



Europe Regional Report June – November 2024

IAPB Regional Chair's Report for EUROPE

Objectives	Activity Status Update	Comments
<p>1. Advocacy at national and supranational level for and within European countries with a stronger focus on Eastern European countries to also introduce the workplan for the European advocacy network and to lobby for full support and active engagement for the envisaged global summit on eye health, planned for 2nd/3rd quarter of 2026. Addressing also accessibility of eye health challenges for marginalized population groups, e.g. the Sinti & Roma population in Eastern Europe</p>	<p>Some progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended and spoke as an invited guest at the South-Eastern European Ophthalmology Society (SEEOS) congress in Chisinau, Moldova, to introduce key objectives of IAPB and informing on the global summit in 2026. • Meeting with the President of the Ophthalmological association of Moldova, Professor Eugeniu Bendelic, to discuss about IAPB and the global summit on eye health • Meeting at Parliament with the Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on health, social protection and family, Prof. Adrian Belii, to discuss the importance of vision, access to eye health at all levels and the global eye health summit 	<p>Key recommendations for SEEOS' involvement have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEEOS to become a formal Member of IAPB • Initiate a regular, annual session of IAPB as part of the SEEOS conference • Attendance of SEEOS at the '2030 In Sight Live' Conference and establish a small information boot • Lobby for national Co-Sponsors to endorse the resolution being a key outcome of the global summit of eye health

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<p>2. To lobby and advocate at EU and country level incl. Eastern Europe to bring vision and the necessity of accessible eye health high on the agenda of decision makers. Over 70 Mio people in Europe live with vision loss. Increasing aging pop. mean greater prev. of diabetes, cataract, presbyopia, MD, glaucoma, RE like myopia are emerging as a leading cause of VI & blindness in children. Fragmentation of current eye care systems in most European countries are building big challenges to these growing public health crises, and the problem of eye health in Europe will only get worse.</p>	<p>Some Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2024/2025 workplan for European Advocacy Network completed by secretariate ▪ European Advocacy Network started, whose members engage on eye health in Europe who jointly agreed upon the workplan based on key objectives. ▪ Foster leadership on eye health in Europe at EU level through stronger engagement of interested and motivated European member states who are willing to provide leadership by addressing eye health challenges in the region. ▪ Awareness raising of challenges in eye health at EU parliament through MEPs. ▪ Johannes Trimmel as Co-Chair for advocacy to attend the next European Advocacy Network Meeting in Amsterdam, 12th December 2024. 	<p>Challenges:</p> <p>In June 2024 a new Commission has been elected, but formation took time. In 2025 advocacy should be started to generate momentum for political involvement with WSD activities to carry out in October 2025 giving reference to the upcoming eye health global summit in 2026.</p> <p>If political involvement can be established by IAPB, adequate personnel needs to be availed at the IAPB European regional level</p> <p>Membership growth within the European region is intended to further strengthen the entire IAPB agency</p>

2024/2025 Work plan for European Advocacy Network

Key Objectives	Key Actions	Key Outcomes
<p>Elevate eye health as a cross-cutting development issue, ensuring its inclusion in major EU policy developments and institutions leading to improved policy and country level action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a European Leadership Group convened by a HoS at Ministerial Level to champion political prioritisation, commitment and action on eye health. Elevate and awareness raising on eye health at the EU and amongst MEPs with a view to getting eye health included in EU policies and initiatives. Improve workplace standards on eye health and call for businesses to commit to support the eye health of their employees. <p>Integrate eye health as part of European national health strategic plans and UHC frameworks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strategic partnership with WHO Europe ensuring increased prioritisation and country technical support. Advocate for the inclusion of eye health in regional and national WHO health strategies <p>Strengthen European surveillance and reporting on eye health and hold governments to account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for the inclusion of the eye health targets in regional indicator frameworks Incentivise and provide a platform for research bodies to share data and evidence on eye health in Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene and host first European Leadership Group meeting at MoH level to discuss priorities, identify opportunities and agree workplace Develop and send engaging MEP Welcome Pack and follow up with lobbying/engagement meetings with a view to identifying champions or a leadership group on vision Hold a Vision Screening and Photo Exhibition on Eye Health at the EU Parliament Develop partnership with EU-OSHA and other similar bodies to run joint campaigns on eye health and the world of work Engage relevant networks in business, trade unions etc., to discuss commitment and action on eye health and the workplace. Activate the network and leadership group on World Sight Day – joint letter, press release, OpEd etc Hold a side event at the WHO Regional Meeting Develop a WHO Regional Action Plan on Eye Health Identify relevant WHO policies and strategies and advocate for the inclusion of eye health Identify relevant indicator frameworks (such as WHO, EU Commission HSPA (Health Systems Performance Assessment and others) and advocate for the inclusion of the eye health targets Develop partnerships with relevant research bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene and host first European Leadership Group meeting at MoH level to discuss priorities, identify opportunities and agree workplace Develop and send engaging MEP Welcome Pack and follow up with lobbying/engagement meetings with a view to identifying champions or a leadership group on vision Hold a Vision Screening and Photo Exhibition on Eye Health at the EU Parliament Develop partnership with EU-OSHA and other similar bodies to run joint campaigns on eye health and the world of work Engage relevant networks in business, trade unions etc., to discuss commitment and action on eye health and the workplace. Activate the network and leadership group on World Sight Day – joint letter, press release, OpEd etc Hold a side event at the WHO Regional Meeting Develop a WHO Regional Action Plan on Eye Health Identify relevant WHO policies and strategies and advocate for the inclusion of eye health Identify relevant indicator frameworks (such as WHO, EU Commission HSPA (Health Systems Performance Assessment and others) and advocate for the inclusion of the eye health targets Develop partnerships with relevant research bodies

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3 Key Outcomes for the year 2024

<p>Interviews arranged by the IAPB secretariate have been held to gain a better in-sight on prevalence data and service provision for the VISION Atlas.</p>	<p>For Moldova the interview partners have been our Regional Co-Chairs: Dr. Tatiana Ghidirimschi, Ophthalmologist and Low Vision specialist</p> <p>For Georgia the interview partner has been: Dr. Giorgi Chichua, Ophthalmologist specialised in Cataract surgery</p>
<p>Advocacy at supranational level:</p>	<p>Guest speaker to address the SEEOS conference and to introduce key objectives of IAPB as Chair for Europe in Chisinau – Moldova</p>
<p>Word Sight Day: Activities by IAPB European Members:</p> <p>Low Vision Centre of Moldova – Screening pre-school children</p> <p>'Light for the World' has given an interview in the context of WSD at the German language "Doctors' week" magazine.</p>	<p>On 10th of October the Low Vision Centre of Moldova conducted visual screenings for preschool children at a kindergarten in a local community. This WSD event encouraged parents, caregivers and schools to prioritize children's eye health, ensuring every child has the opportunity to see the world clearly.</p> <p>https://www.springermedizin.at/augenheilkunde/allgemeinmedizin/die-blinden-jahre-sind-fast-vorbei/50071558?searchResult=1.1,2,3...I%20can%20see&searchBackButton=true</p>