

## Brain Health as a global Priority: The burden of neurological disease in Europe

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Brain health is the key health issue of the 21st century. The basis for political action is the burden which these diseases put on the modern European Society. Using the database of the Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation, University of Washington, Seattle, USA and the Global Burden of disease collaborators, an EAN-project group (E. Beghi, G. Deuschl, T. Varga et al.) has put together the facts for each European country and for Europe as a whole and its regional grouping.

WHO-Europe is separated in this database according to the WHO-definition into Western, Central and Eastern Europe and additionally we have compiled the data for the European Union (EU28). Here we will report mainly key messages for EU28. The neurologic disease burden in the EU28 is 21 Mio DALYs (Disability-adjusted life years) which amounts to 13.4% of the total disease burden in this region. 1.1 Mio deaths are caused by neurologic disease annually and the amount of neurologic diagnoses is 307.9 Mio in EU28 with a total of 512 Mio inhabitants in Europe. There is an overall increase of neurological diseases in the EU-28 since 1990, but the age standardized rates decreased by -27% for DALYs and 38% for deaths. Stroke is main contributor to DALYs in the EU-28 with 35% followed by dementia (25%) and headache (23%). Over lifespan, headache is the main contributor in midlife while stroke is increasing from the 40th with a peak around 75 years and dementias are increasingly common from the age of 55 with becoming more common than stroke after the age of 85. There are relative differences between European countries with more strokes in the eastern countries and more dementia in the western countries. Central European countries have a middle position also with respect to the disease distribution. In the EU-28 statistically 6510 patients are served by one neurologist on average, but there are significant differences from country to country. The whole information will be available soon to the public and this which will be announced through the organs of EAN, EBC and EFNA.