 PROJECTS : A2A WEBINARS

STRATEGIC GOAL

The A2A Mini-Webinars are designed to reinforce collaboration within our Affiliate network by creating regular opportunities to share knowledge and connect on priority topics in patient safety.

What we do:

- Provide a platform for Affiliates to present their work and current initiatives
- Encourage peer-to-peer learning and open discussion in a trusted environment
- Showcase European perspectives and practical approaches to patient safety challenges

How it works:

- Short virtual sessions focused on a single topic
- Presentations recorded and shared publicly
- Discussions kept confidential to support transparent exchange

Strategic contribution:

The webinars help build collective expertise, highlight national contexts, and support alignment across Europe. They also contribute to shaping future content for the EUPSF work, and for policy and communication activities.

Expected deliverables:

- ✓ 4 Webinars in 2026; publicly available presentation recordings
- ✓ Insights feeding into EUPSF workstreams and messaging
- ✓ Topics – to be proposed by the Affiliates, call to be launched early 2026

2026 PROJECTS

2026 PROJECTS : FFT CAMPAIGN

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Strengthen Europe-wide recognition and management of fatigue as a critical risk in healthcare, enabling safer working conditions for professionals and safer care for patients.

GOALS FOR 2026

1. Partnerships & Resources
2. EU Policy Engagement
3. Reinforcement of the FFT community
4. Phase 2 - Campaign Development



2026 PROJECTS : RESCUE



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Enable the implementation and recognition of peer-support programmes for second victims across Europe, in collaboration with the **RESCUE Initiative**, relying on a sustainable business model.

GOALS FOR 2026

1. Implement the collaboration with the RESCUE Initiative:
2. Certification Launch
3. Develop pilots in pioneering countries to identify guidance needs:
4. European awareness & Communication campaign



<https://cost-ernst.eu/news/rescue-e-bo>

#AISafeCare

STRATEGIC GOAL

Develop and promote a vision of safety at the age of AI.

1. **Identify AI safety challenges**
2. **Raise awareness and promote safe AI policies**

#SafeSustainability

STRATEGIC GOAL

Develop and promote a vision building bridges between patient safety and sustainability.

1. **Identify how patient safety interacts with sustainability**
2. **Raise awareness and promote messages about the links between PS & sustainability**

POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORK

2026 : ADVOCACY GROUPS AND ALLIANCES

PROCESS

- Increasing demands from third-parties
- Screening, assessment of alignment with EUPSF's mission and goals + assessment of workload
- Discussion with Executive Committee about involvement and readiness for endorsement
- Review and contribution integrating the different perspectives represented in EUPSF
- Endorsement by the EUPSF Board

ONGOING WORK

- Capacity Enhancing Innovation group (led by RPP, supported by Edwards, BD, Philips,...)
- Electronic Product Information roundtable series (ePI) – (led by EFPIA, supported by AstraZeneca, Chiesi, Bayer)
- E-PACT Alliance (led by EHMA, supported by BD) – digitalisation of hospital medication management pathways
- Active Citizenship network (civil society) - EU Patient Rights charter and white papers
- ECAMET - Call to Action on staff shortages and burnout in cancer medication pathways
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Thank you for your attention!

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2026