

Strategic Plan

2022–2024

The description of our new vision moving forward, our core mission and five ambitious strategic goals, which we aim to achieve through our activities of the next three years.

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About Us

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is one of the most common long-term conditions affecting the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) and the main cause of non-traumatic disability among young adults. There are 1.2 million people living with MS in Europe.



EUROPEAN
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
PLATFORM

For over 30 years, the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform has been the leading voice in Europe advocating for people living with MS. In tandem with our members, partners, and people living with MS across the EU, we strive to influence policy decisions to ensure high- quality, equitable treatment, care, and resources for people affected by MS, and their inclusion in education, employment and society at large. EMSP is also a driving force in the MS research agenda, ensuring coherence, engagement of people living with MS, and advancement towards our vision of a world without MS.

As the umbrella organisation for national MS organisations in Europe, EMSP is uniquely positioned to:



Identify and facilitate programmes that make a real difference to people with MS



Enhance cooperation between European players in the fields of research and advocacy



Influence European health, social and employment policies through evidence-based advocacy reflecting the collective views of our membership



Support national MS societies in their advocacy work, including outreach to policy-makers and capacity-building



Build alliances between MS, chronic disease and disability advocates across Europe.

Our Mission

EMSP brings together the unique expertise of our members and partners in Europe to drive critical, state-of-the-art research and advance MS-relevant policies and treatments and possible cure. Our platform offers our members, EU decision-makers and opinion-leaders, and the wider MS community valuable evidence-based resources and tools to improve the lives of every individual living with MS in Europe.

Our Values

- ▶ Equity
- ▶ Social Justice
- ▶ Diversity
- ▶ Solidarity
- ▶ Sustainability
- ▶ Inclusion

Our Vision

A world without MS, achieved in partnership with people living with MS, their communities across Europe, and their allies.

EMSP Strategic Plan 2022-2023

Our Five Strategic Goals



GOAL 1

To provide a robust platform for capacity building: to engage, educate and inspire representatives and advocates of people affected by MS to be a strong and effective voice



GOAL 2

To strive for better access to treatments, therapies, and integrated care for people with MS across Europe



GOAL 3

To promote evidence-based good practice, and more effective health and social care for people with MS, through digitalisation and health data



GOAL 4

To fight for equity and social inclusion and social protection of people affected by MS



GOAL 5

To support more and better investment of people and resources in MS research

This strategic plan defines EMSP as an organisation in today's complex environment. It describes our new vision moving forward, our core mission and five ambitious strategic goals, which we aim to achieve through our activities of the next three years (2022-2024). The plan underlines our commitment to partnership with fellow organisations striving for a better future for people living with MS, and it outlines our approach to monitoring and planning for the future.

The purposes of this plan are



To be a central governance, management, and communications tool;



To enable internal and external stakeholders to understand, engage in, and contribute to EMSP's vision and goals of the next three years;



To evaluate EMSP's progress in delivering on these goals in accordance with Key Performance Indicators, and realign the strategy as needed.

The plan will be complemented by detailed annual workplans that will be framed around the 5 new strategic goals and a roadmap. On the basis of an evaluation of this plan, a new strategic plan will be co-created with the EMSP membership in 2024 for the next EU political mandate, which will build on achievements and impact of the next 3 years.

Current policy landscape in the EU and opportunities for EMSP

With **MS Barometer** EMSP will be able to influence national policies of non-EU countries in Europe through EU delegations, especially since many of these delegations are already active with respect to disability and employment policies.

