

# **The European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (ESPA)**

## **Business Plan 2017-2021**

## **1. Introduction**

The European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (ESPA) is a medical, scientific, non-profit organisation, registered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and serves as an international forum for advancement of anaesthetic services for children in the broadest sense within Europe.

This document describes the society's organisation structure, aims and financial management and outlines the strategy the society intends to adopt in the next five years in order to reach the stated aims.

## **2. Organisation structure**

ESPA originated from the Federation of European Associations of Paediatric Anaesthesia (FEAPA) which

was founded in 1984 as a non-profit medical association, being a federation of the national societies of (paediatric) anaesthesia from all European countries. In 2008 Moldavia was accepted as 42nd member of FEAPA.

ESPA was set up in 2009 with the aim continuing the work of FEAPA and is intended to replace the federation within 2009-2010. ESPA is the only international European anaesthetic society, entirely focused on paediatric anaesthesiology.

The advantage of replacing the federation with a society is the more direct link to practising anaesthesiologists in whole Europe, who are involved in anaesthesia for children. Although membership of the ESPA is required to take part in voting procedures, the activities of the society are aimed primarily at all anaesthesiologists in Europe who care for children and all documents such as proceedings of scientific meetings guidelines and other statements of advice will be published on an open access basis in the public domain. The ultimate aim of the society is an optimal quality of care for children requiring anaesthetic services in Europe.

ESPA is managed by an Executive Board (ExBo) which consists of officers chosen by the membership. There is a differentiation in tasks within the ExBo to facilitate the aim of the society, supported by working parties. All officers and members of working parties are unpaid, elected volunteers.

### ***3. Aims of the society***

As stated in the statutes (see appendix), ESPA is interested in paediatric anaesthesia in the broadest sense of the term which can include perioperative care for children, intensive care for children, pain therapy for children and emergency medicine for children. The aims of the society are stated in terms of education, science and charitable purposes and include promoting the safety and quality of care as well as scientific research, training and education in paediatric anaesthesiology. In addition the society aims to promote the introduction of standards and guidelines for paediatric anaesthesiology within Europe and to collect and disseminate information about paediatric anaesthesiology to practising anaesthesiologists in Europe. Communication with the European anaesthesiologists takes place in the form of an open-access web Site, as well as regular communication with members. The ESPA therefore aims to increase contact with practising anaesthesiologists by building up a large number of member who will be expected to help with the dissemination of information to all anaesthesiologist colleagues and other interested parties whether or not these persons be members. The ESPA aims to provide a variety of services to all European anaesthesiologists involved in paediatric anaesthesia, including coordinating the organisation of an annual international congress on paediatric anaesthesia by local organisations, establishing guidelines on the training, organisation and practice of paediatric anaesthesia and acting as a centre of expertise for paediatric anaesthesiology, intensive care treatment and pain therapy. In addition ESPA aims to set up and support working parties, with anaesthesiologists from different European countries, that aim to produce evidence-based guidelines on a variety of important aspects in paediatric anaesthesiology, such as pain management, airway management, patient safety and pharmacology.

### ***4. Financial Considerations***

FEAPA has generated a working capital of approximately € 200,000 over the time of its exist. This money was transferd in full to the new society ESPA. This basic capital was used as collateral to guarantee the financial risk of running a major annual congress. The aim was to build up capital equal to the full cost of organising a congress which has been in the region of €190,000 in 2009 but increased over the last few years to end up with abut €250.000. Therefore this aim has been achieved. The society does not aim to make a profit.

**Income:**

It is to be expected that the ESPA's major sources of income will be:

*Membership fees from 2010 onwards*

Members will pay an annual membership fee which is intended to support the activities of the society. The fee will be set at € 50 per year

It is anticipated that fees will initially generate something like € 15,000 per year, depending on the number of members. It is to be hoped that this will rise in the coming years.

*Income from annual meetings*

In previous years these congresses have generated a positive surplus averaging € 20-

30,000, largely due to the contributions of the medical firms. This is expected to decrease in the coming years as these firms come under increasing financial pressure and the rules concerning financial support to medical specialists have become stricter.

*Income from investments*

As ESPA intends to maintain a capital appropriate for the financial guarantee of the congresses organised on its behalf, there will be a modest investment income in the region of €5,000 – 8,000

per year

**Expenditure:**

It is to be expected that ESPA's main areas of expenditure will be:

*General running costs.*

This includes meeting costs, reimbursement of bona fide expenses of the officers, website, administrative costs and legal and financial services. The running costs have averaged €15,000

per year. Due to the high workload the society management was taken over by a permanent PCO in 2013 by Guarant, Prague

*Running costs in connection with increased activities of working parties.*

The instigation of new working parties is likely to mean an increase in meeting costs and other expenses of volunteers. For each working party it would be reasonable to assume meeting costs per year of € 3-5,000.

#### *Research grants*

These will be offered to European scientists whose work is relevant to the practice of paediatric anaesthesia. The amount of these grants will be determined according to the financial status of the society, but will be expected to be in the region of € 500 – 2,000.

#### *Capital management*

The major purpose of the society's capital is to provide a buffer in the case of the failure of a congress to cover its costs. The capital will be managed conservatively with this in mind in low-risk fixed interest deposit accounts.

### **5. Objectives for the next 5 years**

1. Continuing the current activities of ESPA specifically including maintaining a website, publishing the proceeding (abstracts) of scientific meetings and drawing up practice guidelines for European anaesthesiologists;
2. Coordinating the organisation of the annual European congress;
3. Instigating working parties which will coordinate and work on European guidelines together with other European and national societies.
4. Set up a e-learning platform based on the ESPA video archive
5. Working on a European register of adverse and critical incidents for paediatric anaesthesia;
6. Establishment of several membership models including co-memberships from national societies generating a total number of >1000 members within the next 5 years
7. Connecting ESPA with the other large societies in Europe taking care for sick children under the umbrella of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies (EAPS)