



NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE
of IRELAND

**MANIFESTO FOR
THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS**

2024

TIME TO LISTEN

To People with Neurological Conditions Throughout Europe



Over 300 million people throughout the EU are living with a neurological condition¹

According to the World Health Organisation one in three Europeans will experience a neurological condition at some point in their lifetime²

Here in Ireland, over 860,000³ people are living with a neurological condition, 50,000 people are diagnosed with a neurological condition in Ireland each year and that number is set to increase significantly as our population ages.

Neurological Conditions in Europe

Neurological conditions affect the brain and spinal cord. Collectively, neurological conditions have the highest prevalence, lead to the most considerable disability and result in the highest costs among all non-communicable diseases.

1.1 million Europeans die each year due to a neurological condition, while over 300 million are living with the impact of a neurological condition. Neurological conditions cost the EU over 336 billion annually, more than any other disease area⁴.

The World Health Organisation Global Action Plan for Epilepsy and other Neurological Conditions (IGAP)

In 2022 a significant milestone was achieved when all EU countries adopted the World Health Organisation Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Neurological Disorders and Epilepsy (IGAP)⁵. The IGAP outlines a comprehensive, co-ordinated strategy, setting concrete targets for EU members to develop and implement national policies which address gaps in care and services and promote brain health.

This plan offers a unique opportunity for the EU to respond to the growing challenge of neurological conditions. The Neurological Alliance of Ireland as a member of the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) is calling on the European Commission to provide an IGAP implementation platform to facilitate the implementation of the IGAP across all member states.

¹ Fact Sheet: The Burden of Neurological Diseases on Europe (June 2019) European Academy of Neurology

² WHO Position Paper (August 2022) Optimising Brain Health Across the Life Course. World Health Organisation

³ Model of Care for Neurology Services in Ireland (2016) Health Services Executive, Royal College of Physicians in Ireland

⁴ Olesen et al (2012) The Economic Cost of Brain Disorders in Europe. European Journal of Neurology Vol 19, Issue 1 pp 155-162



⁵ Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders 2022-2031 (May 2022) World Health Organisation



Call for Candidates in Ireland running for the upcoming EU elections to commit their support for Neurological Conditions

The Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) brings together over thirty non-profit organisations to advocate for the rights of the over 860,000 people in Ireland living with a neurological condition.

The Neurological Alliance of Ireland is calling on EU election candidates to support the following commitments to Neurological Conditions:

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- **Support calls for the EU Commission to provide an implementation platform to facilitate the implementation of the World Health Organisation Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders (IGAP)**
 - **Prioritise neurological conditions: Champion neurological conditions as a top health priority within the EU, advocating for increased research funding and equitable access to innovative treatments**
 - **If elected, join the MEP Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions**

Member Organisations of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland

Acquired Brain injury Ireland
Alzheimer Society of Ireland
An Saol
Aphasia Ireland
Ataxia Foundation Ireland
Bloomfield Health Services
Cheshire Ireland
Chronic Pain Ireland
Croí
Dystonia Ireland
Dublin Neurological Institute

Early Onset Parkinson's
Disease Association (EOPD)
Enable Ireland
Epilepsy Ireland
Headway
Huntington's Disease
Association of Ireland
Irish Heart Foundation
Irish Hospice Foundation
Irish Motor Neurone Disease
Association
Migraine Association of
Ireland

Move4Parkinsons
Multiple Sclerosis Society of
Ireland
Muscular Dystrophy Ireland
Neurofibromatosis
Association of Ireland
Neurology Support Centre
North West MS Therapy
Centre
Parkinson's Ireland
Peamount Healthcare
Polio Survivors Ireland

PSPA Ireland
Slanu Stroke Rehab
Spinal Injuries Ireland
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus
Ireland
The Rehab Group
Vision Ireland

Associate Members

Brain Tumour Ireland

Find out more

The Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) brings together over thirty non-profit organisations to advocate for the rights of over 860,000 people in Ireland living with a neurological condition. Visit our website at www.nai.ie

NAI is a member of the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA), an umbrella group representing pan-

European neurology patient groups. Its vision is a better quality of life for people in Europe living with a neurological disorder. Visit the EFNA website

The MEP interest group on brain health and neurological conditions aims to raise political awareness of the impact of neurological conditions in Europe. (<https://www.efna.net/bhnc/>)