

MEETING SPLIT 2023 (IRENE COST Action)

Implementation Research Network in Stroke Care Quality: A Success Story of European Collaboration

Under the leadership of Prof. Robert Mikulik (CZ) and Prof. Natan Bornstein (IL), the Implementation Research Network in Stroke Care Quality (IRENE COST Action) has markedly enhanced stroke care quality monitoring Europe over the past 4.5 years.

Central to the IRENE COST Action was the development of a strategy for measuring stroke care quality. The effort bore fruit, leading Eastern European countries to establish their individual national strategies in stroke care quality measurement.

Beyond its tangible outputs, IRENE was also instrumental in forming an international network comprising over 188 experts from 30 European and neighbouring countries. This network became a hub for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation in the field of stroke care monitoring and improving.

Leveraging the strength of unity, IRENE effectively collaborated with various global entities, such as European Stroke Organisation or ANGELS Initiative, and supported implementation of the Stroke Action Plan in Europe. This collaborative spirit echoed through the four major annual meetings held in Moldova, Armenia, the Czech Republic, and Croatia, all of which centred on the betterment of stroke care quality.

Additionally, IRENE undertook 23 scientific missions, nurturing young researchers, particularly from Eastern Europe. These missions were instrumental in imparting new skills and methodologies in stroke treatment and fostering collaborations across European institutions. Recognizing the outstanding contributions of researchers, eight individuals from countries like Poland, Czechia, Croatia, Estonia, and Greece were granted the opportunity to present their research at international forums.

Education and skills development were cornerstones of the IRENE initiative. Numerous training programs were rolled out, touching upon key topics such as science communication, data visualization in healthcare, and practical skills like dysphagia screening. Emphasizing the importance of rehabilitation, several initiatives were steered towards improving post-stroke care, especially in regions where such practices were nascent.

While the formal duration of the IRENE COST Action might have concluded, the spirit and drive for excellence in stroke care monitoring and improving live on, promising a brighter future for the field across Europe.

The Implementation Research Network in Stroke Care Quality – IRENE, No. CA18118 has been supported by COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology.



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union

CMA – Croatian Neurological Society as well as UHC Zagreb and MF in Zagreb Contributes to European Stroke Care Advancements through IRENE COST Action

In the collective journey to refine stroke care quality monitoring and improving in Europe, our Society has been a steady contributor to the initiatives under the IRENE COST Action over the past 4.5 years.

With our collaborative work, we managed to ensure that our institution's insights were shared and heard during the development of an overarching international strategy for stroke care monitoring. By facilitating and attending significant meetings, we aimed to amalgamate individual experiences with the collective expertise, ensuring that the monitoring tools for stroke care reflected real-world needs and challenges. We are proud, that our society was part of the network of 188 experts from 30 European and neighbouring countries.

Additionally, our institution was actively engaged in various scientific missions, which enabled young researchers to interact with established professionals, broadening their horizons and laying the foundation for innovative collaborations.

Furthermore, our Society took on roles that fostered cooperative research projects, building bridges between knowledge hubs and creating pathways for shared advancements in stroke care. As we look ahead, we remain committed to such collaborative ventures, seeking to make a tangible difference in stroke care across Europe.

The Implementation Research Network in Stroke Care Quality – IRENE, No. CA18118 has been supported by COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology.



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union

Final action during our active collaboration – Split meeting

IRENE – ESO EAST: A Meeting on Stroke Care Quality Monitoring in Split, Croatia

On September 26-27, 2023, the coastal city of Split hosted a paramount gathering of professionals committed to monitoring and enhancing stroke care quality. The annual meeting of the Implementation Research Network in Stroke Care Quality (IRENE) and the community participating in European Stroke Organisation EAST was an event marked by thoughtful presentations, collaborative discussions, and forward-looking plans. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Zdravka Poljakovic (HR) and Prof. Robert Mikulik (CZ).

The event kicked off with a focus on the Croatian stroke care landscape. The session, which encompassed presentations from key Croatian medical institutions, was an opportunity to delve into the challenges and successes of in-hospital stroke management in the country. The talks spanned subjects from stroke care in specific hospitals like Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka and Osijek to a deeper look at stroke units' relevance in Croatia.

As the day progressed, attendees shifted their gaze from local to international perspectives. After an introduction by Zdravka Poljakovic, the discussions moved towards stroke care quality monitoring strategies in countries such as the Czech Republic, Israel, and Slovakia. The day's dialogues covered dynamic tools for empowering stroke care transition, real-life examples of challenges, and innovative strategies from countries across Europe.

The second day began with an emphasis on management, where attendees received insights into the IRENE Action's progress, financial reports, and updates from various working groups. The rehabilitation session, chaired by Z. Poljakovic and A. Kohlmetz, explored rehabilitation projects, neurorehabilitation experiences, and future plans for Croatia and Eastern European countries. The afternoon workshops were dedicated to exploring the potential of e-health in stroke care and the user experience with the RES-Q system.

The significance of the State Secretary of the Croatian Ministry of Health, Prof. Silvio Basic, attending the meeting and addressing the participants underscores the event's importance. A big thank you goes local organizers – Prof. Zdravka Poljakovic and Dr. Hrvoje Budinčević, ensuring that every moment was maximized for learning and collaboration.

As the curtains drew on the meeting, there was a renewed commitment among all participants to continue enhancing stroke care quality and fostering collaborative ventures in Europe.

The Implementation Research Network in Stroke Care Quality – IRENE, No. CA18118 has been supported by COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology.



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union