- ▶ European Health Union through the **EU4Health Programme** strengthens enormously the role cooperation to build resilience and reform and provides considerable resources.
- ▶ Similarly, **HORIZON Europe** has a significant health research budget, and the Innovative Medicine Initiative will be succeeded by an Innovative Health Initiative with a wider scope covering technological, digital, social and systems innovation
- ▶ **European Commission's pharmaceutical strategy** underlines that "treatments for important diseases, for example, neurodegenerative diseases and paediatric cancers are still lacking", which provides a useful starting point for dialogue and action in this space.
- ▶ **'European Health Data Space'** could provide an important backdrop for EMSP's future ambitions in relation to digitalisation and responsible health data sharing / registries, to advance on its vision and mission.
- ▶ **EU Disability Strategy 2021-2030** - will provide additional political opportunities for EMSP to play its role as the voice of Europeans with MS. Alongside this strategy, there are numerous broader initiatives, such as the **Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights**, the **Semester Process**, the **European Parliament's recent work on homelessness**, the **EU Gender Equality Strategy**, which all touch upon aspects of living with MS.
- ▶ **European Accessibility Act** is another potential break-through for the EMSP community. It can be expected that the files will work in sync to enhance mobility and accessibility for disabled people, and this presents a key opportunity for EMSP to advocate for the specific needs and rights of people with MS.
- ▶ **Enhanced Recognition for Informal Carers** is aimed to ensure that care is made visible, the contribution of informal caregivers is recognised, that care can be placed at the centre of health, economic and social policy at national level and the needs of caregivers and families valued and their work compensated
- ▶ **EU Recovery and Resilience Facility** will make €672.5 billion in loans and grants available to support reforms and investments undertaken by the EU Member States to mitigate the economic and social impact of the pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the green and digital transitions.
- ▶ With the **Green Recovery** on the table, sustainability, resilience, and reform are now key priorities for the Commission.

Roadmap of action

2021 - 2022

Membership engagement and capacity building programme

2021: assess engagement level, review targeted communications and services, communications channels, evaluation and adjustment

2022: launch of renewed membership engagement strategy to improve member engagement, identify champions in key activities of EMSP (reinforced role)



Identify and strengthen partnership with member organisations, development of member engagement campaigns, regular monitoring

2022-2024

Assessing needs of the MS community;

Bridging the work that we undertake in a specifically EU context with EMSP members' work and collaboration in the wider European stakeholders network by developing advocacy and campaigning capacity programme for MS advocates

Scaling up the EMSP Capacity Building Programme for our member organisations who request it, and their members. This focuses on organisational development;

Involving members effectively in 'growing' EMSP and its member organisations through well structured consultation and sharing of information and good practices;

Creating thematic working groups to lead on specific policy issues that advance our strategic goals and operational objectives, with the support of the EMSP Secretariat focusing primarily on 3-4 core areas agreed by our membership;

Setting up Thematic Policy Advisory groups;

Developing trainings to support further development and sustainability of MS societies and peer support activities for MS societies

Developing a programme for young people to facilitate inclusion of key expertise in the development of initiatives aiming at bringing societal changes (MS Hive).



Trainings and educational programmes

Contributing to development of thematic programmes for patients to support better engagement of the patients' voice in fields relevant for decision making, including the MSDA Academy.

Further developing the MS Nurse PRO programme to extend it to other healthcare professionals and informal carers in collaboration and partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

Developing network of experts and key stakeholders to build up consortiums for MS specific educational programmes.

MS Patients' perspective

- ➔ **Working** in cooperation with appropriate research networks to enhance knowledge on patients' experience for campaign and policy work on MS patients' rights, patient-centred health and social care and empowerment;
- ➔ **Mapping** and making visible the specific areas where MS patients and people affected by MS face discrimination on the grounds of health status – such as social, economic, educational, etc. to feed the policy campaigns and other initiatives/projects;
- ➔ **Identifying** and contributing to initiatives, research and academic projects to bring the perspective, experience and expertise of MS patients;
- ➔ **Developing** the MS Community Advisory Board across Europe;
- ➔ **Setting up** Scientific Advisory group to support further EMSP's contribution in the field of research and innovation and support the Executive Committee.



Communications and Campaigning

- ➔ **Developing** effective, high-quality and targeted communication tools for both internal and external use;
- ➔ **Lead/support** at least one high-profile media and political campaign in the framework of the "One Million Mind Campaign" per year focusing on a thematic priority highlighted through the MS Barometer and agreed by the membership;
- ➔ **Ensuring** high-level presence at relevant health events.

2022-2024

Strategic alliances and partnership to improve the quality of life of people with MS



National and international MS organisations
Online MS communities
Individual MS advocates



Existing members as ambassadors/lead coordinators



Young MS people's networks and communities from EMSP membership



Other patients' communities
European Patients' Forum
The NMOSD patient community etc.



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