

The European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (ESPA)

Business Plan 2022-2027

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

Although membership of the ESPA is required to take part in voting procedures, the activities of the society are aim to include all health care professionals in Europe providing anaesthesia or sedation for children. 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 or sedation services in Europe.

ESPA is managed by an Executive Board (ExBo) which consists of officers elected by the members. 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), the main interest of ESPA is paediatric anaesthesia in the broadest sense of the term. This includes perioperative care for children, intensive care for children, pain therapy for children, sedation and emergency medicine for children. The society is open to all health care professionals (anaesthesiologists, physician assistants and nursing staff) providing anaesthesia to children and who have completed an accredited education in the

field of anaesthesiology and who work or reside in a European country (ordinary members) or those who do not work or reside in a European country (called extraordinary members).

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 providers practising anaesthesia in Europe. Communication takes place in the form of an open-access website, as well as regular electronic communication with members. The ESPA therefore aims to increase contact with paediatric anaesthesia providers by building up a large member base that will be expected to help with the dissemination of information to all physician colleagues and other interested parties whether or not these persons are members.

The ESPA aims to provide a variety of services to all European health care professionals involved in paediatric anaesthesia, including coordinating the organisation of an annual international congress on paediatric anaesthesia in cooperation with local organisations, organising online webinars and conferences, 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 physicians from different European countries, who aim to produce evidence-based guidelines on a variety of important aspects in paediatric anaesthesiology, such as pain management, sedation, airway management, patient safety and pharmacology.

4. Financial Considerations

FEAPA has generated a working capital of approximately € 200,000 over the time of its existence. This money was transferred 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 €350,000 . The latter aim has been achieved and sustained since 2019. The society does not intend 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 registering individually 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. ESPA alternatively offers associated membership fees of € 15 per year for members who register through the national paediatric anaesthesia societies. The primary goal is that the running costs of the society are covered by the membership fees.

Income from annual meetings

In previous years ESPA congresses have generated a positive surplus allowing to cover additional expenses (i.e. ExBo meeting costs, webinars, website adaptations). As contributions of the medical firms as sponsors are expected to decrease in upcoming years due to increasing financial pressure and and that compliance rules concerning financial support to medical specialists have become stricter, a balanced congress budget will be essential when planning the annual congress.

Income from investments

As ESPA intends to maintain a capital appropriate for the financial guarantee of the congresses organised on its behalf, investments have been done. These investments are necessary to avoid negative interests and bank fees for the society's financial basis. Investments strictly respect investment rules for societies for the common good.

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 €30,000 per year. Due to the high workload the society management has been entrusted in 2013 to a permanent association management (Association House, Prague) and a professional congress organiser (PCO) (Guarant, Prague).

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. The decision who will receive this grant is taken by the ExBo and the scientific committee of ESPA.

Webinar

During the course of the COVID pandemic crisis ESPA has gained experience in providing online education through Webinars and online conferences. ESPA acknowledges the value of webinars and will continue to use this platform to achieve the aims of ESPA alone or in combination with other societies.

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 deposit accounts and investments.

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, webinars and drawing up practice guidelines for European anaesthesia providers;
2. Coordinating the organisation of an annual European congress for Paediatric Anaesthesia;
3. Instigating working parties which will coordinate and work on European guidelines in cooperation with other European and national societies.
4. Maintaining an 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 other national and international societies for pediatric anaesthesia including the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (APAGBI), French-speaking Paediatric Anaesthesiologists Association

(ADARPEF), Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA), European Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (ESAIC), European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care (ESPNIC) and societies taking care for sick children under the umbrella of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies (EAPS),