



EUROPEAN STROKE
ORGANISATION

Committee Report 2025

ESO Stroke Unit Certification Committee

Report of the ESO Committees - Summary

Stroke Unit Certification Committee

- **Apostolos Safouris, Greece (Chair)**
- Aleksandras Vilionskis, Lithuania
- Ana Catarina Fonseca, Portugal
- Vasileios Lioutas, USA (non-voting advisory member)
- Bjorn Thorarinsson, Iceland
- Cristina Hobeanu, France
- Marta Nowakowska-Kotas, Poland
- Michael Knoflach, Austria
- Natalia Perez de la Ossa, Spain
- Paolo Candelaresi, Italy
- Volker Putz, Germany

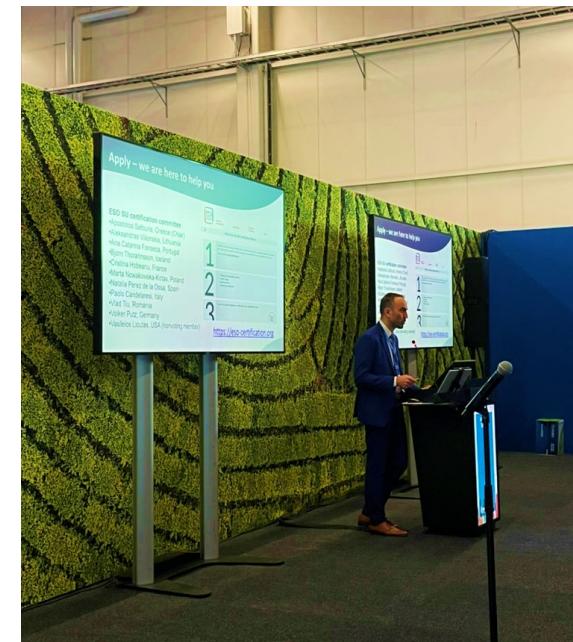
Report of the ESO Stroke Unit Certification Committee

Operational Meetings

- x12: Every first Thursday of the month

Presence

- ESO Booth, May, Helsinki
- EAN, June, Helsinki



Report of the ESO Stroke Unit Certification Committee

Since ESOC 2025, the committee has met monthly to advance several key initiatives:

- Live Audit Proposal (10% of Applications): Development of a strengthened audit framework to reinforce compliance, transparency, and quality assurance.
- Collaboration with the Angels Initiative: Ongoing coordination to support shared goals in stroke care improvement.
- ESJ Paper Submission: Preparation of a manuscript outlining the updated accreditation criteria.
- European Stroke Accreditation Survey: Joint project with SAP-E to assess accreditation practices across Europe.

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The committee identified several new strategic projects and distributed responsibilities among members. Leveraging their **diverse national expertise**, the group has been able to provide valuable, multi-country insights.

- **AHA–ESO Crosstalk:** Initiating contact with the American Heart Association to gain insights into their audit systems and operational processes.
- **Delphi Manuscript:** Finalising the Delphi Consensus Protocol manuscript on Key Performance Indicators for ESO Stroke Unit Certification.
- **Internal SOP for Auditors:** Developing a formal Standard Operating Procedure for ESO Certification auditors, addressing a current gap.
- **Application Process Streamlining:** Removing outdated documentation requirements and integrating KPI reporting into future applications.
- **Webinar (with SAP-E):** Planning a joint webinar, including definition of the content, objectives, and structure.
- **Website & Portal Redesign:** Assessing requirements for a new certification process and website and exploring potential suppliers to build an improved application portal.

These initiatives are essential to strengthening and modernising the future of ESO Certification.

Report of the ESO Stroke Unit Certification Committee

In total 273 certifications finalised

127 Stroke Units, 146 Stroke Centres

224 simplified/endorsed certifications
49 international certifications

+ 15 applications in review

20 countries

Alongside these new initiatives, the ESO Committee Members continued their essential work in the background:

- Reviewing and certifying Stroke Units and Centres across Europe
- Maintaining high standards through ongoing re-certification processes

These continuous activities ensure the quality, credibility, and growth of the ESO Certification.