



European Innovation  
Partnership on Active  
and Healthy Ageing  
PARTNER

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# Periodic Report

[2017] – 31st August to 31st December 2017

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This document was produced for review by the European Alliance for Vision Research and Ophthalmology (EU EYE), Belgium.

# THE ORGANISATION

The EU EYE constituency comprises of ophthalmological societies representing over 9,000 medical specialists active in clinical medicine, research, education and training in 100 countries.

The EU EYE works towards building a respected forum which brings medicine, science, education and advocacy together and is accessible to all – citizens, decision makers, research and healthcare workforce.

## EU-EYE Members

- European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons ESCRS
- European Society of Retina Specialists EURETINA
- European Glaucoma Society EGS
- European Association for Vision and Eye Research EVER
- European Eye Bank Association EEBA
- European Society of Cornea and Ocular Surface Disease Specialists EuCornea
- European Association for the Study of Diabetes/Ophthalmology Section EASDec
- European Vision Institute EVI

## EU-EYE Board

Einar Stefánsson	President /EURETINA Representative
Carlo Traverso	Vice-President/EGS Representative
Paul Rosen	Treasurer / ESCRS Representative
Jesper Hjortdal	Secretary / EEBA Representative
Tunde Peto	Board Member / EASDec Representative
Leopold Schmetterer	Board Member / EVER Representative
Ulf Stenevi	Board Member / EuCornea Representative

## EU-EYE Objectives

We advocate for people-centred eye health care with an on-going commitment to the integration of research priorities, policies and strategies in eye health at European level.

Our varied portfolio of activities aim to open up the space for the patient empowerment process and the creation of new translational and fundamental research networks in our discipline.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ECDA</b>	European Chronic Disease Alliance
<b>EIP AHA</b>	European Innovation Partnership on Active Healthy Ageing
<b>ESR</b>	European Society of Radiology
<b>EuAPM</b>	European Alliance for Personalised Medicine
<b>EXPH</b>	Expert Panel on Investment in Health
<b>HPP</b>	Health Policy Platform

**Summary.** In August 2017 the EU-EYE has appointed Dime Limited, Oxford, UK as its external advisor and revised its strategy and activities to strengthen its organisational capacity for its advocacy work. The EU EYE was accepted as Partner to the B3 Action Group on Integrated Care of the EIP AHA and was registered with the HPP of the European Commission. For the first time the organisation has entered formally into the consultation and decision making process of the European Commission by submitting into two public consultations and attending the public hearing events of the EXPH.

## EU EYE Activities 2017

New opportunities and entry targets were identified in the political process and the organisation increased its efforts to improve the internal awareness of its members regarding policy developments in the areas of health, research, training and education across Europe.

### 1 General Organisation

- EU EYE appointed Dime Limited as its external advisor. Dime Limited is a firm specialising in strategy and policy in health, research, ethics and security across Europe;
- Agenda Communications continues to organise the activities of EU-EYE including the management of its website [www.eueye.org](http://www.eueye.org);
- the website was redesigned with a new theme and the EU EYE narrative was strengthened;
- a knowledge mapping exercise was launched aiming to identify expertise and recruit members for forthcoming activities; this activity is ongoing;
- a set of performance indicators were developed to monitor the cost-effectiveness of the advocacy activities;
- a tailored e-newsletter is distributed online to members monthly since October 2017.

### 2 Advocacy

#### A partner of the EIP AHA

The EU-EYE has integrated into its policy work an on-going commitment to people-centred eye health care at European level. The commitment, entitled “Creating a forum to maximise the integration of research priorities, policies and strategies in eye health” includes the delivery of ten awareness activities on the importance of an EU framework to support sustainable eye care as a minimum. It was formally submitted to the B3 Action Group on Integrated Care<sup>1</sup> of the European Innovation Partnership on Active Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA) in December 2017. The EU EYE has now been conferred the

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<sup>1</sup> The B3 Action Group is coordinated under a contract by the European Commission and it is a collaborative of partners representing around 120 multi-stakeholder commitments from national, regional and national administrations, local authorities, research centers, academia, SMEs and large industry, advocacy organizations from across the EU.

"EIP on AHA recognition mark"<sup>2</sup> awarded to EIP AHA partners for the contributions to active and healthy ageing efforts.

The commitment can be accessed at [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/commitments-tracker/b3/creating-forum-maximise-integration-research-priorities-policies-and\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/commitments-tracker/b3/creating-forum-maximise-integration-research-priorities-policies-and_en)).

## Health Policy Platform

The EU EYE is now a registered use of the Health Policy Platform<sup>3</sup> (HPP) of the European Commission.

In November Professor Carlo Traverso, Vice-President of the EUEYE, attended the annual meeting of the HPP.

In December the EU EYE has lent its support to three out of the four Thematic Networks selected by the European Commission in the third cycle of the scheme for 2018 within the HPP framework. The EUEYE endorsed the joint statements of the Thematic Networks of the HPP<sup>4</sup> on:

- "the employment of people with chronic diseases" led by the European Chronic Disease Alliance;
- "the harmonisation of medical training" led by the European Society of Radiology and
- "the antimicrobial resistance" led by the European Public Health Alliance.

## Public consultations, hearings and events

For the first time the organisation has entered formally into the consultation and decision making process of the European Commission by submitting into the public consultations of the European Commission on:

- Evaluation of the EU blood and tissues and cells legislation in August
- Transformation of Health and Care in the Digital Single market in October.

The EU EYE is now following closely the work of the Expert Panel for the investment in Health (EXPH) with Professor Massimo Nicolò, a member of EURETINA, attending the EXPH hearing on "Benchmarking access to healthcare in the EU" in October.

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<sup>2</sup> The European Commission has developed a set of "EIP on AHA recognition marks" as a recognition of the contributions of the EIP AHA partners.

<sup>3</sup> The HPP interacts directly with the European Commission on defining directions in health and research and it is the main forum for communication and cooperation between health interest groups and organisations, and the European Commission. Participation to their events is by invitation only.

<sup>4</sup> The HPP runs the Thematic Networks scheme which aims to increase awareness and unite a broader coalition of stakeholders to work on key themes.

Professor Nicolò has also represented the EU EYE in the launch at the European Parliament of the White Paper “An agenda for change: Eyes Right” co-authored by the European Alliance for Personalised Medicine (EuAPM) and the European Forum Against Blindness.